

BIONICLE: CITY OF SHADOW

Written by

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OVER BLACK: a NARRATOR speaks to us from the dark:

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Gather close, my friends. Hear my
voice that I may again recount a
thrilling legend of the Bionicle.

CAMERA PULLS BACK: the black of the screen BECOMES that of
the Makuta's mask. It SHATTERS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The Makuta has been defeated. Our
six Toa heroes have reached their
new home, the island paradise known
as Mata Nui.

Six shards of the Makuta's mask BECOME Toa stones. They GLOW,
each the color of a Toa.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But their work is not yet done...

The Toa stones begin to TRAVEL at great speed, as they do
ILLUMINATE the rippling surface distinct to water. It
SURROUNDS the stones on all sides.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The Toa must journey again to Metru
Nui, and there attempt to enact the
Great Rescue -- to recover those
Matoran they were forced to leave
behind. Matoran the Toa are sworn
to protect, and are currently
suspended in a deep sleep by the
dark power of Makuta. Even in
defeat, the evil one's shadow looms
large...

The shining stones SKIM the water's surface, CHURN it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
It is there our legend begins, in a
world both familiar and not. Metru
Nui has changed, is no longer the
thriving metropolis the Toa Metru
once called home. It has become
something mysterious -- a city of
great knowledge and power, of
fearsome creatures and the strange
heroes that fight them. A city of
light...

An enormous

WAVE

is stirred from the sea by the action of the stones. The wall of water rolls TOWARDS the audience, FILLS the screen.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
...a city of shadow.

EXT. METRU NUI COASTLINE - NIGHT

The wave BREAKS, and as it does SCATTERS the six

TOA

irreverently upon the rocky shore. Camera FINDS

ONEWA

as he SKIDS to a stop. A CHYRON appears, identifies the perturbed Toa. When it fades:

ONEWA
Well, that stunk.

A dark and gangly

FIGURE

RISES in front of Onewa, the shape it cuts frightening and sinuous in the lack of light.

ONEWA
Waaaaaa!

The figure EXCAVATES itself from a scary skin of seaweed, sand, and shell fragments, BECOMES the familiar form of

NUJU

a CHYRON appearing to cement the Toa's identification.

NUJU
It would appear an error was made
in our transport.

A handsome green mask BURSTS from the sand between the two Toa, SHAKES the irritating grains away to REVEAL

MATAU

who is more than a little annoyed with all of this. When his CHYRON fades, Matau works off Nuju's last:

MATAU

You know, I was thinking the same thing. Except in my mask, it sounded like this -- our stupid ship sunk!

NOKAMA (O.S.)

No need to be critical, Matau...

The previously introduced Toa LOOK to the voice, FIND

NOKAMA

as she EMERGES from the sea, clearly in her element. Water rolls down her sleek figure as the CHYRON that bears her name appears and fades. After it has:

NOKAMA

...regardless of how, we've made it.

MATAU

Yeah. Well... whatever.

Matau concedes the point, SHRUGS in as much as he can given that he remains buried up to his neck in sand.

MATAU

Uh, could somebody get me out of here...?

A Toa Tool JUTS into frame suddenly, TILLS the earth surrounding Matau. The black-armored hand that holds it then PULLS him from the ground. Matau REGARDS his savior, a towering Toa identified as

WHENUA

in the same manner as all the rest.

MATAU

Thanks for digging me up.

Whenua thinks nothing of it, responds in his gravelly voice:

WHENUA

It's what I do.

The Toa GATHER as a group, noticeably absent one of their number. Until:

VAKAMA(O.S.)
 Are we going to stand around all
 night...

The voice is booming, authoritative, full of bravado. The Toa
 TURN to its source, FIND

VAKAMA

as he steps OUT of the thick forest the beach gives way to,
 having scouted ahead. It's a grand entrance, which Vakama
 concludes following his introductory CHYRON with:

VAKAMA
 ...or are we going to rescue
 Matoran?

The Toa REACT -- impressed and bolstered by their leader.
 Except for Matau, who figures he could've done that.

EXT. METRU NUI - FOREST - NIGHT

The Toa STUMBLE through the uneven terrain and underbrush
 that has become the outskirts of Metru Nui. As they do, we
 see their Toa bodies are not cut out for this type of work,
 traversing terrain so wild and rough. Matua says as much:

MATAU
 Ow. Ow. Ow! Can we maybe find a way
 into the city that isn't lined with
 pricker-stickers?

Nuju uses his telescopic eye to SCAN the surrounding scene.

NUJU
 No.

The line of Toa CONTINUES its slow progress. Matau PLUCKS one
 of the sharp bits of wood from his armor.

MATAU
 Youch!

Nokama places a consoling hand ON Matau's shoulder even as
 she defeats his protest with:

NOKAMA
 Besides -- you're metal.

She moves OFF after the others. After a moment Matau FOLLOWS,
 voicing his newest grievance:

MATAU

And what's with all this fog?

Matau has a point -- the forest is blanketed with a fog so thick it occasionally reduces the Toa to silhouette.

MATAU

It can't be good for our circuits,
y'know...

(then, cowed)

Whoa.

Matau trails off as he EMERGES from the swirling mist, SEES the sprawling skyline of

METRU NUI

in the distance. It's different than we remember from LEGENDS OF METRU NUI -- the lights of the city are dim, the whole of it coated with thin, translucent webs that GLOW and SWAY in the multiple moonlight.

NOKAMA

What happened here?

NUJU

The Archive must have been
breached.

Vakama takes charge, directs the conversation:

VAKAMA

Which means?

NUJU

The Archive houses a specimen of every form of life in the known multiverse, past and present.

A GROWL comes from somewhere within the city.

NUJU

Or, it used to.

VAKAMA

What about the webs?

Vakama WAITS for Nuju's answer, but it comes from a different source:

WHENUA

Visorak. Nasty things, them.

ONEWA
Coming from you, that, well...
pretty much terrifies me.

MATAU
Well, there goes the neighborhood.

Nokama puts them back on track, as is her way:

NOKAMA
An unexpected and unwelcome turn of
events. The question is, what does
it change?

The Toa MURMUR, each formulating their own answer to her
question. Vakama curtails this with:

VAKAMA
Nothing. We go into the city and
rescue the Matoran we left behind.

ONEWA
Or get eaten. That's a possibility.

Vakama ignores that, addresses and rallies the group:

VAKAMA
We've faced the Makuta and still we
stand here. I really doubt a couple
of fossils are going to give us
much trouble. Agreed?

A series of NODS from the Toa as Vakama's confidence
permeates the group. Vakama boldly MAKES for the city with:

VAKAMA
All right, then. Follow me --

His first step SNAPS a tripwire camouflaged to look like one
of the many webs that crisscross the environment. This
SPRINGS a simple but effective

TRAP

that ENSNARES the Toa in wire-mesh netting, SUSPENDS them
helplessly from and between the forest's towering trees.

TOA (ALL)
<Assorted screams.>

The six Toa SWAY, each packed comically and uncomfortably
close to the rest. Matau works off Vakama's heroic last:

MATAU
We're right with you, fearless
leader.

NOKAMA
Knock it off, Matau. Bickering
won't get us out of this.

MATAU
No, but it would have if we had
talked this through before charging
straight into a snap-trap.

Vakama BRISTLES at the challenge to his decision-making,
calls Matau on it:

VAKAMA
If you have something to say,
Matau... say it.

Matau CONSIDERS doing so, decides now isn't the time:

MATAU
Forget it.
(then, makes light of it)
Look, I got Whenua's butt in my
face. I'm not exactly a hundred
percent...

A NOISE comes from the forest. It steadily gets LOUDER.

ONEWA
Wh -- What's that?

WHENUA
We're about to find out...

Whenua's right -- in the next moment, a swarm of

CREATURES

EMERGE from the forest, SURROUND the trapped Toa. These
nightmarish, insectile things are the VISORAK, as Onewa
correctly assumes:

ONEWA
Lemme guess -- Visorak?

NUJU
Correct. In their language, 'many
sharp and venomous teeth.'

There's little to differentiate any one of the Visorak from another save for color, the hues of which correspond to those of the Toa. Their mouths are a clot of gnashing, needle-sharp teeth. Off this and Nuju's last:

MATAU

Hmm. Wonder where they came up with that?

The Visorak CLOSE IN on the Toa. Nokama GRABS Vakama's hand, whispers so that only he can hear:

NOKAMA

Vakama. What do we do?

Vakama's mask HARDENS -- he knows there's nothing he can do, that he's the reason the Toa are in this situation.

VAKAMA

I... don't know.

SPINNER DISCS

PROTRUDE from the Visorak anatomy, WHIR to blurring life.

NUJU

Fascinating.

MATAU

What are those --

But Matau never finishes as the Visorak

LAUNCH

their spinners. The discs streak TOWARDS camera.

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK: our TITLE/CREDITS, **BIONICLE: CITY OF SHADOW**

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - DAY

THE GREAT STADIUM

is a shadow of its former self. It's no less grand or opulent than before, but its architecture is now dark and sharp, a facade fitting its new role as the seat of Visorak power. CAMERA FINDS: a lone Visorak as it skitters towards the stadium, walking as fast as it can without surrendering to a run. This is TRUNDLE, who ENTERS the stadium upon reaching it.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - MATORAN VAULT - SAME

Trundle ambles THROUGH a towering hallway lined with silver cannisters familiar to those that have seen LOMN or ever assembled a Bionicle. The feel of the space is clinical, it lit with cold and even white light. Trundle EXITS the antiseptic chamber.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - LIFT - SAME

Trundle stands in the car of what amounts to an elevator. The fidgety Visorak TAPS his many legs as he waits for the ride to terminate, clearly pressed for time.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - ANTECHAMER - SAME

The elevator ARRIVES at an exquisite antechamber. A heavily-armed VISORAK GUARD steps into Trundle's path as he EXITS, grunts a gruff question:

VISORAK GUARD
What's the password?

Trundle ROLLS his eyes, offers a practiced answer:

TRUNDLE
There is no password. There's never
a password.

The Guard NODS reluctantly, STEPS aside.

VISORAK GUARD
You can go about your business.
(then, archly)
This time.

Trundle SIGHS and CONTINUES. The chamber is littered at systematic intervals with pairs of Visorak Guard, each exactly like the first and larger than the average Visorak. Obviously, this is a place of great importance.

