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BIONICLE

The Legend Reborn

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(First Draft)

November 21, 2007

Cast out of his own universe, his stature gone, MATA NUI fights to unite a devastated land and find the secret to reclaiming his own lost empire.

(LEGO AND TINSELTOWN TOONS)

CAST LIST

MATA NUI - first seen briefly (**not wearing any Toa mask**) the gigantic mechanical being, the ruler of his empire. Then his body is blown to oblivion, but his consciousness (*downloaded into the Mask Of Life*) is blasted through space to a new world. The Mask (*which Mata Nui has never worn before*) creates a new TOA body for him (**he now wears the Mask Of Life**). Now a mere seven feet tall, Mata Nui feels as awkward as a newborn. It is as if Hercules suddenly found he was the size of an ant... and not even the biggest ant on the hill. The irony of the situation is not lost on him, giving life to the occasional enigmatic quip. However, he is by no means a lighthearted hero; on the contrary Mata Nui feels the guilt of failing those who had trusted him to protect them, and he carries his emotional burden like a weight that threatens to crush him at times. Mata Nui will slowly learn to control his new elemental Toa power, which like the Mask Of Life, is to create new forms/life.

AKAR - the red gladiator - comes from the volcanic region of Bara Nui (*so when he eventually receives his elemental Toa power it is FIRE*). Akar was once the very best Gladiator in all Bara Nui. But the years of battle have left deep scars, not only in his armor but down to his very core. Akar is like a fighter who knows he should hang up the gloves, but duty and pride force him to battle to the bitter end.

MARTA - the paladin-type blue clad gladiator. She's tough and cynical, and no, she does not have a heart of gold under that rough exterior. But she is a dreamer, who is desperate to escape this wasteland and she believes Mata Nui is her ticket out. (* *Elemental power and color TBA - but likely blue and water or ice.*)

GRESH - is a young novice Gladiator. This charismatic youth is the antithesis of Akar in that it is all still so new and exciting for him; he exudes passion and can hardly wait for his next fight. Unfortunately, he is injured early on, so he is frustrated and eager to get into the fight. (* *Elemental power and color TBA - but likely earth or air - so green or brown.*)

BERIX - is a young Morg and a survivor. Everything he owns is rusty and battered to the point he even creaks when he walks. While some call him a thief, he insists he is a collector - taking only what others toss away as junk and trying to repair it. In the end, he will realize his passion for fixing things makes him a great healer.

(He has the power to heal, but he is small and not a fighter so he has no elemental powers. His body color TBA but same as whatever Marta is.)

GREEN GLADIATOR - a dishonorable cheat that Mata Nui fights in act one *(who is a viable candidate for the traitor)*.

JOHMAD - a veteran Gladiator that will join Mata Nui's team. *(* Color and powers TBA.)*

DALIZ, less experienced but still formidable. He will also join the hero team towards the end. *(* Color and powers TBA.)*

GALAX - is a Morg and the official gladiator broker for all the villages. He's got that smooth-talking agent thing down. Galax unabashedly admits he's in it for every comfort he can squeeze out of the villages. The villagers may balk at the size of his cut, but they appreciate his honest, no nonsense approach... They are in for the rudest possible awakening. *(* Color TBA - but possibly white to imply this "traitor" is a good guy.)*

BONE HUNTERS are raiding nomads (see eventual art for size and design). They ride on ROCK STEEDS, mounts that look like they are made of stone. As our story unfolds, we discover that the Bone Hunters have only *recently* joined forces with another nomad tribe:

SKRAL - are a different species (see art) from the Bone Hunters, far larger and more powerful warrior beings. *(* Color TBA, but predominantly Black - representing their villain status.)*

TUMA - is huge and the apparent leader of the Skral. He is a cocky coldhearted warrior. He carries a very unique shield that will play an important part of our story.

PROTO SLUGS - are monstrous desert beasts that the Skral harness to use as slave labor.

RAANU - are biomechanical rhino-esque beasts of burden that the gladiators use to pull their SAND CHARIOTS. They are fast and powerful benign creatures.

SCARBACS - biomechanical beetle-like creatures - one of them will be transformed into Mata Nui's sentient GLADIATOR SHIELD *(more information to follow in text)*.

SCORPIS RAY - a gigantic biomechanical desert creature with monstrous scorpion claws and a massive energy-crackling stinger tail.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. 'ISLAND' - DUSK

EXTREME AERIAL POV THRU BREAK IN CLOUDS - DOWN ON THE 'ISLAND' as the violent sounds of an <EARTHQUAKE AND ROLLING THUNDER ECHO THRU NEXT SHOTS>.

PUSH DOWN - storm clouds swirling INTO CAMERA.

DRAMATIC LOW UP ANGLE ON - MASSIVE FIGURE OF MATA NUI- slowly rising. Rocks and debris falling off the towering figure - raining down TOWARDS CAMERA with tremendous force (to emphasize his enormous height).

MATA NUI (V.O.)
<slight echo reverb during
entire narration>
Once I was a giant...

HIGH DOWN ANGLE - as MATA NUI'S HEAD breaks through the top of the clouds (head tilted down - **face NOT seen yet**).

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...the ruler of a universe...

CLOSER - as his face slowly lifts - revealing his eyes are closed - a beat - then his eyes slowly open and brilliant GOLDEN LIGHT GLOWS INTO CAMERA.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Before it was taken from me...

DRAMATIC ON MATA NUI - towering above the clouds.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Once I protected a people... Now
lost to me...

A MEGA <EXPLOSION> suddenly erupts from below MATA NUI <BLASTING> upwards internally/imploding his body - the GLOW of fiery destruction radiating through him.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
All that I had ever known was gone
in an instant...

CLOSE - as MATA NUI's head comes up again - the EYES going dead/dark for a beat - then GLOWING fiery RED.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Stolen from me by pure evil.

ANGLE FEATURING MATA NUI'S CHEST - as the <RUMBLING BLAST> from below continues its upward force/destruction, reaching nearly to his waist. But before it does, *something* GOLDEN <EXPLODES> out of Mata Nui's chest, rocketing straight AT CAMERA, and as it FILLS SCREEN we see it is--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
All that I had once been was
shattered beyond recognition...

--THE MASK OF LIFE!

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And yet, somehow I was still
conscious...

DRAMATIC ON GIANT MATA NUI - the upwards devastation <BLASTING> through him now with such force - his entire fiery being implodes, then <EXPLODES> outward INTO CAMERA like a supernova, as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE-LIKE VOID - CONTINUOUS

A fiery GOLDEN *METEOR* streaks through space TOWARDS CAMERA and again we see that it is THE MASK OF LIFE - the eye holes filled with molten flame--

MATA NUI (V.O.)
As if my essence had survived
within...

THE MASK - rockets PAST CAMERA--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Mask Of Life...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BARA NUI - DESERT - NIGHT

THREE HUGE MOONS shed their unique light on the sands of a scorched landscape, ringed by distant ice capped mountains. The area is desolate except for the twisted remains of what might have once been a METAL ARCHWAY leading into a city (*or the rib bones of a giant metallic being*).

MATA NUI (V.O.)
...Which carried me far from my
world...

THE FLAMING METEOR/MASK streaks through the night sky and--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And from my enemy...

--<CRASHES> into the sand <EXPLODING> into a FIREBALL.

CLOSER - the <SIZZLING> hot MASK OF LIFE - flames licking up
from the eye holes as we hear strange o.s. <CLICKING>.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But to where...?

POV THRU MASK EYE HOLES - ON A SCARBAC (a biomechanical
scarab-like creatures with glossy shell depicting a glyph-
like symbol: a unique EYE) its pincers <CLICKING> ominously,
as it moves ever closer TO CAMERA.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And what new enemies...?

ANGLE TO REVEAL DOZENS OF SCARBACS - their <CLICKING>
becoming more intense as they begin to close in, surrounding
the MASK. But they suddenly scatter as--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Before I could even begin to grasp
how I had become one with the
Mask...

--THE MASK OF LIFE - begins rising up, the sand around it
swirling into a powerful <VORTEX> that whips up the ashen
sand and stone.

LOW DRAMATIC - as the vortex slowly begins creating/piecing
together--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Out of the ashen sands...

--A SHIMMERING FORM/BODY (*still undefined within the whirling
vortex*).

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was given new life...

THE VORTEX - dissipates as the form solidifies into a new
seven foot tall TOA MATA NUI, **now wearing the Mask Of Life.**

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
A second chance, which I must now
use to somehow find a way home and
free my people.

CLOSE ON MATA NUI - reaching up to touch the Mask Of Life.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Strange... I had never before worn
this or any other elemental Mask.
But then, I was a giant that did
not need the powers of a Toa
warrior.

MATA NUI - touches his arms, as if appraising his new body.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(<end narration echo>)
Now I am... what...?
(decisive breath)
Lucky to be alive.

LOW UP ON MATA NUI - as he takes his very first step and his
knees nearly buckle under him and he drops LEVEL WITH CAMERA.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(rye gasp)
I just hope I can stay that way
long enough to get used to this new
body.

MATA NUI - gets unsteadily to his feet and is about to take
another test step when he reacts to <CLICKING> and looks down
to see--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
One step at a--

POV DOWN ON A SINGLE SCARBAC - its pincers raised
protectively over head as Mata Nui's FOOT is about to crush
it, but it pulls back at the last second.

MATA NUI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Look out!

MATA NUI - looks down at the SCARBAC.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Sorry, little one. But do not fear,
I have no reason to hurt you... At
least not intentionally.

FEATURE SCARBAC - it lowers its pincers, cocking its head curiously as it stares up.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

But you may have noticed, I am not too steady on my new feet yet.

ON MATA NUI - as suddenly a piercing <SCREECH> causes him to look up just as--

DRAMATIC POV ON PROTO SLUG - a huge monstrous, fanged and clawed biomechanical beast - is leaping through the air towards him.

MATA NUI - throws up his arms - just as the PROTO SLUG strikes, knocking our hero onto his back with tremendous force.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(impact grunt)

OTS MATA NUI - UP ON PROTO SLUG - lunging with its claws slashing towards our hero <SCREECHING> savagely and--

MATA NUI - rolls clear an instant before being sliced by razor sharp claws that <SLASH> deep marks in the stone where Mata Nui's head had been a moment before.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(exertion grunts thru next shots)

MATA NUI - staggers to his feet - but instantly the PROTO SLUG is lashing out - knocking our hero backwards.

MATA NUI - is trying to gain his balance - when he reacts to the sound of familiar <CLICKING> but before he can turn--

A CLAW - swings in and <SLAMS> MATA NUI off his feet.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(pained impact grunt)

THE PROTO SLUG - lets out a triumphant <SCREECH> as it opens its jaws to devour MATA NUI as the familiar <CLICKING> increases as--

A SWARM OF SCARBAC - attack the PROTO SLUG in mass, covering its eyes, blinding the wildly <SCREECHING> beast.

MATA NUI - uses the diversion to steady himself, but the vicious PROTO SLUG continues to lash out at him, even when--

THE SAND - beneath the PROTO SLUG suddenly begins to CHURN violently from countless SCARBACS digging into it, creating a churning SINKHOLE.

FEATURE PROTO SLUG - <SCREECHING> in rage and fear as it begins to sink into the churning sand.

MATA NUI - staggers back, but not fast enough--

THE PROTO SLUG - lunges out with one massive CLAW and grabs hold of MATA NUI's leg, the <SCREECHING> beast determined to drag our hero down with him.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(struggling gasps)

LOW - FEATURE MATA NUI - as he struggles for all he's worth, digging his hands into the outer rim of the sinkhole, but the PROTO SLUG continues pulling him down into the churning sand.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(straining)
Just one chance...

MATA NUI - suddenly lets go with his hands, the move giving him added momentum as he twists around and slams his fist into--

THE PROTO SLUG'S FANG - <CRACK> - and the whole fang breaks free-

WIDER - as the startled PROTO SLUG <SCREECHES> in stunned pain, releasing MATA NUI, who grabs the broken fang and--

LOW OVER SOLID SAND - as MATA NUI twists his upper body and <STABS> the fang into the solid ground at the edge of the churning sinkhole.

MATA NUI - strains to leverage himself out.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(exertion grunts)

FEATURE PROTO SLUG - still lashing out as it disappears into the churning sinkhole with a final <GURGLING SCREECH>.

MATA NUI - gets to his feet, using the massive fang for support after the exhaustive struggle.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(strained breathing)

Our hero turns at the sound of renewed <CLICKING>.

DOZENS OF SCARBAC - begin surrounding MATA NUI, their <CLICKING> rhythmic, triumphant.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(still straining for
breath)
You... saved my life.

MATA NUI - kneels to study them more closely.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(to himself)
But why...?

CLOSE MATA NUI - as the <CLICKING RESONATES> around the Mask Of Life, which GLOWS for a long beat.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Perhaps you were saving the Mask Of
Life...?