Trundle REACHES the lone and ostentatious door at the far side of the antechamber, MAKES to open it -- the barbed and lance-like weapon unique to the Visorak Guard BLOCKS his action. A gratingly familiar question follows:

VISORAK GUARD #2
What's the password?

Trundle's jaw TREMBLES, his patience at an end. He makes to scream, and just before he does we --

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

-- a wide and panoramic exterior. Heard over it:

TRUNDLE (O.S.)
For the last time -- there is no
password!

INT. GREAT STADIUM - SIDORAK'S THRONE ROOM - SAME

Trundle ENTERS what is the finest of the stadium's many chambers. His posture and attitude suddenly become formal -- the Visorak BOWS low in front of a massive throne, its back turned to conceal its occupant.

TRUNDLE
I bring news, my king.

The throne TURNS on its swivel to REVEAL

SIDORAK

a physically imposing brute who is, for lack of a more eloquent description, the king of the Visorak.

SIDORAK
Nothing important, I hope. Seeing
as you're late.

Sidorak WAITS for a response. He doesn't get one -- the cagey Visorak knows it's best to wait this out. Trundle's strategy is borne out when Sidorak WAVES a dismissive hand.

SIDORAK
I tell you, Trundle, I'll never
understand why it takes you so long
to walk down a hall.

Trundle BITES his tongue, offers diplomatically:

TRUNDLE
Perhaps another day, master... when
we have more time.
(then, pointedly)
But today, we speak of Toa.

That GETS Sidorak's undivided attention. The word oozes from between his meaty lips:

SIDORAK

Toa?

Trundle NODS.

SIDORAK

So, they've returned for their lost little Matoran, Matoran that now belong to me, and no doubt wreak havoc upon my kingdom in the process.

TRUNDLE

Such was my guess.

Sidorak EYEBALLS Trundle.

SIDORAK

And am I to assume your presenting this news to me without twitching uncontrollably means the Toa have already been captured?

TRUNDLE

Another fine deduction, your excellency. All I need know is what you want done with them.

Sidorak CONSIDERS -- for all of one second. Decides:

SIDORAK

Destroy them.

TRUNDLE

Sir?

SIDORAK

Do I talk funny, Trundle?

TRUNDLE

No, sir. It's just that --

SIDORAK

It's just that the Toa will not stop until they have either rescued the Matoran or are no more.

(then, darkly)

It will be the latter.

Sidorak REGARDS the warped landscape of

METRU NUI

through the massive window that is the throne room's far wall. To him, it's a dark and twisted jewel.

SIDORAK

I'll tell you a secret, Trundle -- after the Makuta's defeat, I used to feel uncomfortable sitting on his throne.

(then, with weight)

I don't anymore.

Trundle SWALLOWS hard.

SIDORAK

I like being king, Trundle, and hate anything that could take that from me -- by which I mean the Toa.

(then, an order)

Have them destroyed at once.

TRUNDLE

Might I inquire as to how --

SIDORAK

I don't care, Trundle! Can't you think of anything for yourself?!

TRUNDLE

Doing so is generally discouraged, sir.

Sidorak SHRUGS, acknowledges Trundle's point:

SIDORAK

Quite right.

(then, lists)

Grind them into powder and scatter them across the sea. Melt them to slag and use them to pave our streets. Rip them to pieces and sell them for parts...

(then)

I don't care how, Trundle, just that it's done -- and done thoroughly. Things that aren't have a nasty habit of coming back.

Sidorak begins to EXIT with:

SIDORAK

If you don't believe me, ask my predecessor.

A cold and even female voice (ROODAKA) enters the scene, gently dissents from the thick shadows that ring the room:

ROODAKA (O.S.)

Is that to be all, Sidorak?

Sidorak TURNS toward the hypnotic sound of Roodaka's voice. It's plain to see he's infatuated with her unseen self.

SIDORAK

I'm sorry, my queen?

ROODAKA (O.S.)

No, not your queen. Not yet.

SIDORAK

Of course. Formalities.

(then)

You have something to add?

Roodaka FLITS about in the darkness -- we see only that she is long and of many limb.

ROODAKA

Only that leaders are judged by the quality of their enemies. History teaches us this.

SIDORAK

The Toa.

ROODAKA

A fantastic enemy, my king. Worthy of your rule... and of a demise that will be remembered.

(then, spins)

For the sake of your legacy, of course.

Sidorak CONSIDERS that -- we see that Roodaka has swayed him before he even speaks.

SIDORAK

I suppose I could come up with something more... legendary.

Roodaka HISSES her appeasement. Coos:

ROODAKA

I have always loved your
creativity.

(then)

Only be sure your plan includes
some proof -- for posterity's
sake...

SIDORAK

Proof?

Roodaka's voice ends the scene, it hushed and cold:

ROODAKA

Their bodies.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - SAME

Matau's mask FILLS the frame, a winsome expression upon it:

MATAU

Well, Red, I can't say you didn't
show me the city...

Camera PULLS BACK to REVEAL that the six Toa are

COCOONED

to the tallest structure in all of Metru Nui. The silken mess
that binds and obscures their figures is a product of the
spider-like Visorak, and the Toa are plastered with it to the
structure in such a way that its failing will lead to a fatal
fall.

MATAU

'Course, I can say that you got me
captured, bonked with spinners, and
as I don't think we've been brought
up here for the view, imminently
smash-dashed.

ONEWA

Mmmppppffff!

The webbing that encases Onewa rises higher on him than the
others, COVERS the mouth of his mask. Matau estimates his
mumble:

MATAU

Him, too.
(then, biting)
So, thanks for that.

NOKAMA

C'mon, Matau. Now's not the time.

Matau's cocoon GIVES a little. He EYES the strands of webbing that remain skeptically as he responds:

MATAU

No offense, water baby, but I think it's gonna have to be.

ABOVE/AROUND THE TOA: Visorak of every hue have gathered, cling to the structure with their many legs or hang from weblines, anxiously awaiting the inevitable. A pair, FRICK and FRACK, actively WAGER on it:

FRICK

I got a chit says the big one's first to go.

Whenua GRUNTS his displeasure at being the frontrunner.

FRACK

I'll take the green. He's already halfway there!

MATAU

Thanks for the vote of confidence. Or better yet, thank Vakama for leading us into this whole debacle.

NOKAMA

This is not Vakama's fault!

Each and every Toa SWIVELS in their cocoon, CASTS dissenting eyes Nokama's way.

NOKAMA

(meekly)

Not entirely...

VAKAMA (O.S.)

He's right, Nokama.

The Toa TURN in as much as they can towards their leader. Vakama DANGLES at the periphery of the scene, isolated.

VAKAMA

I'm not a leader. I thought for a while that I could become one, that if I was just brave enough and tried as hard as I could you wouldn't be able to see what I really am... a simple mask maker.

Vakama LOCKS EYES with Nokama, concludes:

VAKAMA
We are what we are, Nokama. We
can't just change --

Vakama breaks off as a wiry

APPENDAGE

BURSTS from his cocoon. It both seems his and not -- the very un-Toalike limb has somehow become a part of Vakama's body.
CAMERA FINDS: Sidorak's anxious advisor

TRUNDLE

amidst the Visorak horde. He's cautiously optimistic about this turn of events -- everything is going to plan. NEARBY: a cadre of female (NOTE: as are all of their shade)

BLUE VISORAK

take Vakama's metamorphosis as their cue, begin AWAY from their frenzied brethren with:

BLUE VISORAK #1
Away with us, sisters. We've work
to do.

Their EXIT concerns Frack, for entirely selfish reasons:

FRACK
Ladies, where you going? The show's
just about to start...

Frick ELBOWS Frack where his ribs would be, makes Frack RETURN his attention BELOW. THERE: Vakama's strange

METAMORPHOSIS

continues. It SPREADS to the others -- the Toa CONVULSE as they SPROUT additional or modified limbs. Their trunks and masks DISTEND as their underlying metal musculature GROWS in leaps and bounds.

MATAU
I'm not liking this!

There's a side effect to all this rapid change, one Sidorak designed the entire spectacle around -- the Toa's transformation SHREDS their cocoons, the only means by which they are anchored to safety. Nuju notices:

NUJU
 You're going to like it even less
 in a moment...

Vakama's cocoon is DETERIORATES the fastest, in proportion to his rapid physical change. It starts to UNRAVEL.

NOKAMA
 Vakama!

It's clear Vakama is going to be the first to fall. In the moment before he does, his heartfelt last words:

VAKAMA
 I'm sorry I let you all down.

And with that, Vakama

FALLS

into the night, is soon LOST from sight. The Visorak CHEER lustily -- except for Trundle, who just looks relieved.

FRICK
 The red? Who'd have guessed it'd be
 the red!

A nearby Visorak THRUSTS an empty hand at Frick.

FRICK
 Oh, right. You.

Frick puts some crystalline object in the open palm that equates to Visorak currency, pays off the bet. BELOW: in rapid succession Whenua, Onewa, and Nuju

PLUNGE

towards the city below. This leaves Matau and Nokama alone, if only for a moment. Matau tries to make the most of it:

MATAU
 Nokama, I want you to know --

But he gets no more out as his cocoon UNWINDS and Matau

DROPS

from view. Nokama CLOSES her eyes, does not watch as she FOLLOWS her brothers into the void. A beat, then:

FRICK
 Well, I guess that's that.

The mob of Visorak begins to DISPERSE. Trundle is the last to leave, does so with a satisfied NOD.

EXT. MID-AIR - SAME

The Toa FALL through the night, the ground rushing TOWARDS them. It seems there is no hope for our heroes...

MATAU

Well, it's been real.

Vakama BRACES for impact -- but it never comes as he is

SNATCHED

from thin air by some unknown savior in a BLUR of motion.

NOKAMA

What the --

Nokama is similarly GRABBED in the nick of time, whisked OFF screen. One by one, the rest of the Toa are SAVED in the same manner. Matau is the last, and as such knows what's coming:

MATAU

Gentle. Be gentle!

Matau is YANKED from view.

EXT. METRU NUI SKYLINE - SAME

The Toa's mysterious saviors are the

RAHAGA

a group of six short, wiry, and aged beings that traverse the Bionicle universe as nomads. The Rahaga have the look of frontier trappers about them, are obviously in tune with and accustomed to living off the land and the myriad of creatures that populate it. Despite their age, the Rahaga are exceptionally nimble -- each CARRIES a Toa as they

SCRAMBLE

like caffeinated monkeys ACROSS the city, bounding and scampering over, about, and around the towering and occasionally fractured structures. They move like this OFF into the night.