A SINGLE SCARBAC - springs onto MATA NUI's arm and starts <CLICKING> insistently.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Sorry... I do not understand...

CLOSER - as the SCARBAC moves to touch the Mask Of Life, which begins to GLOW and then as the glow turns into GOLDEN FLAME-

THE MASK AND SCARBAC - FUSE together, the EDGES of each turning into what looks like GOLDEN LIQUID LAVA. Then, in a brilliant FLASH - the Scarbac is transformed into--

A GLADIATOR SHIELD - with the Scarbac glyph symbol of the EYE in the center.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
It... you... are magnificent...

FEATURE EYE ON SHIELD - as it suddenly BLINKS and MATA NUI realizes with awe:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Which I suppose you can see for
yourself...?

MATA NUI - doesn't have time to grasp what has just happened, before he turns at:

GALAX (O.S.)
Hold up there!

POV - A SAND CHARIOT (crudely pieced together with salvaged parts) gliding along on sled-like razor skis, pulled by a RAANU, a powerful, but surprisingly swift, uni-horned, biomechanical beast of burden. GALAX pulls hard on the reins slowing to a stop.

GALAX (CONT'D)

What have we here?

FEATURE GALAX - who takes in MATA NUI - who intuitively assumes a defensive pose, his new shield protecting one side while he unconsciously twirls the Proto Slug fang like a veteran swordsman might.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Relax, stranger, I could make out the sand flying from half way across the desert. I'm not about to take on anyone who's obviously just defeated a deadly Proto Slug.

GALAX - lifts his own impressive looking weapon into view.

GALAX (CONT'D)

(cheerful threat)

Unless of course you're itching for another fight.

FEATURE MATA NUI - he steadies the fang, but maintains his defensive pose.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Figured you for a gladiator, but I can see you're not from any tribe around here.

(off silence, half laugh)

Not real talkative either, eh?

Well, you're clearly not from any of the nomad tribes... so if you want a lift?

MATA NUI - doesn't move.

MATA NUI

I appreciate your offer. But if you could just point me to the nearest city?

FEATURE ARCHWAY - jutting out of the sand (*established earlier*).

GALAX

(laughing)

You really are a newcomer to Bara Nui. You want a city? Just start digging and you're bound to find the ruins of one or another. Otherwise, get in, I'm heading for the nearest village encampment.

GALAX - picks up the reins.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Unless you'd rather wind up captured by a pack of Bone Hunters, or worse, Skral.

MATA NUI cautiously moves toward the sand chariot.

MATA NUI

Your enemies?

MATA NUI climbs aboard and GALAX instantly <SLAPS> the reins.

GALAX

Pretty much everyone's. But I'll explain once we have speed on our side.

THE RAANU <SNORTS> and lurches into a gallop.

GALAX (CONT'D)

By the way, the name's Galax!

OTS RAANU ON MATA NUI AND GALAX.

MATA NUI

I am...

(touching his mask)

Toa Mata Nui.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

GALAX'S SAND CHARIOT - speeds across the sand in the light of the three moons - past silhouetted ruins that look like bizarre sculptures (*some are the half buried pieces of the Robot body we will reveal at the end*).

GALAX

Toa...? That some kind of title?

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he touches the Mask Of Life.

MATA NUI

(sotto)

It is an honor I hope to earn.

(to Galax)

What happened here? Why are your cities in ruin?

FEATURE MOONLIT RUINS

GALAX (V.O.)

Not just here. Things are pretty much the same all 'round Bara Nui these days.

FEATURE GALAX - working the reins.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Just staying alive's a real challenge, between the sand beasts...

(gesturing to the fang)

Like the one you met, and a few even bigger and hungrier. This whole infernal place is like a giant deathtrap.

GALAX suddenly yanks on the reins.

GALAX (CONT'D)

(with exertion)

As you're about to see for yourself.

ON RAANU - reacting with <SNORTING> fear.

OVER SAND CHARIOT - as just ahead - a swirling SANDSTORM suddenly whips up, growing into a FREAKISH SHAPE, then swirls and dies as quickly as it began.

REVEAL - as the sandstorm dissipates - it has unearthed a new partially buried structure (*like a huge twisted HAND of a metallic man, clawing its way out of the sand*).

GALAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

One minute you can be on solid ground...

ON MATA NUI AND GALAX - as the sand chariot glides around and past the metallic hand, which is surrounded by a shimmering MOVING RIVER OF LIQUID SAND.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Next you can wind up drowning in a river of liquid sand that appears outta nowhere.

CLOSER ON TWO - GALAX - gestures off towards the distant mountains.

GALAX (CONT'D)

So I'm guessing you come from some tribe on the other side of the mountains...?

MATA NUI

I have travelled far... but my journey is just beginning.

GALAX

(laughing)

Not only did you defeat a Proto Slug, but you're wise enough not to trust the first Morg you meet.

MATA NUI

Morg? That is your tribe? And you are at war with these Bone Hunters and Skral?

OVER RAANU - ON MATA NUI AND GALAX

GALAX

It's like this: You've got Morg, peaceful villagers like myself, trying to survive in this ravaged wasteland, while small bands of cutthroat nomads like the Bone Hunters, or the Skral, carry out raids, stealing what precious few resources we have left.

IN THE SAND CHARIOT - GALAX AND MATA NUI

MATA NUI

But a few nomad tribes could not have caused this devastation... these ruins look ancient.

GALAX - shrugs.

GALAX

Been like this so long no one knows what really happened anymore.

(MORE)

GALAX (CONT'D)

But what usually causes the
downfall of a civilization?
Complacency? Greed? You tell me?

CLOSE MATA NUI - as he stares off, his inner turmoil evident:

MATA NUI

(sotto)

Evil...

WIDE ON SAND CHARIOT - as it races along - PAN TO REVEAL--

GALAX (O.S.)

Well anyway, the nomads may not
have destroyed Bara Nui...

--A SMALL BAND OF BONE HUNTERS - watching them from a sand
dune atop their ROCK STEED mounts as we hear:

GALAX (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But if they have their way, they'll
wipe out every last Morg... or
worse, turn us into slaves.

BACK IN THE SAND CHARIOT - GALAX AND MATA NUI

GALAX (CONT'D)

Lately the nomads have been
increasing their attacks, and not
just on travelers but the villages
themselves.

MATA NUI

But you must have weapons to defend
yourselves.

GALAX

Some. But these days they're either
falling apart or half buried. And
no one's got the skills to repair
them anymore.

GALAX - looks over MATA NUI'S SHIELD.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Now if we had shields like yours,
things might be different. You
wouldn't be interested in some kind
of trade...?

MATA NUI

No thanks. I have a feeling I may
be needing it.

GALAX
(half laugh)
Maybe sooner than you think.

MATA NUI - instinctively brings up his shield and the fang as he looks around for a source of danger.

GALAX (CONT'D)
Take it easy, I just meant it's my
job to recruit replacement
gladiators for all the villages...
And I'm betting you'd do fine in
the arena.

GALAX points ahead as we hear:

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(cheering)

GALAX
Sounds like you're about to get a
look at what you'd be up against.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARNU (VILLAGE #1) - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

By the light of the three moons and a number of bubbling LAVA POOLS - we can see this is a small village consisting of a giant metallic shelter, a few small dwellings made of VOLCANIC ROCK and BONE. At the far end of the village towering LAVA TORCHES blaze around a crude ARENA.

VILLAGERS (V.O.)
(cheers and shouts thru next)

GALAX'S SAND CHARIOT - moves through the empty village towards the arena.

GALAX
See, whenever there's a dispute
between villages... could be about
anything from water rights to an
argument over some old scraps they
both want... each village sends in
their best gladiator to see who
wins it.

FEATURE ARENA - as shooter-weapon <BLASTS> erupt from within followed by brilliant <EXPLOSIONS>. (*Blast type/color TBA)

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(excited cheers)

GALAX - brings the sand chariot to a stop as MATA NUI stares towards the arena as more shooter <BLASTS> echo out of the arena.

MATA NUI
(incredulous)
That is how Morg settle their disagreements?

GALAX
(appreciative laugh)
Hey, it's better than the old way... when entire villages battled it out.

EXT. GLADIATOR ARENA (#1) - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

DOZENS OF MORG/VILLAGERS - are gathered around the very crude arena, which is in serious disrepair, but the jagged metal and skeletal shapes create a very cool effect, casting ominous shadows from the lava torch light.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib excited cheering thru next shots)
C'mon, Akar!/Blow him away!/Get him Rakumb!

INSIDE THE ARENA - TWO GLADIATORS - AKAR the red gladiator - against a GREEN GLADIATOR (RAKUMB). Both are using crude looking SHOOTER WEAPONS (**red energy balls from Akar's weapon, green from his opponent*) to send <BLASTS> across the arena--

AKAR - dives clear of an incoming <BLAST> that <EXPLODES> up rocky debris where he'd just been standing.

AKAR - hits the ground and rolls up to his feet <FIRING> his own shooter weapon with practiced ease at--

GREEN GLADIATOR - brings up his shield just as the incoming <BLAST> hits it and rockets Green back off his feet!

THE MORG/VILLAGERS - throw up their arms and cheer.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(wild cheers)
Akar! Akar! Akar!

ON SIDELINES - MATA NUI AND GALAX - who gestures into the arena.

GALAX

Akar, the red, was once the greatest gladiator in all Bara Nui.

WIDEN - as SACUU, the Morg village leader, moves in next to GALAX.

SACUU

True enough, Galax. But everyone knows Akar's days are numbered. I practically had to beg him to fight tonight.

GALAX turns to MATA NUI.

GALAX

Mata Nui, meet Sacuu, he's the leader of this village.

GALAX - turns his attention back to the arena.

GALAX (CONT'D)

But don't let him give you the wrong idea about Akar. He's no coward.

FEATURE ARENA - as AKAR AND GREEN GLADIATOR exchange more shooter <BLASTS>.

GALAX (CONT'D)

In fact, Akar's hands down the bravest Gladiator of them all. But he's lost his taste for battle.

FEATURE MATA NUI AND GALAX

MATA NUI

Then why not just quit?

GALAX (V.O.)

And do what? Even Gladiators need to earn their way.

INCLUDE SACUU - looking MATA NUI up and down.

SACUU

(condescending)

Is this what you're trying to pass off as a replacement Gladiator these days?

GALAX

(amused aside to Mata Nui)
Ignore him. Sacuu's just trying to
get your price down.

SACUU

I wouldn't have to if Galax didn't
take such a fat cut.

FEATURE GALAX - making an open handed gesture.

GALAX

Maybe you'd like to risk your neck
traveling the wastelands hunting
for new talent?

SACUU

Hmmph. Well, let's see who falls
tonight... with luck I won't be the
one needing a replacement yet.

FEATURE ARENA - AKAR AND GREEN GLADIATOR continue exchanging
shooter <BLASTS>.

GALAX (V.O.)

And they wonder why Akar's heart
isn't in it anymore.

ON MATA NUI - the light of the o.s. <BLASTS> reflected on his
mask.

MATA NUI

This red gladiator fights with the
courage of a true Toa...

IN THE ARENA - AKAR <FIRES> another <BLAST>.

GREEN GLADIATOR - is just about to fire, but the <BLAST> hits
his weapon, knocking it out of his hand and sending him
sailing back and--

GREEN GLADIATOR

(impact grunts thru next)

--<CRASHING> into the arena wall, where he crumbles forward
onto his knees.

ON MORG/VILLAGERS - cheering wildly.

VILLAGERS

(cheering)

IN THE ARENA - AKAR - keeps his weapon trained on the GREEN GLADIATOR as he moves in to stand over him.

AKAR
The battle is over.

AKAR - turns his back and reaches down to pick up the Green's fallen shield.

AKAR (CONT'D)
I claim your shield in victory.

GREEN GLADIATOR - suddenly grabs up his shooter weapon and <FIRES> at AKAR's back.

VILLAGERS
(alarmed gasps)

AKAR - spins around bringing up his shield but the <BLAST> hits fast and hard, knocking him thru the air.

AKAR
(pained cry)

AKAR - lands hard and tries to roll up, but another <BLAST> streaks in and <SLAMS> him back down.

AKAR (CONT'D)
(pained impact cry)

ON SIDELINES - MATA NUI AND GALAX

MATA NUI
You call this justice? Why doesn't someone help him.

GALAX
Because we're just Morg, not gladiators.

MATA NUI - hesitates only a beat, then he leaps over the wall into the arena, armed only with the fang and his new shield.

IN THE ARENA - ON AKAR AND GREEN GLADIATOR - as the green moves in over him, clearly about to fire the final blast, when--

GREEN GLADIATOR
You're finished old--

--GREEN is slammed/tackled by MATA NUI and both sail THRU SHOT.

MATA NUI/GREEN GLADIATOR
(impact grunts thru next shot)

GREEN GLADIATOR - hits the ground hard, but before he can raise his shooter weapon, MATA NUI kicks it out of his hand.

GREEN GLADIATOR - gets to his feet bringing up his SWORD-LIKE weapon.

GREEN GLADIATOR
I won't need that to cut you down.

ON MORG/VILLAGERS - shouting excitedly.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib frenzied cheering)
Get the cheat!/ Destroy him!

MATA NUI - brings up his shield just as GREEN GLADIATOR delivers his first powerful <WEAPON BLOW>, which slams MATA NUI right off his feet, sending him hurling back.

MATA NUI/GREEN GLADIATOR
(fighting/impact grunts thru next shots)

GREEN GLADIATOR - presses his attack and MATA NUI stumbles about, desperately blocking <WEAPON BLOWS> with the fang.

THE SIDELINES - GALAX - watches the battle shaking his head.

GALAX
Too bad... I'd hoped he'd bring a decent price...

MARTA (V.O.)
Galax!

A NEW GLADIATOR - MARTA - rushes in beside GALAX. Only the voice betrays that this is a woman, her armor and attitude are pure androgynous warrior.

MARTA (CONT'D)
I just heard! Is Akar alright!?

OTS MARTA - INTO THE ARENA - as GREEN repeatedly hammers his weapon against MATA NUI's raised shield, driving Mata Nui back - the fang clutched in his free hand.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Who is that? Wait. Is that a Proto Slug fang?

ON MARTA AND GALAX - as he nods.

GALAX

Destroyed the beast with his bare hands. But you'd sure never know it to see him fighting now.

MARTA

No kidding. He's getting his butt-
(reacting and shouting)
Look out!

IN THE ARENA - GREEN GLADIATOR delivers a devastating <WEAPON BLOW> and MATA NUI is slammed off his feet-

MATA NUI/GREEN GLADIATOR

(fighting/impact grunts thru next shots)

MATA NUI - lands hard, flat on his back, the fang held protectively in front of him, as he waits for the inevitable final blow.

ANGLE ON AKAR - still on the ground, but struggling up on one elbow and turning towards Mata Nui.

AKAR

(weak but urgent)
Rakumb no! Spare the stranger. Your fight is with me!

ON GREEN GLADIATOR - his weapon still poised to strike MATA NUI.

GREEN GLADIATOR

Forget it, Akar!
(snide, vicious)
He asked for it, now he's going to get it!

CLOSER MATA NUI - as the heavy fang lowers to rest against the brow of The Mask Of Life--

MATA NUI

(sotto determined)
I have come too far for it to end like this...

CU - MASK AND FANG - the mask begins to GLOW and then the strange fusing, LIQUID LAVA FX melds the two for a beat and then in a brilliant FLASH-

THE FANG - is transformed into an extraordinary gleaming NEW WEAPON that reflects its organic origin.

EVERYONE - including MATA NUI - reacts with awed surprise..

VILLAGERS
(shocked gasps thru next shot)

GREEN GLADIATOR - startled by this sudden turn of events - drops his guard for an instant.

GREEN GLADIATOR
How in...?

MATA NUI - seizes the moment, striking out with a sweeping kick that brings GREEN GLADIATOR down hard onto his back, his weapon falling a foot from him hand.

MATA NUI/GREEN GLADIATOR
(fighting/impact grunts thru next shots)

FEATURE GREEN GLADIATOR - before he can move - MATA NUI is over him, his new weapon poised to finish the job.

MATA NUI
Do you concede?

GREEN GLADIATOR
(begrudging growl)
Yes...

ON THE SIDELINES - MARTA AND GALAX react with amazement, as do all the MORG/VILLAGERS watching.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib)
Who is this gladiator?/ Where did he come from!/ Whose village will he fight for?

IN THE ARENA - AKAR - moves unsteadily in beside MATA NUI, stepping on the GREEN GLADIATOR's sword as his HAND inches towards it.

AKAR
(re:sword)
Don't even think about. Your back-stabbing days are over.

GREEN GLADIATOR - staggers to his feet, then O.S.

AKAR (CONT'D)

Get going!

AKAR - turns to MATA NUI and hands him Green's shield.

AKAR (CONT'D)

His shield belongs to you now... it was your victory.

MATA NUI - shakes his head and doesn't reach out.

MATA NUI

You won it first. It is rightfully yours.

AKAR

In that case...

AKAR - tosses the Green's shield off with disgust.

AKAR (CONT'D)

Thing would just remind me of what a deadly mistake I made.

(disgusted half laugh)

Not that anyone will ever let me forget it. No, I'm finished here. From now on, I'm an outcast.

ON MATA NUI AND AKAR

MATA NUI

I know how it feels to be cast out of your home. But you fought with honor, the disgrace is his, not yours.

AKAR

(gesturing off)

They won't see it that way.

(lighter tone)

Never mind all that. I should be thanking you for saving my life and asking you how in--

WIDEN - as MARTA and GALAX rush in.

GALAX

(interrupting)

Well done, Mata Nui! I had my doubts there for a while, but that trick with the fang. How in the name of The Great Beings did you do it?

FEATURE MATA NUI - he remains silent, but touches the edge of the mask.

GALAX (CONT'D)
(off silence, laughing)
Fair enough! I didn't really expect
you to share your secret!

FEATURE MARTA - studying MATA NUI.

MARTA
(sotto)
I wonder what other secrets this
guy's hiding...?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNU VILLAGE - ONE OF THE CRUDE SHELTERS - NIGHT

PUSH IN as torch light glows from within the crude shelter.

MATA NUI (O.S.)
You won all these...?

INT. BARNU VILLAGE - ONE OF THE CRUDE SHELTERS - CONTINUOUS

GLADIATOR SHIELDS - dozens of them in all shapes and styles line the walls and are stacked in the corners of Akar's quarters. MATA NUI gestures to the shields as AKAR drops a few small items into a crude satchel as he prepares to leave.

AKAR
(agreeing grunt)
And for what? I should have packed
it in long before this. A Gladiator
past his prime is no good to
anyone.

MATA NUI
I watched you fight, Akar. You have
the skill and instincts of a true
Toa.

AKAR
Toa?

MATA NUI
Where I come from... that is the
title given to a very select few...
Warriors worthy of--

GALAX enters saying to MATA NUI:

GALAX

(interrupting)

Mata Nui! I worked it out with Sacuu. He'll pay handsomely to have you replace Akar as Lead Gladiator. Or if this village doesn't suit you, I'm sure I can convince one of the other leaders to take you on.

MATA NUI

Thanks. But no. I have my own battles to fight and they are not here... Not against people I do not even know.

GALAX

You're passing up a sweet deal. But if you change your mind...

MATA NUI

I cannot.

As GALAX leaves shaking his head - AKAR turns to MATA NUI.

AKAR

So what will you do?

MATA NUI

I need to find a way back to my own homeland...

AKAR

Mind telling me where that is?

CLOSER TWO

MATA NUI

You will probably think it sounds crazy...

AKAR

More than a guy jumping into the arena to save a stranger... armed with just a fang that he somehow turns into the finest fighting tool I've ever seen?

MATA NUI

All right... I once ruled an entire empire... but I lost it all to a powerful evil.

MATA NUI - stops waiting for AKAR to ridicule him.

AKAR
I'm listening.

MATA NUI
So now... I have to find some way
to return to my own world.

AKAR
Oo-kay... Not gonna lie to ya, that
sounds a little out there. You're
not saying another planet?

MARTA - suddenly steps out of the shadows saying:

MARTA
You bet he is! It's what I've been
trying to tell everyone around here
for years!

OTS AKAR AND MATA NUI - ON MARTA - who gesticulates her
frustration.

MARTA (CONT'D)
But do you think anyone would even
listen to me? Oh no.
(mocking)
*Marta's a dreamer. There's no such
thing as space travel.*
(to Akar)
Yeah, well this guy proves it.
(to Mata Nui)
You wanna get home? Well I might
just be able to help you... for a
price, of course.

FEATURE AKAR as MATA NUI turns to him.

MATA NUI
You trust this...?

MARTA
(indignant)
Gladiator! One of the best in the
biz.

AKAR
True.
(to Marta, reprimanding)
My headstrong friend here may like
lurking in shadows...
(to Mata Nui)
(MORE)

AKAR (CONT'D)

But as gladiators go, Marta ranks at the top. But more important, you can count on her for a clean, fair fight. I'd trust her with my life.

MARTA

(touched, but trying to act tough)

Thanks, Akar... Same goes.

(to Mata Nui)

So what'd ya say?

FEATURE MARTA - as MATA NUI turns to her.

MATA NUI

Tell me what you know.

MARTA

There's this place... a secret cavern filled with ancient equipment, weird looking glyphs and charts. I discovered it ages ago.

(to Akar)

It's the only thing that's kept me from going nuts... believing there was another world, far from this miserable excuse for a wasteland.

(to Mata Nui)

And you are from another world, you admit it.

FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI

But I have no idea if space travel is actually possible.

MARTA

Wait! Then how did you get here?

MATA NUI

I was born here... For the second time.

FEATURE AKAR AND MARTA - exchanging glances.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Believe me, I am as perplexed as you. But I think the answers may be in this chamber. So how quickly can we get there?

MARTA

Nuh-uh. Not until you swear you'll
take me with you when you leave.
Otherwise... no deal.

MATA NUI looks from AKAR, who just shrugs, to MARTA.

MATA NUI

All I can honestly promise is that
I will... if it is possible.

MARTA - studies him for a beat, then:

MARTA

Good enough.
(pointing a finger at him)
But don't even think of pulling a
fast one, pal, 'cause you're my
ticket outta this stinkin' pit.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNU VILLAGE - DAWN

ESTABLISH - AKAR, MATA NUI AND MARTA - in her CRUDE SAND CHARIOT, which is speeding away from the village - past a steaming LAVA STREAM that flows between a cluster of huge volcanic rock BOULDERS. The chariot is heading towards the MOUTH OF A CANYON in the distance.

MATA NUI

Where is this secret cavern
located?

CLOSER SAND CHARIOT - MARTA works the reins while AKAR is scanning the horizon for threats.

MARTA

Taajun, that's my village. It's on
the other side of that canyon up
ahead.

As they head towards the distant canyon mouth - CAMERA PANS
BACK TO:

THE CLUSTER OF BOULDERS AND LAVA STREAM - A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE
- "THE TRAITOR" - is sneaking away from the village towards
the boulders. (We **cannot** see who it is in this light, only
that size-wise, whoever it is, looks to be one of the Morg.)

ANGLE BEHIND THE BOULDERS - EDGE OF LAVA STREAM - TWO BONE
HUNTERS - wait astride ROCK STEEDS.

BONE HUNTER #1

What have you learned?

THE TRAITOR - remains in shadow and speaks in hushed tones
(so we **cannot** tell who it is) but the message is clear:

TRAITOR

(hushed, voice disguised)

The Gladiators are heading for
Taajun. Make certain they never
arrive.

THE TWO BONE HUNTERS - nod and whip around their steeds to
leave.

BONE HUNTER #1

Understood.

As the mounted BONE HUNTERS race off, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

EXT. DESERT CANYON - A LITTLE LATER - DAY

LONG SHOT ESTABLISHING - **TWO SUNS** - rise from behind the distant SNOW CAPPED MOUNTAINS as MARTA'S SAND CHARIOT races into the mouth of the canyon.

MATA NUI

Bleak as it is in parts, your land
has a beauty of its own.

DRAMATIC ANGLES - accentuate the almost REPTILIAN TEXTURE, and colors of this unique canyon, its jagged rock walls looming high around MARTA'S SAND CHARIOT.

AKAR

I suppose it does at that. But what
I'm seeing right now is that this
canyon's ideal for an ambush.

MARTA

Relax, Akar, even the Bone Hunters
are too smart to take on three
gladiators.

CLOSER ON CHARIOT

AKAR

Don't count on it. They've been
acting a lot bolder these days. The
Skral as well.

FEATURE MARTA - working the reins.

MARTA

You're right about that. But don't
worry, it's not like we have much
worth stealing.

(to Mata Nui)

Well, maybe you do, but hopefully
they don't know it.

FEATURE MATA NUI AND AKAR -

AKAR

That's just it. Lately, the nomads
seem to know our every move.

MATA NUI

You think there might be a traitor
in your ranks?

AKAR

I'm sure of it. Question is who?
Could be one of the Morg, or even a
gladiator.

MATA NUI

Like the one that tried to shoot
you in the back?

AKAR

(agreeing grunt)
Maybe.

ON SAND CHARIOT - as the ground suddenly begins to <RUMBLE>
and the RAANU <SNORTS> in alarm.

AKAR (CONT'D)

But we've got bigger trouble right
now!

REAR ON CHARIOT - as the sand just ahead suddenly <EXPLODES>
high into the air as--

MARTA

As in a gigantic Scorpis Ray!

A GIGANTIC SAND SCORPIS RAY - suddenly rises up blocking
their path, its lethal, <CRACKLING> stinger whipping
ominously.