EXT. STREETS BELOW - SAME

The Blue Visorak WAIT. Each EYES the night sky warily -- the Toa should have crashed to their deaths by now. The spindly creatures speak as one, complete each other's sentences in a continuous and creepy loop:

BLUE VISORAK #1
The Toa do not fall.

BLUE VISORAK #2
There is something wrong --

BLUE VISORAK #3
-- some intrusion, some --

BLUE VISORAK #4
-- outside agency.

The Blue Visorak share a LOOK, come to a mutual conclusion:

BLUE VISORAK (ALL)
The Rahaga.

The four MELT into the night with:

BLUE VISORAK #1
We must inform the mistress at
once.

EXT. METRU NUI SKYLINE - SAME

The Rahaga CONTINUE their jaw-dropping progress. They're a bit of a paradox -- wise yet unrefined, civilized and primal, something intangibly animal about them. Vakama STIRS -- he's slung over the shoulders of TAHKON, eldest and leader of the Rahaga. As the Toa struggles to speak, we see that his metamorphosis has made his familiar

FACE

nearly unrecognizable.

VAKAMA
Wh -- What's happening to me?

Tahkon doesn't answer, just puts distance between them and the city. This angers Vakama, who draws on what little strength the transformation hasn't drained him of, demands:

VAKAMA

Answer me. I am Toa!

TAHKON

Not anymore.

The Rahaga's portentous answer proves more than the Toa can take -- Vakama and the scene

BLACK OUT.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Matau's green form is seen from a distance, facedown on the forest floor. He COMES TO, finds himself ALONE.

MATAU

Guys?

No answer. The deep wood seems to extend forever, DWARVES Matau. He's seen in such a way that we can't make out his detail as he begins to MOVE through the sprawling space.

MATAU

Nokama? Whenua? Nuju? Onewa?
(then, reluctantly)
Vakama?

Matua heads INTO the depths of the forest --

EXT. STREAM - LATER

-- and ARRIVES at a gently running stream. It's clear Matua, who we still do not see clearly, has been searching unsuccessfully for some time.

MATAU

What was it the Turaga used to say
when we were Matoran?
(then, recites)
"If you're lost, just stay in one
place."

Matau REGARDS the idyllic stream, finds it to his liking.

MATAU

This seems as good a spot as any.

Matau CROUCHES by the stream, and in doing so SEES his REFLECTION

in the water's glassy surface. As Matau and the audience discover together, the once handsome Toa has been turned into a brutish and hulking creature. Homely would be a nice word.

MATAU

No!

Matau RETREATS from his reflection. He CLOSES his eyes, tries to will his words into being:

MATAU

Uh-uh. No, no, no, no... no! This is a dream. I mean a nightmare. Or a dream about a nightmare...

(then, regroup)

Whatever it is, I'll just open my eyes and everything'll be back to its old, handsome self...

Matau DOES just that, but his

REFLECTION

is the same. He FEELS the lumpy surface of his mask, speaks softly to himself:

MATAU

But this isn't me...

NOKAMA (O.S.)

It's all right, Matau.

THE TRANSFORMED TOA

are BEHIND Matau, Nokama at the head of their column. The body of each manifests readily apparent CHANGE, an animalistic leaning -- that said, Matau is clearly the ugly duckling of the group. He disagrees vehemently:

MATAU

All right? You call this all right?

NOKAMA

We're all here. We'll find a way to make it be. We always do.

MATAU

Excuse me if I don't share your optimism, but my top looks like my bottom.

NOKAMA

We'll get through this. Together.

Matau gets IN Vakama's face, challenges:

MATAU

I don't hear you saying that, Red?
What's the matter -- too busy
cooking up another master plan,
maybe get us all turned into
toasters this time?

Vakama's newly-minted animal qualities mark him as a loner,
both physically and in demeanor. He BACKS DOWN.

VAKAMA

I'm through making plans.

MATAU

Well, that's the first good thing
I've heard since I've been ugly.

Nuju interjects, as always tries to apply logic:

NUJU

Though I'm certain this engaging
dialogue could continue all night,
it might be better if we direct our
energies towards finding out why it
is we've become... whatever it is
we are.

MATAU

(sarcastic)
Right. And how do you figure we're
gonna do that...?

Tahkon's voice BOOMS from the forest, answers:

TAHKON

If you are wise, if you wish to be
Toa again...

The Toa WATCH as

TAHKON AND THE RAHAGA

EMERGE from the forest, so at one with the environment they
seem to appear out of thin air.

TAHKON

...you will listen.

Off the Toa's cowed REACTIONS, we --

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT BARRIER - SAME

-- a black and twisted face. The unmistakable mask of
THE MAKUTA

FILLS the frame. The cut and image are so startling, it takes us a moment to realize he's STATIC, his burning red eyes lifeless and dim. The second we do:

ROODAKA (O.S.)
Rest, powerful one. Sleep, and know
that as you do...

Camera PULLS BACK as Roodaka speaks, REVEALS that the Makuta is plastered to the

GREAT BARRIER

his body encased in a translucent protodermis shell. He remains as we saw him last -- imprisoned by the Toa's combined elemental powers at the end of LEGENDS OF METRU NUI. But not for long, if

ROODAKA

has her way. We REVEAL her imposing form in full for the first time as she finishes the previous:

ROODAKA
...I draw close to waking you.

Roodaka is slender and powerful, her thin limbs concluding in razor-sharp claws. There's something disconcerting about her obsidian self, it unique from all other beings in the Bionicle universe. Mystical.

Roodaka KNEELS so that she can be close to the Makuta's face, if only through a layer of impenetrable protodermis.

ROODAKA
The Toa have returned. Even now,
their broken bodies are being
brought to me so that I might drain
them of the powers that bind you
and undo what they have done.

She STROKES the protodermis' surface as she continues:

ROODAKA

And then there will be no need for charades, for kings that think instead of act, for Toa and the weak-minded Matoran that call such pitiful curiosities heroes.

(then)

A new world, to be ruled by us forever...

Roodaka's saccharine swooning is interrupted by a hushed voice. It comes from alarmingly nearby:

BLUE VISORAK #1 (O.S.)

Mistress.

Roodaka FINDS that her trusted inner circle, her Blue Visorak handmaids, have arrived -- without the Toa.

BLUE VISORAK #2

There were...

BLUE VISORAK #3

...complications.

BLUE VISORAK #4

Short, stubborn complications.

Roodaka REACTS -- there is the sense she might erupt into violence. Instead, she responds calmly:

ROODAKA

Which is exactly what happens when you are forced to rely on anyone other than yourself.

Roodaka uses the sharp tip of her claws to CARVE a shimmering

SLIVER OF PROTODERMIS

from the Makuta's makeshift jail. The shape is irregular, memorable at a glance.

ROODAKA

A valuable lesson. Remember it.

Roodaka POCKETS the protodermis and begins AWAY, brimming with determination and intent.

ROODAKA

Now, to uncomplicate things...

EXT. WOODS - SAME

TAHKON

stands in front of the Toa, his features underlit by a small fire that burns nearby. Camera PUSHES IN on his mask, stops when it FILLS frame. It's then he speaks:

TAHKON

Keetongu.

The strange word is lost on the Toa.

MATAU

Gesundheit.

TAHKON

(ignores Matau)

If you are ever again to be Toa, it is Keetongu you must seek.

NOKAMA

But if we're not Toa now... what are we?

TAHKON

Hordika venom courses through your systems. If it is not neutralized, it will take root... and Hordika you will forever be.

MATAU

I've got a better question -- what are you?

TAHKON

My name is Tahkon.

One by one, Tahkon INDICATES the other

RAHAGA

who are located about the space at irregular intervals.

TAHKON

Gaaki, Bomonga, Kualus, Pouks, and Lahka.

(then, with weight)

We are the Rahaga.

(MORE)

TAHKON(cont'd)

Nomadic chroniclers of the many creatures that roam this world, friend to them and foe to anyone or thing that would do them harm.

MATAU

Okay. So, uh, how's that working out for you...?

TAHKON

(flatly)

It has its moments. This is not one of them.

NOKAMA

Can you lead us to this Keetongu?

Lahka stifles a LAUGH. Tahkon shoots him a stern LOOK.

TAHKON

Lahka.

NOKAMA

I don't understand.

TAHKON

What Lahka so inappropriately suggests is that this will be... difficult. We Rahaga have been searching for Keetongu for the better part of our long lives -- and there are many that doubt his existence entirely.

Nuju's cyclonic eye ROTATES, the action different now as a result of his transformation.

NUJU

And you?

Tahkon's response comes firm, devote, resolute:

TAHKON

I believe.

NOKAMA

Then that will have to be good enough for us.

MATAU

Whoa, there, sister. Don't you think we should talk about this? You know, group-like?

(MORE)

MATAU(cont'd)

(then, to Vakama)
What do you say, Red?

VAKAMA

is alone and in shadow at the edge of the scene, STARES blankly into the fire. He answers without looking up:

VAKAMA

I say we came here to rescue Matoran, not go on safari.

TAHKON

And you have a way to do this, yes? Perhaps involving the Hordika powers you so suddenly find yourself with? Powers you as yet have no idea how to use...

VAKAMA

I don't know.

Tahkon doesn't buy Vakama's answer for a second, challenges:

TAHKON

Don't know, or don't wish to include the rest of us?

Vakama kicks dirt on the fire, KILLS its light. Walks OFF with:

VAKAMA

Either.

NOKAMA

Vakama!

TAHKON

Let him go. I would speak with him privately, with your permission.

Nokama NODS and Tahkon begins AFTER Vakama. He's stopped by:

MATAU

What about the rest of us?

Tahkon FACES Matau, gives him a smile that is equal parts whimsical and unsettling. His tone follows suit:

TAHKON

You've a legend to prove.

EXT. CITY RUINS - SAME

Vakama walks THROUGH the shattered ruins that are the outskirts of Metru Nui and reveal his destination to be the city itself. He mumbles as he walks:

VAKAMA

Some great leader you are, Vakama.
Making trouble instead of solving
it.