ON SCENE - as <BLASTS> of energy RICOCHET all around the
canyon like streaks of <LIGHTNING>.

IN THE SAND CHARIOT - MARTA slaps the reins trying to get
more speed out of the RAANU.

MARTA (CONT'D)

Yehea!

THE SAND CHARIOT - is barreling straight for the towering
SCORPIS RAY blocking the entire canyon.

MATA NUI - calls over to AKAR.

MATA NUI

Is that beast blind or is she?

AKAR

Neither!
(pointing behind them)
Unfortunately either are they!

POV - THRU THE FLYING SAND - in the chariot's wake - MOUNTED BONE HUNTERS are charging their ROCK STEEDS TOWARDS CAMERA.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(savage attack cries)

IN THE SAND CHARIOT - AKAR shouts behind MARTA to MATA NUI.

AKAR
I'll take that sand monster over a
band of Bone Hunters any day.

MARTA - whips the reins while shouting:

MARTA
We've gotta try and get to my
village, there's another Gladiator
there that can help us!

ANGLE THRU NARROW GAP - between the canyon wall and the scorpion beast - ON SAND CHARIOT charging TOWARDS CAMERA -

MARTA (CONT'D)
We just have to make it through
that narr--

THE SCORPIS RAY'S STINGER TAIL - whips around closing the gap-

MARTA (CONT'D)
--whoaa!

FEATURE MARTA - as it looks like the chariot is going to crash right into the <CRACKLING> stinger tail - she suddenly yanks the reins to one side.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Hang on!

THE RAANU - turns sharply, the beast <SNORTING> in protest, as--

MARTA (CONT'D)
Tiiight!

THE CHARIOT - spins around, nearly flipping, spitting up sand as it skids to a stop.

AKAR AND MARTA - instantly leap out - weapons ready as--

THE MOUNTED BONE HUNTERS - continue charging towards them.

BONE HUNTERS
(attack walla)

AKAR - shouts to MATA NUI, who leaps out of the chariot.

AKAR
We'll take the savages and let you
have the beast.

MATA NUI - looks up at the towering creature.

MATA NUI
Thanks...?

BATTLE MONTAGE - UTILIZING HIGHLY DRAMATIC ANGLES:

MARTA AND AKAR - doing battle against the MOUNTED BONE HUNTERS within a STORM OF FLYING SAND and <CRACKLING BLASTS> that RICOCHET around the canyon from the Scorpis Ray's whipping TAIL.

CU - WEAPONS - Gladiator and Bone Hunter weapons <CLASHING>.

AKAR - hooking his weapon with a Bone Hunter's then yanking the BONE HUNTER off his STEED and sailing OVER CAMERA.

A ROCK STEED - rearing and trying to crush--

MARTA - who narrowly dives clear of the <CRASHING> STONE HOOVES - then she flips to her feet and--

MARTA - runs up the canyon wall, then flips herself in the air and sails into--

A MOUNTED BONE HUNTER <SLAMMING> him off his ROCK STEED.

AKAR AND MARTA - each <CLASHING> weapons with more BONE HUNTERS - while more <CRACKLING BLASTS> from the STINGER TAIL ricochet all around the canyon and, we...

CUT TO:

SERIES OF DRAMATIC ANGLES - MATA NUI - BATTLING THE GIGANTIC SCORPIS RAY:

CU - MATA NUI's weapon and shield being hit with <BLASTS> of Scorpis energy that narrowly miss charring our hero-

MATA NUI - showing his ever increasing speed - as he leaps, dives and rolls, trying to stay clear of the whipping <CRACKLING> STINGER TAIL.

CLOSER MATA NUI - turning as:

MARTA (O.S.)
(shouting)
Akar! We're finished unless we can
make it to my village.

POV MARTA AND AKAR - losing ground in their battle as SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS are closing in on them.

MATA NUI - shouts to them:

MATA NUI
Try and get to the chariot! I have
an idea!

MATA NUI - sees the STINGER TAIL whipping towards him, but this time he doesn't try to leap over it, but instead--

MATA NUI - flings down his shield and then leaps onto it just as the stinger whips within reach and--

MATA NUI - lands, standing on his protective shield atop the <CRACKING> STINGER TAIL - which instantly whips up high into the air, propelling our hero upwards.

ANGLE ON HIGH ROCK LEDGE - as MATA NUI leaps off his shield and lands on a ledge, just above the SCORPIS RAY. As more stinger <BLASTS> ricochet around him--

MATA NUI - <STABS> his weapon into the stone outcropping with <EXPLOSIVE> force!

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(exertion grunt)

THE LEDGE - <EXPLODES> away from the canyon wall just as MATA NUI leaps off - towards the far side of the canyon.

AN <AVALANCHE> of jagged stone and debris cascade down on--

THE SCORPIS RAY - has no time to react before it is pummeled by the <AVALANCHE> of rock and debris.

FEATURE SCORPIS' HEAD - as more debris pounds down and the creature reels <SCREECHING> in anger and pain as--

AKAR AND MARTA - now in her SAND CHARIOT - are racing towards a narrow gap between the thrashing SCORPIS and the canyon wall - debris continues to rain down all around them!

AKAR
It's going to be close...

MARTA'S SAND CHARIOT - charges thru the gap, just a moment before--

THE SCORPIS RAY - collapses forward, right over--

THE BONE HUNTERS - and their <BELLOWING> ROCK STEED!

BONE HUNTERS
(horrified walla)

NEARING THE END OF THE CANYON - MARTA and AKAR look around anxiously.

MARTA
Where's--

AKAR
(pointing up)
There!

MATA NUI - is sliding down the side of the canyon towards them, grabbing up his fallen shield as he goes.

MARTA - pulls back on the reins, slowing slightly as--

MATA NUI - leaps into the chariot.

MATA NUI
(landing grunt)

CLOSER - as they speed along toward the far end of the canyon, AKAR slaps MATA NUI on the back.

AKAR
(laughing)
I swear that was the gutsiest move
I've ever seen!

MARTA - is laughing too as she glances over her shoulder.

MARTA
(laughing)
Wonder how long it'll take them to
crawl out from under the belly of
the beast?

AKAR - places a hand on MARTA'S arm as he looks off ahead.

AKAR
(alarmed)
Marta!

MARTA - turns her attention ahead and gasps at what's o.s.

MARTA

Wha-NOOO!

THEIR POV - smoke and flames - so much of both it's impossible to see the fuel source.

AKAR (O.S.)

It's coming from Taajun!

MARTA (O.S.)

My village!

CUT TO:

EXT. TAAJUN VILLAGE (#2) - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The entire village is aflame, smoke so thick it blocks out both suns. The sounds of <CRACKLING> wood and overheated metal eerily blend with o.s. moans and cries for help. (NOTE: One of the structures that is blazing is a half buried METALLIC SKULL - flames and smoke are pouring out of the eye sockets - that look like archways. This will later be revealed as the head of the giant robot.)

VILLAGERS

(moans and cries)

Help!/Somebody!/ Please help me!

IN THE SAND CHARIOT - MARTA - is desperately trying to get more speed out of the poor RAANU while berating herself:

MARTA

This is my fault! I should have been here to help...

(remembering)

Gresh!? We have to find Gresh! He's just a novice!

AKAR - tries to calm MARTA.

AKAR

We'll find him. Just try and--

MARTA - leaps out of the chariot while it's still moving and desperately begins searching through the smoldering ruins. AKAR jumps right after her, calling to MATA NUI.

AKAR (CONT'D)

She's not thinking straight. I better stick close.

MATA NUI - grabs the reins and slows the chariot as he spots movement down in the sand just ahead through the flames and smoke.

MATA NUI

Akar wait!

POV DOWN ON SAND - TWO 'BREATHING TUBES' extend up from the sand like translucent snakes. (*NOTE: This may change depending on model.)

MATA NUI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I see something...

CLOSER - as the * TUBES rise out of the sand - and we realize they are attached to GRESH's HEAD.

AKAR (O.S.)

It's Gresh! Smart boy! Used his breathing tubes to take cover under the sand.

AKAR AND MATA NUI - rush to either side of GRESH, who tries to get up, but cries out in pain and clutches his shoulder.

GRESH

(pained cry)

MATA NUI

He is badly wounded!

CLOSER - AKAR AND MATA NUI - support GRESH between them.

AKAR

Easy, son, we've got you.

GRESH

(weak, gasping)

No. Get out. Save yourselves...
Skral and Bone Hunters... working together.

AKAR

He must be delirious. They're rival tribes--

GRESH - grabs AKAR with his last vestige of strength.

GRESH

United...(fainting gasp)

INCLUDE MARTA - running in, panicking at the sight of GRESH who has passed out, his head hanging, his eyes closed.

MARTA

Gresh! He isn't...?

AKAR

Still alive.

(looking off)

But none of us will be for long if
that savage has his way.

DRAMATIC ON TUMA - the towering Skral warrior - moving like a phantom through the smoke, his eyes as RED as the fire all around them.

MARTA (O.S.)

Tuma...? But he's...?

WIDEN - as the smoke swirls in his wake, we see that TUMA is leading a battalion of SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS.

AKAR (O.S.)

(finishing previous)

The leader of the Skral. So Gresh
was right, the Bone Hunters have
joined forces with the Skral.

FEATURE TUMA - shouting at his forces.

TUMA

Crush the gladiators!

FEATURE HERO GROUP - as they look towards the overwhelming force about to close the distance.

MARTA

It's hopeless! There's just too
many of them.

ON MATA NUI - bringing up his shield.

CLOSER ON MATA NUI AND HIS SHIELD - as he purposefully nods at the shield and the EYE blinks and gleams back.

MATA NUI

(sotto)

Power in numbers...

ON HERO GROUP - as a <FAMILIAR CLICKING> rings out.

MARTA

What is that!? What's happening?!

MATA NUI

Just be ready to move!

LOW FEATURING THE GROUND - between TUMA, BONE HUNTERS AND SKRAL and HERO GROUP - as it begins churning and sinking with the familiar <CLICKING> ringing out.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(ad-lib alarmed walla)
Get back!/Quicksand!/No! It's
Scarbac!

CLOSER - SWARMING SCARBAC - creating a SINKHOLE CHASM - between heroes and villains.

FEATURE HERO GROUP - as DUST mixes with the already SMOKY air, creating cover for our heroes to escape.

MARTA
(shouting)
Follow me!

MATA NUI AND AKAR - carry GRESH between them as MARTA leads the way.

MARTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
We'll be safe once we get inside
the cavern.

CUT TO:

A MASSIVE SLAB OF ROCK is just sliding closed over a hole in the earth, the secret entrance once again invisible.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

THIN STREAMS OF LAVA - drip from cracks in the walls, illuminating the downward passage - which is marked with GLYPHS AND SYMBOLS - as MARTA leads AKAR and MATA NUI, who support the unconscious GRESH between them.

MATA NUI
Wait.... These glyphs... I need to--

MARTA
Later. First we have to take care
of Gresh. The cavern is just ahead.

INT. SECRET CAVERN OF THE GREAT BEINGS - CONTINUOUS

MARTA leads MATA NUI and AKAR, who still support the unconscious GRESH - into an enormous cavern, which is illuminated by various HUGE OPAQUE MARBLE OBELISKS, somehow lit from within and casting misty light on this extraordinary blend of distinct ecosystems: One side is lush with dense vegetation surrounding a waterfall that gently cascades into a glistening pool. The entire ceiling is covered with frozen stalactites - even over the far side of the cavern where lava oozes from cracks in the wall. In the center of the cavern are a myriad of bizarre looking, rusty machine parts, half-buried tools and weapons, all of it ancient. The way the stone tables and strange equipment are laid out, it looks as if this was some kind of laboratory. *(This was a testing facility used by the Great Beings.)*

CLOSER - as MARTA gestures to a nearby lab table.

MARTA

Lay him down over here.

MATA NUI AND AKAR - place GRESH on the lab table, then AKAR suddenly brings up his weapon, surprising MATA NUI and MARTA as he stares into the shadows demanding:

AKAR

Show yourself. Now.

A tense beat, and then--

BERIX rises into view, hands held out defensively as he stammers:

BERIX

Okay, okay. Everything's cool, it's just me, Berix.

FEATURE MARTA - bringing up her weapon.

MARTA

Why you filthy little thief! I told you if I ever caught you down here again I'd skin your hide.

FEATURE BERIX - as he ducks behind MATA NUI.

BERIX

Yeah, well this place doesn't belong to you.

(to Mata Nui)

And I'm no thief. I'm a *collector*.

FEATURE MARTA - moving towards BERIX, who moves around, keeping MATA NUI between them.

MARTA

Right, he collects other people's stuff!

BERIX

Just old junk nobody else cares about.

MARTA

Then why do you want it?

FEATURE BERIX -

BERIX

'Cause I like fixing it up. And I'm pretty good at it too.
(gesturing to the lights)
Who do you think got all the lights in here working, huh?

MARTA

I was wondering about that.