Vakama's pity party is interrupted by a massive, horned

CREATURE

that SPRINGS from the brush directly in front of his path. The creature is beyond huge, clearly means to do Vakama harm. But as it MOVES to do so, Vakama

GROWLS AND POSTURES

at it, makes an animalistic show of strength. As he does this, the spinner disc that is now part of his anatomy as a result of the Hordika metamorphosis

ACTIVATES

for the first time, BURNS bright in the dark of night. It's in this way we see Vakama's elemental power has become linked to his spinner disc (NOTE: as have those of the other Toa). Vakama is more Hordika than Toa in this moment, manifests his newfound physicality and abilities.

The creature FLEES back into the wilderness.

TAHKON (O.S.)

It meant you no harm.

Tahkon APPROACHES. He's been trailing Vakama silently.

VAKAMA

Old one, I beg to differ.

TAHKON

It was just scared. Brasrak are solitary creatures by nature, and uncomfortable being close to others.

Tahkon INDICATES the physical changes brought on by Vakama's metamorphosis. There are similarities between these characteristics and the animal he's just confronted.

TAHKON

There's a bit of them in you.

(then)

At any rate, fear makes us act in strange ways. Wouldn't you agree...?

Vakama's tone reveals he does not appreciate the implication:

VAKAMA

I wouldn't give it a thought.

TAHKON

Then you're a very different Vakama than I've heard stories about. The cautious yet brave leader of the Toa, never one to make a decision without thinking all its possibilities through. Always putting the others before himself...

This time, it's Vakama that REFERENCES his transformed features to advantage.

VAKAMA

Things change.

Vakama begins AWAY, thinking the conversation over. Tahkon proves him wrong:

TAHKON

Being a leader is more than something you choose, Vakama. It's something others see within you and decide of their own free will to follow.

VAKAMA

(bitterly)

You didn't hear the things the others said. Their following me won't be a problem I find myself with anymore.

TAHKON

Actually, it is the greatest one you will ever face.

That HITS Vakama in a way nothing else has since his transformation. There's something about the certainty with which Tahkon says it.

VAKAMA
 (demands)
 How do you know that?

TAHKON
 You have enough to think on
 already. I will burden you with no
 more.

(then)
 But it is the future, Vakama. If
 you and is your friends are to rescue
 the Matoran and again be Toa, you
 must do so together. You nor they
 will succeed alone.

(then, pointedly)
 This is something you can't change.

Vakama CONSIDERS that, comes to a brusque decision:

VAKAMA
 Watch me.

Vakama stalks OFF into the night.

EXT. WOODS - SAME

The transformed Toa WAIT with the Rahaga for
 Vakama's/Tahkon's return. A CHIRPING pierces the night, some
 kind of bird call. Onewa speaks on it:

ONEWA
 You hear that?

WHENUA
 Just some bujeejee. You can't tell
 me you've never heard one.

ONEWA
 More than I can count. That's not
 what's weird about it...
 (then)
 I can understand what they're
 saying.

A RUSTLING comes from the woods nearby. Someone or thing is
 APPROACHING.

NOKAMA
 (hopefully)
 Vakama?

Tahkon steps OUT of the foliage. Nokama's happy and relieved to see him, just less so. Tries to hide that:

NOKAMA

Tahkon. It's good you're back.

TAHKON

Vakama has much on his mind. But I am confident that before this is over, he will once again stand by your side.

MATAU

Well, seeing as you can see the future -- why don't you cut to the chase and tell how this thing's gonna end? Save us all a lot of time and trouble...

TAHKON

I cannot tell you because I do not know.

(then)

What I do is that if we are to find Keetongu, we should begin our search at once.

MATAU

Right. Keetongu! Getting turned back into our old selves. Let's get on that.

(then)

So where's a big, hairy thing like him hang out?

Nuju interjects uncharacteristically:

NUJU

Perhaps you could tell us?

The Toa and Rahaga LAUGH together, the weight of their mission lifted for a moment.

MATAU

Great. Now Nuju's cracking jokes. That freaks me out more than all the rest...

Tahkon puts them back on track:

TAHKON

Your question about Keetongu's whereabouts is a good one, Matau, but not one that can be answered by any of us...

MATAU

Okay, then, how are we supposed --

Matau falls silent as Tahkon's

SPINNER DISC

suddenly IGNITES with his fiery elemental power. The Rahaga FLANK Tahkon -- this is ceremony to them.

MATAU

Whoa.

Tahkon LAUNCHES the disc -- it CORKSCREWS through the air, finally SETTLES on a bearing and rockets OFF into the night.

TAHKON

The Great Spirit, on the other hand, might know a thing or two.

The Toa and Rahaga GATHER into a single unit, let out a:

TOA AND RAHAGA (ALL)

<Cheer.>

They SET OUT in the GLOWING wake of Tahkon's disc.

EXT. CITY RUINS - SAME

Vakama CONTINUES his slow and sulking progress. He's lost in thought, bits of which he speaks aloud:

VAKAMA

I will do it. By myself. No one else to criticize me or be responsible for.

(then, darker)

And if things go wrong, I'll be the only one that has to pay the price...

Vakama trails off as he ARRIVES at --

EXT. OVERLOOK - SAME

-- a precipice which offers a breathtaking view of

METRU NUI

and while the city is darker than it should be, it's no less grand a sight. The scale of the thing provides Vakama with cold, hard perspective:

VAKAMA

Oh, who am I kidding?

Vakama STARES at a single structure, the

GREAT STADIUM

which even at distance is recognizable as this warped version of Metru Nui's capital building.

VAKAMA

Tahkon's right. I can't do this without the others.

(then, with weight)

I don't want to do this without the others...

Vakama begins to BACKTRACK to find his friends. Until:

BLUE VISORAK #1

Such a profound admission by the once-Toa --

BLUE VISORAK #2

-- so touching --

BLUE VISORAK #3

-- so selfless --

BLUE VISORAK #4

-- so weak.

Vakama tries to TRACK what he assumes is a lone voice, can't.

VAKAMA

Show yourself!

In perfect unison, the

BLUE VISORAK

APPEAR all sides of Vakama. They ENCIRCLE him, cut off any and all means of escape.

BLUE VISORAK #1
Which --

BLUE VISORAK #2
-- one --

BLUE VISORAK #3
-- of --

BLUE VISORAK #4
-- us?

VAKAMA
What do you want with me?

Each of the Blue Visorak ACTIVATES their spinner discs.

BLUE VISORAK #1
Nothing for ourselves.

BLUE VISORAK #2
Never anything for us.

BLUE VISORAK #3
The mistress is another matter.

BLUE VISORAK #4
We always please her.

BLUE VISORAK #1
Now, once-Toa...

The Blue Visorak LAUNCH their spinners at Vakama, and we

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK: the primary Blue Visorak concludes:

BLUE VISORAK #1
...go to sleep.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

TAHKON'S SPINNER DISC

lies motionless on the ground. The leader of the Rahaga SCOOPS it up, and as he does we see that the disc has led the strange travellers to a familiar site -- Metru Nui's

GREAT TEMPLE

remains unchanged from previous films, as if in defiance of what has befallen the rest of the city.

MATAU

The Great Temple? That's your brilliant idea?

TAHKON

Perhaps you have a better one?

MATAU

It could maybe help us if we were Toa, but the last time I looked...

Matau CONSIDERS the unlikely

LOT

each strange and animalistic in their own way and only becoming more so.

MATAU

...none of us are. Not anymore.

NOKAMA

And we never will be, if you keep thinking that way.

MATAU

You're right. I'm sorry. I don't know what's gotten into me...

(then, escalating)

Oh, that's right! Some kind of big, hairy, ugly monster!

Tahkon pushes past Matau's outburst:

TAHKON

If you're quite done, I'll be going inside.

The Toa REACT -- none are comfortable with the idea. Sensing this, Nokama speaks for them all:

NOKAMA

It might be best if we wait here.

(then, explains)

The Great Temple is sacred to Toa. Given what's happened... I'm not sure it'd be right.

The Toa NOD silent agreement. In this moment, their fascination with their new forms is forgotten and each feels guilty about being distracted from or unable to do their duty. Tahkon lets them off the hook gently:

TAHKON
I understand. More than you could know.

He MAKES for the Great Temple. As the other Rahaga JOIN him, Tahkon asks a discreet favor:

TAHKON
Please, my Rahaga.

Tahkon INDICATES the glum group of Toa.

TAHKON
Stay with them.

The Rahaga DO. Tahkon ENTERS the Great Temple alone.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - ROODAKA'S CHAMBER - SAME

Two full and luminous

MOONS

fill the night sky outside Roodaka's private chamber, one pockmarked and the other perfectly smooth. At least, until Vakama's

MASK

JUTS into frame, ECLIPSES the heavenly bodies. His transformation has progressed to alarming effect -- he's more Hordika than Toa now. To cement this fact, Vakama --

VAKAMA
<HOWLS.>

-- longingly at the moon, the sound instinctive and primal.

VAKAMA
What's happening to me...?

Roodaka answers as she ENTERS the scene:

ROODAKA
You are becoming.

VAKAMA
Yeah. But what?

She STOPS in front of Vakama.

ROODAKA
A friend.

Vakama LIFTS his hands to counter her statement, allows us to see that thick

CHAINS

bind his wrists, anchor him to the floor. Roodaka revises:

ROODAKA
Or a foe.
(then)
That's for you to decide, and why
I've invited you here.

VAKAMA
Some invitation.

ROODAKA
Then perhaps this one will be more
to your liking -- walk with me.
I've a... proposal for you.

VAKAMA
And if I don't want to hear it?

Roodaka reaches out, TRACES Vakama's transformed features.

ROODAKA
(seductively)
Be reasonable, Vakama...

She begins AWAY as she concludes:

ROODAKA
...what harm could come from
listening?

Roodaka WAVES her hand, EXITS. In response to the gesture, Vakama's bonds somehow RELEASE and clatter to the floor. The Toa MULLS his options -- and then FOLLOWS Roodaka out into the night.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - LATER

The Toa and Rahaga are slumped on the ground outside the temple, bored out of their masks. Tahkon's been inside for some time, as Matau points out:

MATAU

What do you suppose he's doing in there? The Great Temple is only for Toa and Turaga...

NOKAMA

I'm sure he'll tell us.

MATAU

Yeah, well I'm not sure of anything anymore. Everything's just... different.

NOKAMA

Not everything. The sky's blue. You're green.

(then, loaded)

And I still enjoy spending time with you.

Matau REACTS -- he stammers, INDICATES his beastly features:

MATAU

But Nokama, I'm --

She interrupts, turns his sentence into something beautiful:

NOKAMA

Still you. Maybe you've changed on the outside, but you're no different to me.