AKAR

Ever try fixing an injured gladiator?

FEATURE MARTA - stepping forward, hand raised.

MARTA

No way! He's not touching Gresh.

AKAR

Someone has too... or we may lose him.

(to Berix)

What do you say?

FEATURE BERIX

BERIX

Well... I do know a little about healing.

(gestures to his own dented body)

Had to patch myself up a few times.

MARTA

Yeah, like every time the little thief gets pounded on for stealing.

BERIX - moves toward GRESH laid out on the table.

BERIX

Col-lec-tor. Maybe I'll work on her ears when I'm done with Gresh.

BERIX - taps his arm and a panel opens revealing a secret compartment in his body.

BERIX (CONT'D)

You're in luck. I picked some herbs that should help if he's not too bad off.

MARTA - steps in, getting right in BERIX's face.

MARTA

I'm warning you punk, Gresh doesn't pull through and you're toast. You got that!?

BERIX - starts pulling little tins out of his compartment.

BERIX

Great... No pressure.
(assertive)
Hey, how about some space here?

AKAR - takes MARTA's arm and moves her back a few steps.

MARTA

(sotto)
But what if he's the traitor?

FEATURE BERIX - his eyes shaded so he looks furtive.

AKAR

Then he'll pay dearly.

MATA NUI - finally takes a moment to look around the cavern.

MATA NUI

There is something familiar about this place... but I am not sure why.

AKAR AND MARTA - move closer to MATA NUI.

AKAR

It must have been created by the old rulers of Bara Nui... the ones many still call the Great Beings.

ON MATA NUI - his eyes flash.

MATA NUI
The Great Beings were here?

FEATURE MARTA - her contempt is palpable.

MARTA
Great destroyers is more like it.

MATA NUI
Why do you say that?

MARTA
Because they wrecked our world,
that's why. Then they just
abandoned us, left us here to rot.

AKAR
Or maybe they wound up buried with
the ruins.

FEATURE MATA NUI - studying the ancient equipment.

MATA NUI
No, the Great Beings didn't perish
here. That much I am sure of.

MARTA - leads him to a HATCH in the floor, half covered with
sand.

MARTA
Come look at this. I'm betting
there's another chamber down there,
but I've never been able to get it
open.

FEATURE BERIX - calling over his shoulder.

BERIX
Me neither!

CLOSE ON HATCH - with a raised YIN-YANG SYMBOL on it.

BERIX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I think that weird symbol is some
kind of puzzle lock.

CLOSE - as MATA NUI kneels over the hatch and the MASK OF
LIFE GLOWS, casting its golden light over the Yin-Yang symbol
for a beat.

MATA NUI

Berix is right... but I may know
the key...

MATA NUI'S HAND - touches one of the DOTS on the symbol,
which GLOWS and shifts as we hear a <LOCK CLICK) and as his
hand moves OUT OF FRAME we see the YIN YANG SYMBOLS twist
apart.

MARTA (O.S.)

He's done it!

MATA NUI - watches as the hatch slides open to REVEAL STAIRS
leading down into....

INT. ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

AKAR - places the tip of his weapon into the LAVA inside the
cracked stone and it ignites, creating torchlight as he leads
MATA NUI and MARTA down the step into the (*unlit*)
antechamber. By Akar's firelight, we see it contains a cache
of more delicate equipment (*newer looking, in better
condition*).

AKAR

Just looks like more equipment.

MATA NUI - turns towards the far wall.

MATA NUI

Akar! Shine your light over there.

ON WALL - as the firelight illuminates a huge schematic for a
GIANT MECHANICAL BEING! (*NOTE: It resembles the original
giant Mata Nui from the opening, but with **ROCKET PACKS**
clearly visible.*)

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

It cannot be!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he nearly recoils from what he's
seeing.

AKAR

What's wrong, Mata Nui? You look
like you've see a ghost.

MATA NUI - staring up at the GIANT on the wall.

MATA NUI

(sotto)

I have...

MARTA - is spreading open a scroll on a stone table.

MARTA
Guys! Look at this!

AKAR AND MATA NUI lean in around MARTA.

MARTA (CONT'D)
I think it may be the plans for...
(gesturing to the wall)
That.

POV ON DESIGN PLANS FOR A GIGANTIC MECHANICAL BEING (*NOTE: There are also **MATORAN LANGUAGE SYMBOLS** in the corners of the plans. There's also a **CIRCULAR SYMBOL** at the bottom corner that we will later discover is the same pattern as the one on Tuma's shield.*)

AKAR (V.O.)
What is it?

FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI
He... is a gigantic mechanical
being...

MARTA - leans in on one side of MATA NUI and AKAR on the other. She points to the plans.

MARTA
(excited)
That can fly through space!

OVER PLANS ON THREE - as BERIX suddenly leans INTO FRAME low and between AKAR and MATA NUI .

BERIX
I've gotta agree with her.
(pointing at plans)
Check it out, those gotta be some
kind of rocket packs.

MARTA starts towards BERIX, but AKAR holds her there.

MARTA
Why you little sneak!

AKAR
Easy, Marta. He means no harm.

BERIX

Yeah! C'mon, I'm on your side. I always have been. I knew you were right about the whole space travel thing. That's why I never called you a nutcase like everyone else did.

MARTA

(sarcastic)
Gee thanks.
(irritated)
Just get back up there and take care of Gresh!

MARTA - snatches the plans off the table and starts for the stairs, nudging BERIX ahead of her.

MARTA (CONT'D)

(over shoulder)
C'mon, we can see this better upstairs...

BERIX

Geez you're pushy!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. SECRET CAVERN OF THE GREAT BEINGS - LATER

MATA NUI - is leaning over the plans spread out on another table. AKAR move in beside him.

AKAR

So what's it all mean?
(gesturing to plans)
Not just this... but all of it...
your weapon--

MARTA joins them.

MARTA

Yeah, how *did* you do that?

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he looks from his weapon to MARTA and AKAR.

MATA NUI

The truth...? I am not really sure.
But this place, these plans...it
tells me I am on the right track.
(MORE)

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

But I still do not know exactly
where I came from and how I can get
back home to reclaim the power I
have lost...

CLOSE MATA NUI - he touches his mask.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Or why I was entrusted with such
power in the first place.

AKAR and MARTA exchange a look, then turn to MATA NUI.

AKAR

But you think the Great Beings had
something to do with creating your
world too?

MATA NUI

Yes.

(re: plans)

But I need more time to study this.

BERIX - back next the table where GRESH lies motionless -
leans towards them straining to listen, loses his balance and
nearly topples over and staggers closer to the others.

BERIX

Ya ask me, it's some kind of--
(staggering grunts)
--instructions.

ON GROUP - as BERIX joins them.

MARTA

Nobody asked you.

MARTA - gives BERIX a shove back toward GRESH, but he just
regains his balance and heads back.

MARTA (CONT'D)

You just worry about Gresh.

BERIX

I've done all I can for him... at
least for now. But Gresh is gonna
need more treatments. So
guess that means I'll just have to
tag along with you guys.

MARTA

Fine. That way we won't let you out
of our sight.

AKAR - looks from MARTA to MATA NUI.

AKAR

We'd best get moving. We need to warn the other villages that the Skral and Bone Hunters have united.

MARTA - glances at BERIX, who looks away.

MARTA

And that there's definitely a rat traitor on the inside.

AKAR - turns to MATA NUI.

AKAR

Are you with us?

MATA NUI

I am sorry, but you have your duty to perform and I have mine.

MARTA - steps INTO FRAME getting in MATA NUI'S face.

MARTA

Forget that. You gave your word. No way you're leaving Bara Nui without me and I can't just walk out on my people in the middle of a war.

MATA NUI

I have my own battle to fight.

FEATURE AKAR -

AKAR

Trust me, Mata Nui, you aren't ready to go it alone. But I promise, if you'll stay and help us finish this, I'll teach you everything I know.

ON GROUP - turning as GRESH moves unsteadily to join them.

MARTA

Gresh! You're all right!

BERIX

What'd ya know? I did it.

BERIX - rushes to intercept GRESH just as MARTA rushes to help steady him.

BERIX (CONT'D)

Hey! Take it easy, man or you'll
mess up all my hard work!

MARTA - moves to GRESH helping to steady him.

MARTA

You need to rest.

GRESH

I'm okay. Just a little weak. But
it doesn't make much difference
since I've got nothing to fight
with. The Skral totally shredded my
claw blade.

AKAR - holds up his own cracked weapon.

AKAR

This happened back in the canyon.

MARTA - examines her own weapon.

MARTA

Doubt mine could stand another
serious attack either.

GRESH

We run into trouble, we'll all be
cut down.

AKAR

Unless...

AKAR AND MARTA - both turn to stare at MATA NUI.

AKAR (CONT'D)

We saw what you did with that fang.

FEATURE MATA NUI'S SHIELD - as the EYE blinks.

MARTA

Not to mention your shield... I
mean, c'mon, talk about watching
your back.

AKAR

So how about it, Mata Nui? Will you
do the same for us?

MATA NUI

I am not certain I can.

MATA NUI - touches his mask.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(more to himself)
This mask... gave me new life,
turned me into a Toa.

ON GROUP - FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(to others)
But I am still trying to understand
how its powers work. Sometimes it
feels as if the Mask is guiding me,
others like it is obeying my
thoughts.

AKAR
Maybe it's a bit of both. But I'm
betting you're the one with the
real power.

MATA NUI
There is one thing I am pretty sure
of: whatever the mask transforms
has to be at least in some part
organic. Like the fang.

FEATURE BERIX AND MARTA

BERIX
No problem. Most of the gladiator's
fighting tools have bone or claw
cores.

MARTA
(flip, not nasty)
Collected a few, have you?

MATA NUI - takes AKAR's weapon.

MATA NUI
Let us see what we can do...

DRAMATIC - as MATA NUI touches the weapon to the brow of his
mask and--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Together... as one mind...

THE MASK GLOWS - and the LIQUID LAVA FX begins (same FX as earlier), then Akar's weapon is transformed into a larger more impressive version of his old weapon.

MARTA (V.O.)

It's working!

MATA NUI - hands AKAR his new awesome weapon and he holds it high in admiration and suddenly it turns FLAME RED and FIRE shoots out of it!

AKAR

What in...?

MATA NUI

(nodding)

It is what I thought, what I hoped might happen. Your roots, Akar, your essence is linked with fire. The Mask Of Life has simply ignited your elemental power... You have become a true Toa.

CLOSER ON TWO - as AKAR places a hand on MATA NUI'S shoulder.

AKAR

Thank you, my friend!

MATA NUI

(touched)

Strange... I have been called a lot of things... ruler, great spirit... but never friend.

AKAR

No man can survive as an island onto himself.

MARTA - steps in excitedly admiring AKAR's new weapon while holding her old one out to MATA NUI.

MARTA

Looks like we're back in business, better and badder than ever.

(to Mata Nui)

What're you waiting for? We've gotta win this fight so we can get you back home.

(hopeful)

Right...?

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he hesitates for a beat, then nods.

MATA NUI
I'll stay... at least a while
longer...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

EXT. DESERT - DAY - NIGHT

OPEN ON THE SAND CHARIOT - as BERIX works the reins and GRESH, still leaning weakly, stands beside him admiring his new SUPER WEAPON in the shimmering light of the three moons.

GRESH

Oh man this is torture. I score this totally clawed out new blade, and Mata Nui tells me I've got awesome new Toa (* TBA) powers, but none of you will even let me test 'em out.

WIDEN TO REVEAL - MARTA, AKAR AND MATA NUI - walking along beside the sand chariot. MARTA is spinning her new weapon (* TBA) demonstrating her new elemental powers (*TBA).

AKAR

Patience is the first lesson in becoming a great gladiator.

MATA NUI

Or Toa.

AKAR

(to Gresh and Marta)
Let me tell you, Mata Nui here isn't the only one that could use a few tips on fighting.

CLOSER - MARTA starts to open her mouth, but AKAR beats her to it.

AKAR (CONT'D)

And I don't mean with your mouth. Pay attention, you might actually learn something.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as AKAR suddenly whirls his weapon over his head (FIRE trailing the ark) bringing it down towards MATA NUI and forcing him to bring his shield up fast <CLANG>--

AKAR (CONT'D)

(with exertion)
Like *this!*

--MATA NUI is sent slamming back into a startled MARTA.

MATA NUI/MARTA
(impact grunts)

MARTA
Hey, how'd you like a taste of my
new Toa powers?

MATA NUI
(half laugh)
Let me guess...the second lesson is
never drop your guard.

FEATURE BERIX AND GRESH

BERIX
(laughing)
Third: Never stand too close to
Akar when he's teaching.

BERIX/GRESH
(laughing)

FEATURE AKAR AND MATA NUI

AKAR
All right, back to work. Mastering
your skill is only half the
battle...
<fading into the dissolve>
A smart gladiator learns to read
the enemy before...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS - TWIN VILLAGES - DAWN

ESTABLISHING SHOT - the two suns are just beginning to rise
over the ice capped mountains in the (nearer) distance as
Marta's SAND CHARIOT is nearing the top of a tall windswept
sand dune.