MATAU

Nokama...

The two transformed Toa draw CLOSE, but before they touch a BURST OF LIGHT

emits from the Great Temple, ILLUMINATES the night.

MATAU

What the --

The Toa and Rahaga RACE to the temple's entrance. THERE: Tahkon EMERGES from within, awe and wonder etched on his mask.

TAHKON

The temple has much to tell... but our time to listen is short.

MATAU

Really? Because for those of us sitting out here all night --

Tahkon interrupts Matau, his tone surprisingly tense:

TAHKON

You and the others must encircle the temple, and protect it with all that you are.

MATAU

Protect it? Against what? No one even knows we're here...

TAHKON

They do now.

Remembering the light show, Matau concedes the point. Nokama picks up where he left off:

NOKAMA

Have you found the way to Keetongu?

TAHKON

Yes.

(then, a catch)

But it is written in a forgotten tongue. Translating it will take time, and the help of my fellow Rahaga. Time I'm afraid you must buy us at all costs.

NOKAMA

Consider it done.

Nokama begins OFF, her brothers FALLING IN behind her. All except for Matau, who calls after them:

MATAU

Aren't we gonna talk about this?

Nokama doesn't break her animalistic stride to answer:

NOKAMA

No.

The transformed Toa ENTER the woods, the Rahaga the Great Temple. This leaves just Matau and Tahkon outside.

MATAU

Level with me, Rahaga to whatever it is I am -- you think we're all gonna make it through this?

TAHKON

There is no way to tell. A pebble dropped into water produces many ripples, and which of these --

Matau interrupts Tahkon, agitated with his indirect philosophizing:

MATAU

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

(then, pointedly)

For once, just say what you mean without all the nothing-telling.

Camera PUSHES IN on Tahkon, who speaks in a way we've never heard him before -- directly and without implied or multiple meaning:

TAHKON

I'm scared, Matau.

Tahkon leaves Matau alone with that, ENTERS the temple.

EXT. CITYSCAPE - SAME

Roodaka leads Vakama THROUGH the urban wilderness.

ROODAKA

I apologize for all this secretive nonsense, but Sidorak mustn't know we speak.

VAKAMA

Your king doesn't know you've brought me here?

ROODAKA

Not yet.

VAKAMA

Some leader he is.

ROODAKA
My thoughts exactly.

Vakama's surprised by her openly treacherous statement. Says as much:

VAKAMA
And you're not worried they're
going to tell him you said that?

Vakama INDICATES the Blue Visorak that FLANK them stealthily from the shadows, act as Roodaka's personal protection.

ROODAKA
They are loyal to me.

VAKAMA
Right. Like you are to Sidorak?
(then)
Sorry to doubt you, but I don't believe in loyalty or leadership much these days. If it looks like somebody's following you, they're probably just waiting in line to tear you down or replace you...

ROODAKA
Still upset about the way your friends treated you? The terrible things they said?

Vakama gives Roodaka a LOOK -- how does she know about that?

ROODAKA
(explains)
The Visorak horde has countless soldiers, Vakama. And twice as many ears.

The Blue Visorak LAUGH, reveal themselves as the source of Roodaka's information.

ROODAKA
You're right to be hurt. After all you've done for them, to ridicule you like that. They're not worthy of you...
(then, loaded)
Which is why I've brought you here.

Roodaka and Vakama STOP their walk at the edge of a skyscraper. From here, the

CITY

SURROUNDS them on all sides, an impressive sight.

ROODAKA

It can all be yours one day,
Vakama. Just do for me what you did
for those miserable Toa.

VAKAMA

It's quite a sight... and still not
enough to convince me to join you.

He pulls his eyes off the city he used to protect, LOCKS them
with Roodaka's. Finishes:

VAKAMA

I'm through leading others.

ROODAKA

You can't be. You are what you are,
Vakama.

Vakama REFERENCES his strange new shape.

VAKAMA

Yeah? And what's that?

ROODAKA

A leader. Your new form only makes
you more so, even if you don't
understand how yet. You're greater
than you were before, Vakama. So
much more powerful.

(then, an offer)

If you'd let me, I could show
you...

Vakama CONSIDERS Roodaka's offer a long time. Then:

VAKAMA

I just want to be left alone.

ROODAKA

I understand your reluctance. You
require proof...

Roodaka TURNS to her Blue Visorak, issues a curt order:

ROODAKA

Throw yourselves over the edge.

As Vakama WATCHES in horror, the Blue Visorak DO just that.

VAKAMA

No!

Vakama looks OVER the edge. THERE: the Blue Visorak are sprawled on a landing some ten feet below, completely unharmed.

VAKAMA

I didn't know there was a ledge down there.

ROODAKA

Neither did they.

Roodaka steps CLOSE to Vakama, makes her play:

ROODAKA

This is but the first of many lessons I can teach you. You were never the problem, Vakama -- it was those you were leading. I will fix that problem, remove all the bickering and questioning and constant, meaningless opinions and supply you with those that would follow your will without so much as a thought to their own.

(then)

Let me do this, Vakama. Let me help you fulfill your true destiny...

Vakama begins to TURN towards darkness the moment he says:

VAKAMA

And this is something your king would allow?

ROODAKA

There is a way, if you decide your future lies with me.

VAKAMA

I'm listening.

Roodaka POINTS out the

GREAT TEMPLE

within the city skyline, makes a grim implication:

ROODAKA

Six ways, actually...

INT. GREAT TEMPLE - NIGHT

A tiny finger runs ACROSS a dense ream of spiralling text, the language a mix of characters and symbols. It belongs to

LAHKA

who works feverishly to translate the inscription. A SOUND distracts the Rahaga from his work. Then:

TAHKON (O.S.)
Something wrong, Lahka?

Tahkon ENTERS the scene -- he's come to check on the impulsive Rahaga, is coordinating the efforts of the group.

LAHKA
Tahkon. I... heard something.

TAHKON
It was probably just me. These joints aren't as oiled as they once were.

Lahka CONSIDERS letting Tahkon's humor defuse his concern -- then doesn't, speaks with a firmness not natural to him:

LAHKA
No. This was a creature.

TAHKON
Visorak?

Lahka SHAKES his head, falls silent. Tahkon TOUCHES him, urges gently:

TAHKON
Lahka, what did you hear?

LAHKA
That's the thing, wise one. I can recognize every thing that walks, crawls, or flies in this world by sight, sound, or smell... but not this.

Tahkon REACTS -- he does not like the sound of that. But rather than dwell on his own fears, he comforts Lahka:

TAHKON

I'm sure it's nothing. A tiny glitch brought on from processing such an elaborate translation.

LAHKA

I guess I have been working kinda hard...

Tahkon cloaks the urgent order in kindness:

TAHKON

Gather your brothers from their work. Go outside, take some time.

LAHKA

And what about you?

He lies gently:

TAHKON

I'll be right behind you.

Lahka ASCENDS a set of spiral steps and EXITS the scene. A moment later, Tahkon asks what seems an empty room:

TAHKON

Show yourself.

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL: behind Tahkon, an imposing

FIGURE

stands in silhouette. The form it cuts is sharp and menacing, strikingly strong and animal save that it stands on two legs. In contrast, its voice is instantly recognizable:

VAKAMA

I doubt you'd recognize me.

Tahkon TURNS quickly, but Vakama is

GONE

by the time he concludes the revolution. When Vakama next speaks, it's from a different section of the temple -- he's using his Hordika abilities to stalk around the room unseen.

VAKAMA (O.S.)

I've got some bad news -- Lahka's not going to find his brothers up there.

TAHKON

What have you done with them?

VAKAMA (O.S.)

You'll find out soon enough. I'm counting on it, actually.

TAHKON

I don't understand.

VAKAMA (O.S.)

You're a messenger, Tahkon, nothing more. You don't have to understand the message -- just carry it.

TAHKON

This message. What is it...?

For a long time, no answer comes from the shadows. Then:

VAKAMA (O.S.)

Up here.

The whisper comes from ABOVE. THERE: Tahkon FINDS

VAKAMA

DROPPING from the ceiling, a metal missile. His transformation is complete, and for the brief instant we see him he's not Toa, but a fierce and powerful beast.

Vakama's snarling mask FILLS the screen and we

BLACK OUT.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - MORNING

Dirt is being shovelled OUT of a gaping hole that's been dug into the earth amidst a stand of trees. Nokama ENTERS the scene, STOPS at its precipice, calls into it:

NOKAMA

Matau?

Matau EMERGES from the hole, embarrassed -- his mask and armor are ruddy with dark earth, his clawed hands caked with the stuff. He's been digging all night.

MATAU

(faux nonchalant)

Uh... yes?

NOKAMA
I thought you were keeping watch.

MATAU
I was.

Nokama gives Matau a LOOK -- did he forget she just caught him red handed? He revises:

MATAU
And digging. But much more with the watching. It was really quite a sight, me and the... watching.

NOKAMA
(flatly)
I'm sure it was breathtaking.

She INDICATES the hole, asks the obvious:

NOKAMA
Guard duty aside -- what are you doing?

Matau pulls himself OUT of the hole, PLOPS on the ground.

MATAU
That's the thing -- I have no idea. I just had this... urge. To deep-dig! I couldn't control it.

A beat and Nokama confesses:

NOKAMA
I get them, too. Ever since we...

She REFERENCES their strange shapes, then quickly redirects:

NOKAMA
We should gather the others and see what the Rahaga have learned.

Matau DUSTS himself off, FOLLOWS after Nokama with a hopeful:

MATAU
These urges. They wouldn't involve me, would they...?

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - DAY

Nokama, Matau, Nuju, Whenua, and Onewa TRAVERSE the wild grasses and roots that have overtaken the city as they head for the Great Temple -- their Hordika abilities make the trip a breeze, a far cry from their first incursion into the wilderness. As they go:

MATAU

I can't imagine what's taking them so long. I mean, how hard is it to get directions?

NUJU

When they're to a creature that has not been seen since the dawn of time, if ever? A while.

NOKAMA

Patience, Matau.

MATAU

(re: appearance)

I have no patience for being like this. And I never will --

Matau breaks off as he and the other Toa ARRIVE at the --

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

-- GREAT TEMPLE

which is in a state of violent disrepair. The once majestic structure looks as if a tornado hit it.

The Toa RACE to the Temple without words.