AKAR (CONT'D)
Wake up, ya lazy slackers.

CLOSER ON CHARIOT - AKAR is riding on the RAANU keeping
watch, while BERIX is sprawled behind him on the beast's
rump. MATA NUI, MARTA and GRESH are in the chariot. They
wake, looking around.

MATA NUI
Where are we?

AKAR - points ahead.

AKAR

The twin villages of Twi Anu are
just over this dune.

POV DOWN ON TWIN VILLAGES - two small crude villages, mostly
in ruin - are set close together - separated by a GLADIATOR
ARENA. (NOTE: These two villages are shaped - not too
obviously - so that they later can form two sections of a
giant arm - with the arena forming the elbow.)

VILLAGERS (V.O.)

(excited cheering)

ON CHARIOT - HERO GROUP

GRESH

Sounds like a Gladiator battle's
about to start.

AKAR

And end... if I have anything to
say about it!

As AKAR'S red eyes blaze with anger, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GLADIATOR ARENA - DAWN - MOMENTS LATER

PUSH IN ON GALAX - standing at the edge of the arena with
SACUU and two other MORG VILLAGE LEADERS. A CROWD of
MORG/VILLAGERS line the arena excitedly cheering.

VILLAGERS

(excited cheering)

Send in the gladiators!/Start the
battle!

DRAMATIC - ON THE ARENA - as TWO COOL CYLINDER PODS - rise
out of the ground on either side - each containing one of the
two gladiators: JOHMAD AND DALIZ.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)

(wild cheering)

Johmad!/Daliz!

MARTA AND MATA NUI - supporting the still weak GRESH, follow
AKAR, who is marching angrily towards the edge of the arena.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(wild cheering)
Johmad!/Daliz!

REVERSE ON HERO GROUP TO REVEAL - the much shorter BERIX is following behind them. Berix is looking around uneasily.

MARTA (O.S.)
What's wrong, Berix?

MARTA - is glancing back at BERIX.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Afraid you might run into someone you ripped off? Or are you looking for one of your Skral spies to tell them our plan.

BERIX reacts genuinely hurt.

BERIX
I'm not a traitor or a thief either.
(looking around, sotto)
But I have done a little *collecting* around here, so best to lay low.

ARENA EDGE - GALAX AND SACUU - turn as AKAR arrives followed by MATA NUI, GRESH and MARTA (*NOTE: BERIX is no longer with them*).

GALAX
Akar! Mata Nui! I'm surprised to see--

AKAR
(interrupting)
This insanity must stop!

GALAX
What are you talking about?

AKAR gestures into the arena--

AKAR
That!

POV ON ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ facing off across the arena.

AKAR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's time the Morg find a better way to settle disputes than risking the lives of these noble warriors!

BACK ON GROUP FEATURE GALAX

GALAX

I'm sure Sacuu and the other
leaders will be happy to discuss it
with you later. But you're a little
late, the battle's starting...

IN THE ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ - march toward the center,
holding their weapons and shields (*NOTE: No shooter weapons
in this battle.*)

VILLAGERS

(wild cheering thru next shots)

JOHMAD - brings up his shield just as DALIZ strikes the first
blow <CLASH> then Johmad ducks low coming up swinging his own
weapon <SLAMMING> against Daliz's side, sending him
staggering.

JOHMAD/DALIZ

(fighting grunts)

EDGE OF ARENA - GALAX shakes his head.

GALAX

Young Daliz better watch out or
I'll be looking for his replacement
before--

FEATURE AKAR - as he steps up to stand on the arena rail so
he can shouts at the surrounding MORG/VILLAGERS.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Wait! What are you doing, Akar!?
Have you lost your mind!?

MATA NUI, MARTA AND GRESH - move in to guard AKAR's position.

AKAR

(shouting)

The fighting between Gladiators
must stop! Now and forever! We need
to band together against our real
enemies, not destroy one another in
the arena!

SACUU - and the other VILLAGE LEADERS scoff and shout:

SACUU

Mind your own business, you old
fool!

VILLAGE LEADERS

(ad-lib shouting)

Maybe you've forgotten you lost
face! / You're not a true Gladiator
anymore!

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib jeering)

Yeah! / Sit down! / Butt out!

IN THE ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ have stopped fighting and are
moving towards AKAR and the others.

DALIZ

(shouting to crowd)

Wait! Let him talk!

VILLAGERS

(angry murmuring)

JOHMAD

If this Gladiator has something to
say, we want to hear it!

INCLUDE AKAR standing on the rail above JOHMAD AND DALIZ.

DALIZ

Go head, Akar.

Akar's voice can't hide his pride at their respect:

AKAR

Thank you, Daliz and you, Johmad.
(loud to crowd)
The Bone Hunters and the Skral have
formed an alliance!

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib started walla)

Impossible! / They couldn't!

AKAR

It's true! And if we do not unite
against them, they will wipe us out
one village at a time!

VILLAGE LEADERS AND VILLAGERS all begin shouting like a
fearful mob:

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib)

There's no way we can stand up to
the Bone Hunters!/ Let alone the
more powerful Skral./It's madness!

MATA NUI - leaps up next to AKAR.

MATA NUI

(shouting)

You are not listening! You no
longer have a choice! You are not
up against the old raiding parties,
you are facing an army!

MATA NUI - helps GRESH climb up to join AKAR and MARTA steps
up too.

GRESH

Like it or not, if the Morg don't
join forces, we'll all be wiped
out.

MARTA

(pained)

Like everyone at my village.

VILLAGERS

(concerned murmuring
walla)

FEATURE GALAX - turning to SACUU and the other LEADERS.

SACUU

It's madness! Even if we could
unite the villages, we have no
weapons, how can we fight back?

VILLAGERS

(angry agreeing walla)

Sacuu is right!/It's not possible!

AKAR - suddenly thrusts up his weapon and it turns fire red
then FLAMES shoot out high in the air.

AKAR

Silence!

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

(awed gasps)

FEATURE MARTA AND GRESH - as they each thrust up their weapons, demonstrating their new Toa powers (* their elemental powers/blasts TBA).

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(more awed gasps)

GRESH
Yeah, we kind'a thought that might get your attention.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he steps up beside AKAR.

AKAR
Toa Mata Nui has offered to help us build up our defenses.

SACUU
Why should we trust this stranger?

VILLAGERS
(agreeing walla)
Yeah!/He's not one of us!

AKAR - turns to DALIZ.

AKAR
Daliz give Mata Nui your weapon.

DALIZ - steps up and reluctantly hands MATA NUI his crude sword-style weapon.

DALIZ
What are you going to do?

MATA NUI
Watch.

MATA NUI - presses it to the brow of the Mask Of Life and the GLOW begins and the same fusing, LIQUID LAVA-like FX transforms it into awesome new weapon (styles TBA).

THE MORG/VILLAGERS - gasp.

VILLAGERS
(awed gasps)

MATA NUI - hands DALIZ his new weapon (*power demonstration TBA).

DALIZ

(awed)

I don't believe it... I mean...
thank you. Thank you!

AKAR - calls to the VILLAGE LEADERS who are huddled together.

AKAR

So, will you do it? Will you unite
the villages?

SACUU - speaks for the rest.

SACUU

Under one condition: Mata Nui and
all you gladiators must swear to
stay and protect us.

ALL THE GLADIATORS - turn to MATA NUI, as AKAR moves to his
side.

AKAR

I won't pretend I have anything
left to teach you... But I will ask
you... as a friend... help us.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he locks arms with AKAR (Roman
gladiator style handshake).

MATA NUI

Then as a friend... I will stay
until the battle is won... or lost.

DRAMATIC ON GLADIATORS - standing united - MATA NUI in the
center. The Gladiators all raise their weapons and answer as
one voice:

GLADIATORS

(shouting in unison)
WE SWEAR!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TWIN VILLAGES - DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

MORG/VILLAGERS AND GLADIATORS - working together, using the
RAANU and heavy chains to drag a huge boulder-

CLOSE RAANU straining--

CLOSE AKAR - moving in and adding his strength to pulling the
heavy chains just as--

MARTA - and then MATA NUI - move in beside AKAR - heaving with all their might.

ANGLE TO REVEAL - they are all working to drag the boulder to join with a row of boulders already in place forming a--

A CRUDE FORTRESS WALL - on one side of the villages.

PAN TO REVEAL - THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGES--

BERIX - is kneeling down holding a flame to a fuse.

CLOSER - as the fuse <IGNITES> and--

BERIX - scrambles up and runs/waddles like mad as-

A SERIES OF <EXPLOSIONS> - blast in a line forming--

A MOAT-LIKE TRENCH - around that side of the villages.

GRESH, DALIZ AND JOHMAD - struggling to position an ancient looking CANNON-LIKE WEAPON between the new stone wall.

MATA NUI - joins them, moving to the weapon.

CLOSER - MATA NUI - pressing his brow against it and (fusing, liquid lava-like FX).

WIDEN - as the weapon is transformed into a truly AWESOME MEGA CANNON.

END MONTAGE - as MARTA, AKAR, GRESH, DALIZ and JOHMAD converge to slap MATA NUI on the back.

GLADIATORS
(ad-lib elated walla)
Well done!/Way to go!/We did it!

GRESH
The Skral won't know what hit 'em!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE TWIN VILLAGES - NIGHT

We see the SHADOWY FIGURE OF THE MYSTERY TRAITOR slipping away from the village towards the STEAMING HOT SPRINGS just beyond the villages. A beat and then-

A SECOND SHADOWY FIGURE is stealthily following him.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOT SPRINGS - MOMENTS LATER

As the SHADOWY FIGURE nears the mist-shrouded springs, he is suddenly seized from behind (*neither traitor nor pursuer are seen clearly in this shot*) and spun around by-

MARTA - who is not at all surprised to be staring at--

MARTA

I was really hoping I was wrong...

--BERIX!

MARTA (CONT'D)

But this proves you're the traitor.

BERIX

What? No! It's not me! I was following--

MARTA

Save your lies.

BERIX AND MARTA - both react to a hushed voice behind them.

TRAITOR (O.S.)

(hushed, disguised)

Oh, but he's telling the truth. I'm the one you're looking for.

ON BERIX AND MARTA - turning and reacting.

MARTA/BERIX

You!?

THE REAL TRAITOR - who they both clearly recognize (*but we do NOT see him yet, he remains in the shadows*).

MARTA

Why you filthy--

MARTA - is about to bring up her weapon, but--

TRAITOR (O.S.)

(interrupting)

Seize them!

--SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS AND SKRAL surround them, weapons pointed.

MARTA

I can't believe I was so dense I
walked right into the rat's trap.

CLOSER - BERIX AND MARTA - weapons jabbing towards them.

BERIX

Well, at least you finally believe
I'm not the fink traitor...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE ARENA BETWEEN THE TWIN VILLAGES - NIGHT

MATA NUI, DALIZ, JOHMAD and GRESH are watching AKAR
demonstrate a defensive move when GALAX rushes in:

GALAX

The nomads have kidnapped Marta and
Berix!

FEATURE HERO GROUP

AKAR

And how exactly do you know this?

SACUU - hurries into SC.

SACUU

I told him! I saw them being
dragged off with my own eyes!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he turns to the other GLADIATORS.

MATA NUI

We have to go after them.

AKAR steps up.

AKAR

I'm with you.

GRESH joins them.

GRESH

Me too. My wound's totally healed
and I'm itching to get back in the
fight.

WIDEN - as more MORG/VILLAGES begin gathering around.

SACUU

No! You gave your word! You can't
abandon us now!

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib fearful walla)
He's right!/If you leave us
unprotected, the Skral will surely
wipe us out!

MATA NUI - addresses the VILLAGERS/MORG.

MATA NUI

Believe me, I understand your fear.
But we cannot turn our backs on
Marta and Berix.

FEATURE SACUU - scoffing.

SACUU

They're just two, they're not
important.

FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI

I used to think that way. When I
ruled my empire I paid little
attention to the contributions of
any one individual.
(gesturing to Gladiators)
But after working side by side with
these brave Gladiators, watching
each sharing their individual
talents to help all of you...

CLOSER - MATA NUI addresses the rest directly to AKAR:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

I realize how much difference a
single being can make... when he
believes in what he is fighting
for.

MATA NUI - turns to include GRESH as he adds:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

I also see now how much a team can
accomplish when they are united by
honor and duty.

SACUU - is unmoved.

SACUU

Noble words that mean nothing if
you walk out on us, leave us to be
slaughtered!

MATA NUI - looks towards the GLADIATORS.

MATA NUI

I was once forced to abandon my own
people; I will not do the same to
the Morg. The other gladiators
will remain here. I will go after
Marta and Berix alone.

AKAR and GRESH start to protest--

AKAR/GRESH

No!/Forget that!

--but MATA NUI holds up his hand to them.

MATA NUI

I have to try and save our
teammates, or friends. But you must
stay here and protect the
villagers.

GRESH

(to Akar pleading)

At least let me go with him! Mata
Nui doesn't stand a chance alone.

AKAR - looks at the EYE on MATA-NUI's unique shield.

AKAR

(sotto)

We'll see...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LATER - HILL OVERLOOKING THE TWIN VILLAGES - DAWN

AKAR - is leading the RAANU pulling Marta's sand chariot up
to where MATA NUI stands on the high sand dune, silhouetted
against the misty dawn light.

AKAR

Figured you'd cover more ground in
this.

MATA NUI

Thanks, Akar... for everything.

CLOSER ON TWO

AKAR

It's me that should be thanking
you... for restoring my faith in
others... as well as myself.

(clearing throat)

So, you've got the map I gave you?

MATA NUI

I am ready.

AKAR

(agreeing grunt, then:)

But are they?

AKAR - points back towards the o.s. villages.

AKAR (CONT'D)

Can the Morg really put their petty
squabbles aside for the greater
good?

POV DOWN ON TWIN VILLAGES - as the MORG/VILLAGERS are using
the powerful RAANU beasts and HEAVY CHAINS to literally pull
the TWO VILLAGES together (*as noted earlier they will end up
forming one of the giant robot arms - the arena at the elbow.
But this is **NOT** obvious in this shot*).

MATA NUI (V.O.)

Uniting these two villages is a
strong start.

AKAR (V.O.)

Let's hope the rest of the villages
will survive long enough to join
with these.

BACK ON MATA NUI AND AKAR -

AKAR (CONT'D)

And that you return with Marta and
Berix to see it.

AKAR - suddenly feints a jab and MATA NUI grabs his fist
before it nears his face.

AKAR (CONT'D)

(pleased laugh)

You've learned well, my friend.

AKAR - slaps MATA NUI on the back as he climbs into the sand
chariot.

MATA NUI

I had a great teacher.

Suddenly, they react to a <THUNDERING BOOM> from down below.

AKAR

Sounds like they've linked the two.

MATA NUI - reacts to the sight as if he's seeing something truly astonishing. (NOTE: We do **NOT** reveal what he sees.)

MATA NUI

(sotto)

Incredible...

AKAR - looks up at MATA NUI in the chariot.

AKAR

What is it, Mata Nui?

MATA NUI - whips the reins and the sand chariot races off.

MATA NUI

No time to explain!

AKAR - looks curiously back **O.S.** and then at MATA NUI racing off in the sand chariot, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BASE OF MOUNTAINS - SKRAL/GATHERERS' NOMAD CAMP - DAY

ESTABLISH A GIANT SAND-SAIL SHIP - that houses the entire nomad camp - like an ominous mobile fortress pieced together from wreckage. There are two PROTO SLUGS chained like hapless guard dogs beside a ship-style ramp that leads from the sand up to the main deck, which doubles as an ARENA ringed by freakish bones and twisted metal. In the BG - GLACIER FLOWS glisten in the mountainside.

BERIX (V.O.)

Tell me something... since we're probably not gonna be around much longer...

PUSH IN ON A CANISTER-CAGE - hanging from the ship's mast above the deck arena - where MARTA (without her weapon) and BERIX are held prisoners.

BERIX (CONT'D)

How come you hated me so much?
What'd I ever do to you... well,
aside from finding the cavern?

FEATURE MARTA - looking off, her body language uneasy.

MARTA

I didn't hate you.

BERIX

Hello...?

MARTA

Okay... maybe because I needed it
to be my secret place, my private
sanctuary from all the ugliness
outside...

(turning to face him)

Can you understand that?

FEATURE BERIX - reaching out to touch her arm.

BERIX

Sure. But did ya ever think, maybe
you weren't the only one that
needed a dream to hang on to?

MARTA

I'm sorry...

BERIX

Hey, no sweat. But since I'm going
out of the collector biz and
becoming a respectable healer...
maybe we could share it? Or even
hang out there together
sometimes...?

MARTA

(warm)

Sure, kid... if we ever get out of
here.

FEATURE BERIX - turning to look out over the desert.

BERIX

Don't worry, the Gladiators are
going to rescue us, you'll see.

MARTA

(half laugh)

You really are a dreamer.

BERIX suddenly points out.

BERIX

Yeah, well that looks pretty real
to me!

POV - DOWN ON MATA NUI - as he approaches on foot and is quickly surrounded by mounted BONE HUNTERS who prod him towards the ship's ramp.

MARTA (O.S.)

I don't believe it...

DRAMATIC UP ON TUMA - the Skral leader (*who we will recognize from the earlier scene*) standing, waiting on the deck.

BERIX (O.S.)

Neither does Tuma!

FEATURE TUMA - as he looks down at the approaching MATA NUI.

TUMA

I'd hoped all the Gladiators would
come, but it seems they're even
bigger cowards than I thought.

MATA NUI - marches boldly past the TWO PROTO SLUGS that strain against their chains, lashing out with their claws as Mata Nui marches up the ramp to face the towering TUMA.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL

(jeering laughs)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - as he gives a pathetic little wave towards Mata Nui o.s.

MARTA

I still can't believe Mata Nui
really came.

BERIX

All alone...?

DECK - FEATURE TUMA - as MATA NUI reaches the top of the ramp.

TUMA

(playing to crowd)
Either he's a madman or he'd like
to join the winning side...
(to Mata Nui)
Which is it?

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he boldly faces TUMA.

MATA NUI

I am here to fight you for my
friends' freedom. One on one.
(playing to crowd)
Unless of course, the Skral leader
is the real coward?

TUMA - his eyes FLASH RED with rage, but his voice feigns
amusement.

TUMA

I'm going to enjoy personally
ripping that fancy mask off your
face.

EXT. SKRAL SHIPBOARD GLADIATOR ARENA - CONTINUOUS

As MATA NUI moves to enter the arena area, TUMA instantly
attacks, <SLAMMING> him from behind and propelling him
inside.

TUMA/MATA NUI

(startled impact grunts)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - look down from
their mast vantage.

BERIX

Hey no fair!

MARTA

The dirty cheating Skral--

SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - gather around the arena to cheer.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL

(cheering)

Tear 'im to shreds!/Tuma'll cut 'im
down to size!

DECK ARENA - MATA NUI - has no time to recover - TUMA is on
him in a flash, bringing his weapon <SMASHING> down on Mata
Nui's raised shield.

TUMA/MATA NUI

(impact grunts)

TUMA - presses his attack and knocks MATA NUI around the
arena as if he's no contest at all.

TUMA/MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(impact grunts)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - as he shakes his head and covers his eyes with his hands.

BERIX
Oh man, I can't watch. Mata Nui's gonna get shredded to scraps.

MARTA
(conspiratorial whisper)
No. Don't you see? He's just doing what Akar taught us... study your opponent's moves, find his weakness.

FAVOR BERIX - as he peeks out from under his hand.

BERIX
Well he better find it fast, before he gets his skull--

MARTA
Shhh. Watch!

DECK ARENA - TUMA - is getting cocky, not even keeping his shield up as he swings his weapon at MATA NUI, who looks like he's cowering before the blow.

TUMA
(playing to crowd)
Did this pathetic weakling really believe he could bring down the great Tuma?

MATA NUI
Arrogance can topple giants.
(with exertion)
Believe me I know!

CLOSER ON TWO - a MATA NUI suddenly ducks under and around the blow and comes up behind TUMA <SLAMMING> his bent elbow into the Skral's back and sending him staggering forward.

TUMA/MATA NUI
(impact grunts thru next)

MATA NUI - moves with graceful ease compared to TUMA - our hero effortlessly ducking all of Tuma's blows - which when missed throw the Skral slightly off balance - enabling MATA NUI to land powerful <BLOWS> of his own.

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA is so excited she starts shaking poor little BERIX.

MARTA

(elated whispering)

That's it! Tuma's huge, but he's slow. Mata Nui's using the Skral's own strength as leverage against him.

BERIX

(while being shaken)

I get it, I get it.

DECK ARENA - TUMA - growls his rage at repeatedly missing his fast moving opponent, who lands powerful <BLOWS> with both his weapon and his shield--

TUMA

(growls of rage - into impact grunts)

TUMA - is just too slow to recover from missed blows, allowing MATA NUI to slip inside and repeatedly <SLAM> the Skral with fast powerful weapon blows.

TUMA/MATA NUI

(fighting grunts)

DRAMATIC ON MATA NUI - as he swings his weapon over head, then brings it down in a final sweeping <BLOW>--

MATA NUI

(exertion grunt)

--CLOSER - as Mata Nui's weapon <SHATTERS> Tuma's weapon.

ON TWO - as MATA NUI spins around and delivers a devastating <BLOW> that sends--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(with exertion)

Bigger they are...

TUMA - <CRASHES> to his knees.

TUMA

(impact grunts)

LOW UP ON TUMA - as he waivers for a beat, his red eyes blinking, then <CRACKLING> before the Skral collapses TOWARDS CAMERA hitting the deck with a CAMERA SHAKING <CRASH>!

FEATURE MATA NUI - standing over TUMA, who clearly alive, but too weak to get up.

MATA NUI
...The harder they fall.

TUMA
(weak moans)

THE SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - gasp in shock as--

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(shocked gasps)

--MATA NUI reaches down and picks up Tuma's shield, holding it high in the air.

MATA NUI
I claim Tuma's shield in victory!

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - BERIX leaps up into MARTA's arms.

BERIX
(laughing)
He did it!

CLOSER - MARTA holds BERIX away from her.

BERIX (CONT'D)
Ooops. Sorry.

She suddenly pulls him into a hug and spins them around.

MARTA
Oh who cares? Mata Nui did it!

MARTA/BERIX
(in unison - laughing)
He really did it!

DECK ARENA - TUMA is still too weak to rise - MATA NUI is still holding the Skral shield overhead - it seems that it's over, but then a familiar laugh rings out:

GALAX (O.S.)
(laughing)

BOTTOM OF SHIP'S RAMP - GALAX stands mockingly <CLAPPING> up at MATA NUI.

GALAX (CONT'D)
I could always pick a winner.

INCLUDE PROTO SLUGS - chained beside the ramp as GALAX viciously <SLAMS> his weapon down on the closest beast--

GALAX (CONT'D)

Back off, you wretched cur!

--causing the PROTO SLUG to <SCREECH> in pain as it cowers back in fear.

FEATURE CANNISTER CAGE - BERIX and MARTA - looking down on SC.

MATA NUI

So you are the traitor.

MARTA

Yeah! All the time Galax was taking his cut from us Gladiators, he was selling us out to the nomads.

BERIX

I still don't get it. You're one of us. You're Morg!

FEATURE GALAX - as he gestures to the surrounding SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS.

GALAX

True. But I realized that my friends here had far more to offer me.

FEATURE MATA NUI - now standing at the top of the ramp.

MATA NUI

So you convinced them to unite.

CLOSE ON MATA NUI - as he brings up his shield and locks his gaze on the EYE.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(cryptic to eye in shield)

To become one incredibly powerful force.

FEATURE GALAX - smug, amused.

GALAX

As rival tribes the nomads did little damage, but if they joined together... under one ruler...

MATA NUI

You. But leading them against your own people...?

GALAX

(with contempt)

What have the Morg ever done for me?

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX

BERIX

Uh, let's see: We trusted you!?

MARTA

The other gladiators will tear you apart for this!

FEATURE GALAX - looking up at MATA NUI.

GALAX

She still doesn't understand.

MATA NUI

We are the only ones that know you are the traitor.

GALAX

By the time they realize it, I'll have wiped out all the gladiators... starting with you.

GALAX - turning to the surrounding BONE HUNTERS and SKRAL.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Finish them! I need to get back--

SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS - suddenly begin shouting in alarm and pointing off towards the desert where--

BONE HUNTERS

(alarmed shouts)

POV - A GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - like a shimmering mirage - is gliding across the sand towards them.

BONE HUNTERS (CONT'D)

What is that!?!/It's a sand demon!/
Some kind of monster!

GALAX - shouts at the scores of frightened BONE HUNTERS racing away in terror-

GALAX

Stop! Whatever it is, we must
destroy it!

FEATURE SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - mounting ROCK STEEDS and
readying their crude SHOOTER WEAPONS.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL

(ad-lib shouting thru next
shots)

Mount up!/Unleash the Proto
Slugs!/Prepare arms!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he takes advantage of the chaos
surrounding him to move to the CHAIN holding the cage
cylinder aloft.

CLOSE - as Mata Nui's weapon <SHATTERS> the chain and--

THE CANNISTER CAGE - comes <CRASHING> down to the deck where
it breaks open releasing MARTA and BERIX.

MARTA/BERIX

(impact grunts)

MATA NUI - rushes to join MARTA and BERIX.