INT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

The interior is even worse than the exterior -- the place is a shambles, shredded as if by a wild animal.

NOKAMA

Tahkon?

The Toa SCOUR the space. Nuju runs a SCAN, its results grim:

NUJU

I pick up no vitals. There is no functioning life here -- or it's so weak it's not reading.

MATAU

And the odds on it being the second?

Nuju runs the calculation. It takes a millisecond.

NUJU

(monotone, a computer)

Point zero, zero, zero, zero --

Nuju stops there, concludes with humanity:

NUJU

It is... unlikely.

ONEWA

What do we do?

Nokama LOOKS to Matau, but he's got no answer for her.

NOKAMA

I wish Vakama was here.

It seems her words sting Matau -- until he concurs:

MATAU

Don't tell him I said this, but... me too.

TAHKON (O.S.)

He was.

Tahkon's weak and hurting voice comes from beneath a pile of

RUBBLE

that bears the telltale script the Rahaga were translating. Its message is now lost forever, turned to dust.

WHENUA

Step aside.

The Toa make way for Whenua, who DIGS with his bare hands and newfound primal fury. It's in this way that

TAHKON

is excavated, his battered form borne up by the Toa of Earth.

TAKKON

Though it pains me to have to watch
you hear it... it was Vakama that
did this.

Off the Toa's conflicted REACTIONS, we --

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

-- concurrent action, of the disturbing variety. We see the
fully transformed

VAKAMA

in good light, larger than life and proud of his exceedingly
animalistic form as he stands in front of the Great Stadium's
main gate. He DROPS a large

SACK

he carries on the ground, it spun from Visorak webs.

VAKAMA

Let me in.

Sidorak's voice BOOMS from the stadium's loudspeakers:

SIDORAK (O.S.)

You must be confused, Toa. We do
not welcome your kind here -- we
exterminate it.

VAKAMA

You're the one that's confused,
Sidorak. I am no Toa.

A gleaming oculus TELESCOPEs from the gate, STUDIES Vakama.

VAKAMA

Not anymore.

The metal eye RETRACTS, its work on Sidorak's behalf done.

SIDORAK

Hordika.

(then, to Vakama)
Why have you come here?

VAKAMA

To join you.

Sidorak LAUGHS, the sound made larger by its mechanical filtration. Vakama continues over it:

VAKAMA

And to present you with proof of my worth.

Vakama RIPS open the sack to REVEAL the five missing

RAHAGA

bound inside, Vakama's living tribute to the Visorak king. Sidorak's laughter STOPS.

SIDORAK

Let's talk.

The heavy gates groan OPEN.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - SIDORAK'S THRONE ROOM - SAME

Sidorak is on his throne, Roodaka by his side. He STOWS the microphone he was using to communicate with Vakama, speaks on their conversation:

SIDORAK

I'm impressed he single-handedly captured the illusive Rahaga...

Sidorak shoots a menacing LOOK to the corner of the room.

SIDORAK

Especially considering I was told he was a pile of scrap!

TRUNDLE

COWERS under Sidorak's evil eye. He forces a sheepish SMILE.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

The Toa are gathered outside what remains of the Great Temple. Tahkon has just finished recounting Vakama's actions, to which they REACT:

NOKAMA

Vakama would never do such a thing!

Nokama SURVEYS the uncertain EXPRESSIONS of her brothers.

NOKAMA

Right...?

None of the Toa respond. The task falls to Tahkon:

TAHKON

You are correct, Nokama. The Vakama you know would not.

MATAU

But...

TAHKON

He's changed. Just as you all have, but more rapidly. I fear he's given himself completely to that which threatens you all.

MATAU

Which... is... what?!

TAHKON

The primal. The parts of ourselves we like to think progress and technology have made us forget.

(then, darkly)

Hordika is its name.

(then, elaborates)

That which both walks and crawls, growls and speaks in perfect tongue.

ONEWA

I don't wanna be a Hordika!

TAHKON

It's not a bad thing, Onewa -- not if you don't allow it to be. Being Hordika grants you certain gifts, abilities you would have never dreamed possible before.

Tahkon INDICATES Whenua's massive hands -- they've MELDED with, become a biomechanical extension of his Toa Tool.

TAHKON

You may have noticed.

Whenua SHRUGS, holds up his telltale mitts.

WHENUA

Yeah. It's kind of cool.

TAHKON

As I'm sure you all have. You must feel it. The urges...

Matau and Nokama exchange a LOOK. Busted.

NOKAMA

Assuming you're right... how do we stop them?

Tahkon CONSIDERS the group, their fantastic and occasionally beastly forms all so much beyond what they used to be.

TAHKON

Are you sure that's what you want?
All of you?

The Toa REACT -- there is reluctance here. Some have grown fond of their Hordika gifts, the abilities they are just now beginning to understand.

NOKAMA

All we want is to save Vakama.

TAHKON

Then Hordika or not, we must find Keetongu. Only he can reverse the process.

(then, darker)

Though I warn you, Vakama already may be beyond anything even Keetongu can do.

MATAU

Well, we have to try. We owe him that much. I mean, we were pretty hard on him...

All the Toa CONCUR -- each is guilty in their own way about driving their leader from the group.

TAHKON

And if you can't help him?

MATAU

(darkly)

You leave that to me.

A beat of silence after that. Then:

ONEWA

So, right back to where we started from? Searching for some crazy creature across all of Metru Nui...

TAHKON

Not exactly.

That GETS the attention of each and every Toa. Especially Matau:

MATAU

Quick-speak.

TAHKON

We were able to translate the inscription before Vakama's ambush.

(then, recites)

We must follow swiftly running water north to Ko Metru, until it climbs high into the sky. That is where we will find Keetongu.

MATAU

(sarcastically)

Right. Water that runs upward. Sounds like a great plan.

TAHKON

Seeing as it is the only one we have, we'd best be moving. Our actions here are known -- it won't be long before the Visorak come.

ONEWA

(run-on)

I like the plan. It's a good plan. Let's be going.

Onewa begins AWAY, until:

NUJU

Tahkon said north, Onewa.

The sprightly Toa CHANGES directions with an insincere:

ONEWA

Right. Just testing you.

The others FOLLOW Onewa. Matau hangs back, asks Tahkon:

MATAU

Funny how Vakama didn't take you with him like the other Rahaga. You figure there's a reason for that?

TAHKON

I'm certain there is.

Tahkon clarifies no more than that, moves OFF.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - DUNGEON - SAME

The Rahaga are huddled together, packed like sardines. Their most diminutive member speaks in a voice that matches his stature:

LAHKA

Vakama...

CAMERA PULLS BACK: we see that the Rahaga are behind bars. A crimson hand SEALS the lock on their cage.

VAKAMA

That name means nothing to me, coming from you.

NUUKOR

It did once. It can again...

Vakama CONSIDERS that. He opens his mouth to respond, but is beaten to it by:

ROODAKA (O.S.)

That's true. It can.

We WIDEN to watch Roodaka ENTER the scene. It's set in the bowels of the Great Stadium, which has been retrofitted to menacing effect by Sidorak -- its rooms have been caged in, the place turned into a dark and dank dungeon.

ROODAKA

If you want to be weak again, that is. To place your trust in others that are?

VAKAMA

Never.

ROODAKA

(to Rahaga)

Then it seems you're out of luck.

Roodaka SCANS the cell's inhabitants.

ROODAKA
Where is Tahkon?

GAAKI
We'll never tell you.

VAKAMA
They won't have to. I let him go.

Roodaka REACTS -- she's displeased with Vakama for the first time.

ROODAKA
You did what?!

VAKAMA
He'll deliver the Toa to you. Even now, he's working to do just that -- whether he knows it or not.
(then)
It's them you really want, isn't it?

Roodaka's expression CHANGES, becomes one of admiration.

ROODAKA
You're everything I hoped you'd be.

She EXITS with:

ROODAKA
Come. It's time you got a glimpse of the future.

Not knowing what that means, Vakama FOLLOWS.

EXT. SUSPENSION BRIDGE - SAME

Onewa's frightened mask FILLS the frame, its eyes WIDE.

ONEWA
Wh -- what was that?

A beat and we hear the same SOUND that alarmed Onewa -- a layered scuttling noise, the trampling of foliage.

MATAU
You remember when Tahkon said the Visorak were going to be hot on our heels?

Onewa NODS.

MATAU
He meant it. Go.

Onewa STEPS towards a

SUSPENSION BRIDGE

that crosses a rocky chasm, the roiling

RIVER

that marks the way to Keetongu beneath. The bridge is in bad repair, made of twisted roots and tied together with native grasses -- not the stuff of confidence.

ONEWA
Uh-uh!

Onewa BACKPEDALS. Nokama and the others are already CROSSING the bridge. She STOPS her progress, calls back:

NOKAMA
It's okay, Onewa.

ONEWA
Is not!

The SOUND of approaching Visorak draws CLOSER.

MATAU
All right, Onewa. Look at it this way...

Matau points ACROSS the bridge.

MATAU
It's either forward...

He points BEHIND them, towards the SOUND of impending doom.

MATAU
...or back.

Onewa SCAMPERS onto the rickety bridge. When he's halfway:

ONEWA
Hey! This isn't so bad --

Onewa's foot breaks THROUGH a weak spot in the bridge. He starts to FALL.

ONEWA
<Screams.>

Nuju SNATCHES Onewa's ankle at the last moment, prevents his demise. After he's hauled him up:

ONEWA
Thanks, Nuju.

NUJU
Don't thank me. Thank our transformation.

Nuju holds OUT his arm -- it's longer than it used to be.

NUJU
If it hadn't lengthened my arms...

MATAU
Way to keep the tone light, there, Nuju.

Matau is on the bridge now, SHOOS the others forward with:

MATAU
And we're walking, we're walking, we're walking...

The Toa and Tahkon CROSS to the other side.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - SIDORAK'S THRONE ROOM - SAME

Vakama CONSIDERS the room's centerpiece, the dark and twisted THRONE

once held by the Makuta. Roodaka reads his mind:

ROODAKA
Go ahead. Touch it.

Vakama reaches out,

TOUCHES

the throne. The instant he makes CONTACT, we --

SMASH CUT TO:

-- a mysterious

MAKUTA

in all its dark glory. Its obsidian self dominates the screen, CRACKLES with energy. The image is subliminally quick, leaves us with a haunting question -- is this the same Makuta from LOMN or does it somehow resemble Vakama...?

BACK TO:

Vakama YANKS his hand from the throne as if it's a hot stove.

ROODAKA

Well? What did you see?

Vakama THINKS on that for a long moment, finally answers:

VAKAMA

The future.

The door that leads to the throne room OPENS. Sidorak ENTERS, flanked by two hulking Visorak Guard.

SIDORAK

(re: throne)

You can look, but no matter how much I appreciate what you've done, don't touch.

The Visorak king PLOPS onto his all-important seat of power.

SIDORAK

That said, I very much appreciate that the Rahaga are where they belong -- in a cage.

ROODAKA

It is just the beginning of what he can offer you.

SIDORAK

Is that so?

ROODAKA

It is, my king.

(then, presents)

Vakama is my gift to you. A proven and fitting leader for your army.

SIDORAK

Hordika or not, there's only one of him. My horde is many --

ROODAKA

Which is why his ilk are on their way here.

(MORE)

ROODAKA(cont'd)

With Vakama leading your army, they will be defeated -- captured and trained just like him.

(then, projects)

The former Toa, your subservient generals. You will be remembered for all time as the greatest of Metru Nui's rulers, and with Vakama commanding your forces, perhaps other worlds as well...

Sidorak PONDERs that -- this talk of manifest destiny is music to his ears, if he has any.

SIDORAK

A fine offer, Roodaka.

ROODAKA

If you accept it, consider it an engagement gift.

Sidorak REACTS -- this is what he's been waiting to hear.

SIDORAK

And you would have this?

VAKAMA

More than anything.

SIDORAK

Well, then...

Roodaka REACTS -- tingling with anticipation at the arrival of her Machiavellian endgame. It comes:

SIDORAK

We should introduce you to your army.

EXT. CLIFF FACE - SAME

Matau casually comments over his shoulder:

MATAU

You know, Tahkon, this river of yours is really starting to tick me off...

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL: the Toa and Tahkon cling to a sheer

CLIFF FACE

are SCALING the natural wonder. The river that so spites Matau flows INTO a narrow crevice within the rock below that makes following it directly impossible.

MATAU

I mean, can't it just flow in a nice, straight line?

Nuju EFFORTS above Matau, uses his Hordika limbs to reach a difficult handhold.

NUJU

Apparently not.

MATAU

On the bright side, I guess if any river would have the nerve to defy gravity, it'd be this one.

Tahkon LOOKS below, speaks on what he sees:

TAHKON

They don't seem to mind.

THERE: a swarm of pursuing Visorak are just beginning to CLIMB the cliff, use their webs to do so efficiently.

MATAU

Good point.

Matau and the others INCREASE their efforts, ASCEND.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - TUNNEL - SAME

Sidorak leads Vakama down a dim tunnel, a point of LIGHT at its end. The Visorak king's arm is draped over his new general, and he speaks as if they're old friends:

SIDORAK

You know, Vakama, you remind me quite a bit of myself when I was your age. A bit less intelligent, nowhere near as good looking, but otherwise similar...

Vakama doesn't say anything. Sidorak prompts:

SIDORAK

That was a compliment, Vakama.

VAKAMA

Thank you, my king.

SIDORAK

Think nothing of it. Such is the generosity of my rule.

As Sidorak says this, they PASS a hunched Visorak that diligently SCRUBS at the floor, a sponge and bucket by its side. We see that it's

TRUNDLE

his new job ironic given Sidorak's last.

SIDORAK

My army is an obedient one, and has been instructed to follow your orders to their very doom.

VAKAMA

I'll make certain it won't come to that.

SIDORAK

Just the same, they will do anything you say.

(then, a caveat)

Unless I tell them differently, of course.

VAKAMA

Of course.

Sidorak NODS, sees that they're on the same page.

SIDORAK

Good. Now, with time being short as your heroic friends are on the way...

Sidorak and Vakama ENTER the light at the end of the tunnel --

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

-- and EMERGE in brilliant sunshine. Roodaka WAITS for them atop the observation deck that caps the highest tier of the stadium. INSIDE THE STADIUM: the

VISORAK HORDE

is arranged in a sea of color-coded columns. Their number seems endless.

SIDORAK
...meet the troops!

At the sight of Vakama, each and every Visorak

BOWS

low in unison. Vakama REACTS -- this is a power trip.

SIDORAK
Perhaps you'd like to say a few
words...?

Vakama CONSIDERS that, comes up with a single sentence:

VAKAMA
Prepare for war.

EXT. WIDE OPEN SPACE - SAME

Matau speaks between catching, strained 'breaths':

MATAU
You know, I never thought I'd say
this, but at this very moment I'm
glad to be Hordika...

Nokama is by Matau's side, responds in kind:

NOKAMA
Really?

MATAU
Yeah. Toa-me could never run fast
enough to stay ahead of them!

BEHIND THE TOA: the Visorak horde gives fevered CHASE along
the bank of the river that marks their course.

ONEWA
Yeah. They'll never catch us!

Onewa's got a point -- the Toa are incredibly fast as a
result of their Hordika metamorphosis, eat up the ground at a
speed beyond the limits of Toa. At least, until the river
PLUNGES over the end of the landscape, becomes a towering

WATERFALL

at the edge of which the Toa SKID to a stop. A beat, then:

ONEWA
 Uh, I take that back.

The Visorak draw CLOSER, anticipating the end of the hunt.

MATAU
 Tahkon, if we somehow survive this,
 you're gonna owe me some answers...

TAHKON
 Agreed.

ONEWA
 (concerned)
 Survive what...?

Matau NUDGES Onewa OFF the cliff and INTO the falling water.
 He YELLS the whole way DOWN.

MATAU
 Now, then.

Matau holds OUT his hands. Nokama TAKES one, OFFERS hers to
 either side in the same way. In this way, the remaining Toa
 and Tahkon FORM a chain.

MATAU
 Because we haven't almost fallen to
 our deaths enough lately...

Hand in hand, they

JUMP

and are soon LOST within the water, which FUNNELS them BELOW
 ground. ABOVE: the Visorak REACH the waterfall's edge. The
 two in the lead share a comic and discretionary LOOK -- and
 then REVERSE direction in search of a more prudent route.

INT. WATER/ICE CHUTE - SAME

The Toa and Tahkon --

TOA AND TAHKON
 <Scream.>

-- as they whiz PAST camera, in the grasp of the water's
 current. They're being pushed at great speed through a narrow
 subterranean

TUNNEL

a situation only Nokama is comfortable with, given her aquatic abilities. At least, until the water BECOMES ice abruptly.

MATAU
Cold. Cold. Cold.

The Toa SKID across the frozen surface, in this way are
EXPELLED

from the chute and into --

EXT. KO METRU - SAME

-- a blinding white world. Our heroes SLAM into a snowbank, converse while partially submerged there:

NOKAMA
Where are we?

NUJU
Home.

He says the word with warmth, genuinely happy to be back in his frigid home metru. But there's something not quite right:

NOKAMA
Then you know where we are?

Nuju SURVEYS the majestic

ARCTIC LANDSCAPE

is surprised to have to answer:

NUJU
No.
(then)
How is that possible?

TAHKON
Keetongu has never been found,
friends. Perhaps where he lives
hasn't, either.

MATAU (O.S.)
I'll be a monkey's uncle.

The group TURNS in as much as they can, to where Matau has pulled himself free of the snowdrift. His attention is FOCUSED off screen.

ONEWA

You know, you could be.

Matau ignores the rib, POINTS into the distance with:

MATAU

The river...

The Toa and Tahkon FOLLOW the line, to where a towering
ICEBERG

stabs at the sky. The formation is the end result of the river, where its water has flowed to and collected over time, frozen to effectively become a mountain.

MATAU

...it does climb into the sky.

EXT. ICEBERG PEAK - DAY

Matau REACHES the peak, SURVEYS the off frame scene.

MATAU

You guys, hurry up. It's amazing...

The others CREST the summit, stand beside Matau. CUT TO REVEAL: there's NOTHING atop the iceberg, just frozen and barren space.

MATAU

Not.

NOKAMA

I don't understand...

Matau confronts Tahkon, his patience at an end:

MATAU

What about you, Tahkon? Any idea what this is about?

TAHKON

I know what the Great Temple said.

MATAU

Right. Just like you knew how we could change back into Toa. Just like you knew in your bolts that Keetongu exists. Just like you knew what to say to Vakama so he wouldn't leave.

(MORE)

MATAU(cont'd)

(then)

Maybe you should tell us how you know all these things. Maybe then we could decide for ourselves whether or not to believe you.

Camera PUSHES IN on Tahkon. He makes a startling revelation:

TAHKON

I know because I was once a Toa.

Matau's offensive DISSOLVES. His jaw DROPS and from it:

MATAU

You were Toa?

TAHKON

Yes. As were all the Rahaga -- until we were made Hordika like you. You'll see I'm telling the truth if you take a moment to think about it...

NOKAMA

The Great Temple. The light. You consulted the Suva.

MATAU

(no longer a question)

You were Toa.

Tahkon NODS.

TAHKON

It was a long time ago. We've been searching for Keetongu ever since.

ONEWA

I hate to put any pressure on you...

AROUND THE SCENE: the pursuing Visorak ARRIVE on all sides.

ONEWA

...but now might be a good time to find him. Unless, you know, he's just gonna junk us, too.

The Visorak begin to CLOSE IN on our heroes. Matau ACTIVATES his spinner disc with:

MATAU

Well, Tahkon, it's nice to finally meet the real you. Sorry we won't get to know each other better.

Tahkon ACTIVATES his own spinner, as DO the others.

TAHKON

I don't know, I've still got a couple of old tricks up my sleeve...

A deafening SOUND permeates the scene, makes it RUMBLE.

ONEWA

Hey! That is a good trick.

But we see it has nothing to do with Tahkon as

KEETONGU

RISES from the snow and ice, pulls himself to his full height. The creature has emerged from a cave cored into the iceberg, its entrance previously camouflaged by the elements.

KEETONGU

<Roars.>

The Visorak response to Keetongu is swift -- the horde FLEES as fast as their many feet allow.

TAHKON

(awed)

Keetongu.

Following an uncomfortable silence, Matau asks awkwardly:

MATAU

So, big guy... mind if we ask you a favor?