MATA NUI

Are you alright?

MARTA

Will be soon as I get my new blade
back.

(gesturing off)

I saw where they stashed it.

BERIX - points off towards the o.s. giant.

BERIX

(nervous)

What is that... thing?

POV GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - as the shimmering giant nears, we
hear the familiar <CLICKING>.

CLOSE MATA NUI - as he glances at his shield - the EYE
meeting his gaze with a definite gleam.

MATA NUI

I thought we might need a few more
loyal friends.

DRAMATIC ON THE GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - as the <CLICKING ECHOES> like thunder for a beat, the shimmering image of the gladiator DISSOLVES, showering down into the sand and we reveal that--

A HUGE SWARM OF SCARBAC - had created the illusion of the giant gladiator - now they vanish into sand. No longer hidden behind it we now see THROUGH A SANDSTORM of movement--

MATA NUI (VO) (CONT'D)
(amazed)
But I had not realized just how
many would come...

--AKAR AND GRESH - charging forth with JOHMAD and DALIZ, leading a united army of MORG (on foot as well as in sand chariots).

GLADIATORS/MORG/VILLAGERS
(attack walla)

EXT. SKRAL & GATHERERS' NOMAD CAMP/SHIP - CONTINUOUS

LONG SHOT ESTABLISHING - a SANDSTORM RISES as the TWO ARMIES converse at the base of the nomad ship.

ALL
(battle walla thru/under following
scene)

ON DECK - MATA NUI, BERIX and MARTA (now with her weapon) are together at the rail. Mata Nui hands Berix the *Skral shield* he took from Tuma.

MATA NUI
You may need this.

CLOSER ON THREE - BERIX looks up at the two big warriors beside him.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Ready?

BERIX
Not really. But I'm with you!

MARTA
Then let's do it!

LOW UP ANGLE - MATA NUI AND MARTA - as they leap off the rail OVER CAMERA. BERIX (holding the Skral shield) remains behind on the rail for an extra beat, then he leaps--

MATA NUI/MARTA
(attack cries)

BERIX
Wait for meeeee!

GROUND LEVEL - TWO SKRAL ATOP ROCK STEED - look up, just as MATA NUI and MARTA come sailing down <SLAMMING> them off their mounts as they all sail THRU SHOT just as--

MATA NUI/MARTA/SKRAL
(impact grunts)

--BERIX - sails INTO SHOT landing on top of one of the (now) riderless ROCK STEEDS.

BERIX
(impact grunt)

CLOSER - as the ROCK STEED REARS UP then gallops off with BERIX clinging for dear life (still holding the Skral shield).

BERIX (CONT'D)
Whoaa-nooooo!

OTS BERIX ATOP ROCK STEED - as he gets his balance and realizes he's barreling right towards a BONE HUNTER--

BERIX (CONT'D)
What the heck!

BERIX - closes his eyes as he swings the shield downward--

BERIX (CONT'D)
No guts...

CLOSE - as <WHACK> the shield hits the BONE HUNTER on the top of the head and he staggers O.S.

BERIX - brings the shield up, looking around for another target.

BERIX (CONT'D)
...no glory!

REAR ANGLE - BERIX/ROCK STEED - tilt to beast's rear 'hooves' kicking sand INTO CAMERA as we...

SMASH CUT INTO:

BATTLE MONTAGE - SERIES OF DRAMATIC FAST ACTION SHOTS -
BATTLE FX AND WALLA CONTINUOUS:

OPEN on a shooter-style <BLAST> exploding up sand as it just misses its target--

MATA NUI - is diving and rolling, dodging more <BLASTS> from a MOUNTED SKRAL when suddenly--

GRESH - comes rocketing TOWARDS CAMERA standing/sand-surfing on his new weapon which acts like an X-game-style board - a WAVE OF SAND (* either wind or earth Toa powered TBA) as Gresh flips full circle right OVER CAMERA--

REVERSE - as GRESH sand-boards straight into a MOUNTED SKRAL <CRASH> the Skral sails off the ROCK STEED, his SHOOTER WEAPON flying into the air TOWARDS CAMERA!

MATA NUI - is already running and stabs his weapon into the ground like a javelin to catapult himself into the air towards--

THE SHOOTER WEAPON - MATA NUI snatches it out of the air.

CLOSE MATA NUI - holding the shooter weapon to the brow of his Mask which GLOWS and again we see the LIQUID FUSION FX as the weapon is TRANSFORMED into a newer version of a 'SHOOTER' weapon.

REFLECTED IN THE NEW SHOOTER WEAPON - the image of a BONE HUNTER charging in.

MATA NUI - sees the REFLECTION and whirls around, using his own weapon to <SLAM> the attacking BONE HUNTER back and o.s.

INCLUDE MARTA - just as she is dropping down to meet a charging SKRAL, that she flips o.s.

MARTA - springs to her feet, turning to see MATA NUI, who tosses her the newly transformed shooter weapon.

MARTA - catches the shooter weapon just in time to fire a <BLAST> (* elemental type TBA) at a MOUNTED SKRAL charging towards her.

LOW - as the <BLAST> hits right in front of the ROCK STEED and <EXPLODES> both beast and rider into the air - along with an avalanche of FLYING SAND.

POV THROUGH A VEIL OF SAND AND SMOKE FROM THE BLASTS - ON MATA NUI AND AKAR - fighting back to back <CLASHING> weapons against TWO HUGE SKRAL.

AKAR/MATA NUI/SKRAL
(fight grunts)

CLOSER - MATA NUI AND AKAR - back to back continuing to battle.

AKAR
(with exertion)
They have us outnumbered ten to one!

MARTA (O.S.)
(with exertion)
More like twenty!

INCLUDE MARTA AND GRESH - who are being driven towards AKAR and MATA NUI as they <BATTLE> against several BONE HUNTERS.

GRESH
Yeah, but who's counting!?

MARTA/GRESH/BONE HUNTERS
(fighting and impact grunts)

FEATURE MATA NUI - battling his SKRAL.

MATA NUI
(with exertion)
It could be a hundred! But we have the true power:
(punctuating his words with blows)
We fight with honor and purpose!

ON MATA NUI AND SKRAL - as our hero <SLAMS> his weapon with such force, the Skral's shield literally <EXPLODES> and blasts him back FILLING FRAME with sand and debris.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
For UNITY!

POV THRU SMOKE AND DEBRIS - ON HERO GROUP - as they all follow suit and strike their opponents with such force the SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS are <EXPLODED> backwards o.s.

GLADIATORS
FOR UNITY!

HIGH DOWN ANGLE TO REVEAL - MORE BONE HUNTERS AND SKRAL - closing in around our HERO GROUP, who stand ready, but the enemy suddenly begins backing away as--

THE SAND - begins CHURNING violently right under the BONE HUNTERS and SKRAL, forming an ever widening circle of churning 'quicksand' around our heroes.

BONE HUNTERS
(ad-lib frightened walla)
What's happening!/Scarbac!

QUICK SHOTS:

BONE HUNTERS being swallowed up in the churning sand..

MOUNTED SKRAL being swarmed by SCARBAC.

CLOSE ON MATA NUI AND HIS SHIELD EYE

MATA NUI
Once again, my friend, you read my
mind.

ON ROCK STEED - struggling to escape the liquid sand.

ON GLADIATOR GROUP - watching the SCARBAC churning up the
sand around them.

AKAR
And I used to think Scarbac were
just annoying little pests.

GRESH
I couldn't believe my eyes when
they just suddenly swarmed up in
front of us into that giant
gladiator.

MARTA
It's Mata Nui! He's controlling
them.

FEATURE EYE ON MATA NUI'S SHIELD

MATA NUI
No. It is true they can hear my
thoughts, but the Scarbac act of
their own free will.

GRESH
Then why are they helping us?

ON MATA NUI - as he looks at the EYE on his shield.

MATA NUI
Because like us... they choose good
over evil.

Suddenly a huge <RUMBLING> draws their attention o.s.

POV THRU SAND ON NOMAD SHIP - as it begins sinking, swallowed up beneath a river of the shimmering liquid sand.

ON HERO GROUP - as JOHMAD and DALIZ rush to join MATA NUI, AKAR, MARTA and GRESH.

JOHMAD

The spineless Skral are on the run!

DALIZ

And it looks like all of us are still in one piece.

ON MARTA - suddenly looking around.

MARTA

Wait! Where's Berix?

MATA NUI, AKAR and GRESH - exchange glances.

GRESH

I haven't seen the little guy since-

BERIX

(muffled)

Down here!

POV RUBBLE (a rock steed in pieces) as - BERIX'S HAND pokes thru waving frantically.

BERIX (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(muffled)

Could use a little... help!

MARTA - rushes to the rubble and grabs the hand--

MARTA

Don't worry I've got you!

BERIX - is pulled up and out of the rubble by MARTA, who only hesitates a beat before pulling the little guy into her arms hugging him painfully tight.

BERIX

(slightly strangled)

Ya know, I think I liked it better when you hated me.

ON HERO GROUP - FAVOR MATA NUI AND AKAR

AKAR

It's really over.

MATA NUI - spots something o.s. and says:

MATA NUI
Not yet...

MATA NUI - dashes off towards-

GALAX - is climbing into a sand chariot with TWO HUGE SKRAL, about to make their escape, when Galax sees MATA NUI charging towards them and shouts:

GALAX
Destroy him!

THE TWO SKRAL - don't have time to get off a shot before--

MATA NUI - is on them like a Tackle, <SLAMMING> them both so hard they sail o.s.

MATA NUI/SKRAL
(impact grunts)

MATA NUI - moves towards him, GALAX panics and bolts from the sand chariot.

GALAX - only makes it a few yards when suddenly--

A PROTO SLUG - erupts out of the sand in front of him.

GALAX
Nooooo!

As the creature's ominous SHADOW closes over the cowering GALAX, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILLSIDE DUNE ABOVE TWIN VILLAGES - DAY

MATA NUI - stands with AKAR, MARTA, GRESH and BERIX (who still has Tuma's shield) looking down towards the o.s. village scene below.

AKAR
Morg from all across Bara Nui are pulling together... literally... uniting all the villages.

GRESH
Thanks to you, Mata Nui.

POV DOWN ON VILLAGES - as MORG/VILLAGERS are using teams of RAANU and massive chains to drag ALL THE VILLAGES (and structures we've seen throughout) towards the first two (already united), to connect them all together. (NOTE: They are getting close, but the scene is still dust blown and chaotic, not revealing what the final image will be.)

MATA NUI

I was only one piece...

ON THE HILLSIDE DUNE - MATA NUI - looks down towards the villages.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

It took each of us to complete the whole.

INCLUDE AKAR

AKAR

I guess there's nothing we can say to change your mind about leaving?

MATA NUI

(shaking his head)

It is time for me to continue my own quest... wherever that may take me.

ON HERO GROUP - as they all turn at the o.s. <THUNDERING> sound of the last of the villages coming together and the huge <CHAINS DROPPING>.

AKAR

They've done it!

POV DOWN ON SCENE - the DUST SETTLES and we see the final SHAPE of the united villages - each of the villages was a piece that had once formed the GIGANTIC MECHANICAL BEING and has now been put back together.

BERIX (V.O.)

Whoa... You guys thinking what I've thinking?

ON THE HILLSIDE DUNE - MATA NUI and GLADIATORS all stare in disbelief.

AKAR

That it looks like the giant... from the chamber of The Great Beings.

GRESH

But it's impossible.

MARTA

Mata Nui, you still have the plans
right?

FEATURE MATA NUI - he pulls out the scroll from under his
armor.

MATA NUI

Yes. But there has been no time to
study them.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he spreads open the scroll.

GRESH

It's the same alright.

CLOSER - as everyone turns to MATA NUI.

MATA NUI

Not quite... the one down there is
missing one vital element...

MARTA

(realizing)

The rockets.

(disappointed)

Which means it can't fly us away
from here.

BERIX - steps forward (still carrying the Skral shield)
pointing at the corner of the scroll.

BERIX

Yet.

(pointing)

Check this out.

CLOSE ON SYMBOL (same as the design on the Skral shield).

BERIX (CONT'D)

Look familiar?

BERIX - holds up the Skral shield and MATA NUI steps in.

MATA NUI

It's a map...

ON GROUP - FEATURE GRESH -

GRESH

To where?

MATA NUI

That is what I have to find out.

FEATURE AKAR - looking from MATA NUI down to the united villages.

AKAR

I still don't understand what it all means.

FEATURE MATA NUI - pointing down to the VILLAGES/ROBOT.

MATA NUI

You are looking at a ruler, a servant, a peacemaker...

POV ON UNITED VILLAGES/GIANT BEING

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But first it must be a warrior.

ON HERO GROUP - FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

And thanks to you... all of you, I am closer to becoming what I must be... if I am to reclaim my empire.

CU MATA NUI - PUSH IN on his intense eyes.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

My war is just beginning...

FADE OUT