EXT. ICEBERG PEAK - LATER

Matau, Tahkon, and the other Toa stand in front of Keetongu, plead their case. They've been at it for some time:

NOKAMA

(midstream)

-- all of which brings us to here, and is why we need your help. Will you turn us back into Toa so that we can try to get Vakama back?

Keetongu GRUNTS a recognizable word:

KEETONGU

No.

ONEWA

Well, thanks just the same. We'll
be going, then --

Whenua's huge hand CLAMPS down on Onewa's shoulder, keeps him
still as Keetongu elaborates with a series of strange SOUNDS.

TAHKON

Of course.

NOKAMA

What is it?

Tahkon translates:

TAHKON

Keetongu sees what we have not --
if you are to have any chance of
rescuing Vakama, you must use your
new forms and abilities, not be rid
of them.

Tahkon GESTURES back at the perilous path they've taken to
get here.

TAHKON

If he were to change you back here
and now, you would never make the
trip back in time to help your
friend... if at all.

MATAU

So we've come all this way... just
to learn that we didn't have to
come all this way!

Another string of SOUNDS from Keetongu. Laughter.

TAHKON

He thinks it's funny, too.

MATAU

(insincere)
Right. Funny. That's exactly what I
was thinking.

Keetongu VOCALIZES again, his tone more serious.

TAHKON

But your story has touched
Keetongu. He says it probably helps
that it's the first one he's heard
in a thousand cycles...

Matau ROLLS his eyes at that as Tahkon continues/concludes:

TAHKON

...but just the same, he finds your
quest worthwhile.

Keetongu makes a final GRUNT. Tahkon is so floored by its
meaning he forgets to translate. Until:

MATAU

And?!

TAHKON

And he would like to offer us his
help.

The Toa REJOICE. After this subsides, Matau

EXTENDS

his fist into space, provides the first element of the Toa
greeting. One-by-one, the others ADD theirs, which in most
instances are strange and transformed. Tahkon does so with:

TAHKON

I'd forgotten how much fun this is.

The end result is an irregular

CIRCLE

with a noticeably EMPTY spot. Matau remedies this:

MATAU

You too, big guy.

Honored, Keetongu uses his pinky to COMPLETE the circuit.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - DUSK

Row upon row of the Visorak horde are gearing up for combat,
being ARMED and ARMORED as they reach the end of various
queues. Once equipped, the Visorak filter to the center of
the cavernous stadium, DRILL there. ABOVE THE SCENE: Vakama
WATCHES over the preparations.

ROODAKA (O.S.)
Well, is it everything I promised
you?

Roodaka EMERGES from inside the stadium, JOINS Vakama.

VAKAMA
We'll soon find out.

ROODAKA
Yes, a night of great consequence.
Be ready -- before it is over, many
things will change.

Vakama PONDERES that, tries to divine her meaning. She helps:

ROODAKA
Here comes one now...

Sidorak ENTERS the scene, dressed for combat in impressive if
impractical armor.

SIDORAK
How is my army, Vakama?

VAKAMA
Obedient.
(then)
And ready, my king. For anything
that comes.

SIDORAK
Including Toa?

VAKAMA
Especially.

Sidorak SURVEYS the scene -- there's nothing for him to do.

SIDORAK
Well, then... what remains?

VAKAMA
The hardest part of all...

Vakama CLIMBS to the top tier of the stadium, looks OUT over
the city.

VAKAMA
We wait.

INT./EXT. GREAT STADIUM - NIGHT

Vakama is flanked by Roodaka and Sidorak on the observation deck atop the uppermost tier of the stadium as he SHARPENS his former Toa Tool to a wicked EDGE. Until:

SFX
<BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.>

The thunderous sound draws CLOSER. Something very large is coming towards the stadium.

SIDORAK
The other Toa. Their metamorphosis didn't make them... big, did it?

Vakama just STARES into the thick veil of mist that rings the stadium.

ROODAKA
There!

Sidorak and Vakama FOLLOW the line. Off what they find:

SIDORAK
Great Spirit! What is that...?

We WATCH along with them as

KEETONGU

breaks through the fog, the transformed

TOA

right by his side -- or, in as much as they can be given they only come up to Keetongu's knees. Vakama answers Sidorak's hanging question:

VAKAMA
I had to guess, I'd say it's Keetongu.

SIDORAK
But Keetongu doesn't exist!

VAKAMA
I had to guess again, I'd say you were wrong about that.

Nokama CLOCKS Vakama high above, yells:

NOKAMA

Vakama!

That GETS Vakama's attention. Just hearing her voice makes him say the name softly:

VAKAMA

Nokama.

Roodaka SEES what's happening, intervenes:

ROODAKA

Not the one you know.

NOKAMA

I didn't hear him say that...

Roodaka LOOKS to Vakama, WAITS. He doesn't disappoint her:

VAKAMA

Roodaka's right.

(then, threatening)

You've made a grave mistake coming here...

NOKAMA

Not if it's our only chance to get you back.

Nokama SCANS the masks of her fellow Toa. All NOD their agreement, encourage her to finish:

NOKAMA

Even if it means the end of us.

SIDORAK

Now there's an idea!

MATAU

(hopeful)

You mean handing over Vakama and the Matoran to us so we can be on our merry way?

SIDORAK

Your utter and complete destruction.

MATAU

Oh. Right. That.

SIDORAK

What do you say, Vakama...?

The scene hangs on Vakama's silence. Until:

VAKAMA

I say...

Vakama TOSSES his Toa Tool off the top of the stadium. It FALLS through the air,

BURIES

itself in the ground in front of the Toa and Keetongu.

VAKAMA

...charge!!!

The Great Stadium's gates OPEN and the

VISORAK ARMY

storms OUT, rushes the Toa.

MATAU

Nokama? About that whole this not being a mistake thing...

Nokama ACTIVATES her spinner disc. The others FOLLOW her lead, AIM their discs at the approaching onslaught.

NOKAMA

For Vakama and the Matoran.

Nokama FIRES her disc. It STREAKS towards the Visorak -- but just before impact, each of the horde PRODUCES a

TRANSPARENT SHIELD

which at the PUSH of a button BURSTS to life with elemental energy. The Visorak CYCLE through the shield's six settings, each one of which corresponds to a Toa's elemental power, SETTLE on the blazing surface that is FIRE. In the next moment, Nokama's spinner HITS the flaming skin of the shield,

DISSOLVES

harmlessly on contact.

NOKAMA

How the --

VAKAMA

WAVES at Nokama, thoroughly enjoying the scenario he's so carefully orchestrated.

The other Toa FIRE their discs -- the Visorak CYCLE their energy shields appropriately, and the RESULT is the same. Failure.

NOKAMA

-- Vakama.

MATAU

I've got a question -- how do you defeat someone that already knows everything you're capable of?

(then)

Answer -- you don't.

The Visorak are CLOSE now, almost within attacking range. They STOW their shields, LEVEL sharply pointed lances.

NUJU

Or you do something you never could before...

MATAU

Huh?

Matau WATCHES as Nuju

GIVES HIMSELF OVER

to his Hordika/primal side. He GROWLS at the oncoming Visorak, DROPS his Toa Tool, BARES the claws his hands have become.

MATAU

Oh, now I get it.

So do the rest of the Toa -- they SURRENDER themselves in the same manner, in a flash BECOME a fierce and formidable opponent. Even Onewa:

ONEWA

All right, you want a piece of this? Come and get it!

The Visorak DO. But as the first wave REACHES the Toa-Hordika, they're

SWEPT AWAY

like so many dry leaves on an autumn breeze. Matau EYES his fellow Toa, impressed:

MATAU

Wow. Which one of you did that?

Keetongu lets out a triumphant GROWL and promptly DECIMATES another column of Visorak.

MATAU
Ask a stupid question...

NOKAMA
Say, Matau...

Matau FINDS the others ENGAGED in fierce
COMBAT

against the Visorak. The Toa fight like animals, USE their Hordika abilities to fend off impossible odds.

NOKAMA
...care to join us?

Matau LEAPS into the battle with an enthusiastic:

MATAU
Oh yeah!

INT. GREAT STADIUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

ABOVE THE FRAY: Vakama REACTS, enraged that the Toa have adapted so readily, scuttled his plan.

VAKAMA
They're working together. And with Keetongu's strength...
(then)
I'll have to stop them myself.

Vakama MAKES to do just that, is STAYED by Roodaka.

ROODAKA
No, Vakama. That is not your place.

She EXTENDS her talon-like hand to Sidorak, continues:

ROODAKA
Isn't that right, my king?

SIDORAK
If Keetongu wasn't a myth before...

Sidorak TAKES Roodaka's hand, in doing so seals his fate.

SIDORAK
...he soon will be.

Sidorak and Roodaka head TOWARDS the battle.

VAKAMA

And what am I supposed to do?

Roodaka answers as she and Sidorak continue AWAY:

ROODAKA

You must protect the Matoran,
Vakama. And as I told you before...
(then, loaded)
...be ready.

Sidorak and Roodaka EXIT. Roodaka's words are familiar to Vakama, but for a different reason than she intended:

VAKAMA

Protect the Matoran.

Vakama SHAKES his head, tries to suppress the echo of his past duty. He moves OFF to follow orders.

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

The Toa and Keetongu make PROGRESS against the Visorak horde, draw CLOSER to the stadium and the Matoran it holds.

ONEWA

You guys! We're doing it!

But in the next moment, a BOLT of dark energy

HITS

Keetongu, knocks the creature OFF his feet. It's in this way

SIDORAK AND ROODAKA

ENTER the climactic battle. The latter's fingers CRACKLE with the stuff of the powerful blast.

ROODAKA

I think not.

NOKAMA

Keetongu!

Nokama DISPATCHES the Visorak she's fighting, RUSHES to the fallen creature. Matau is hot on her heels.

NOKAMA
 You're hurt. Stay down, we'll
 protect you.

Keetongu SHAKES his massive head, POINTS at the
 GREAT STADIUM

in the near distance, lets out a dissenting GRUNT.

MATAU
 I think he wants us to keep going.

NOKAMA
 (to Keetongu)
 But what about you?

Keetongu POINTS again. This time, his gesture FINDS the
 Visorak king and his betrothed.

NOKAMA
 There's two of them, Keetongu. You
 can't win...

Another GRUNT, this one bittersweet. Matau interprets it:

MATAU
 He knows.

Roodaka begins to CHARGE another blast as Sidorak DRAWS an
 elaborate weapon, talks down to Keetongu:

SIDORAK
 Now you... thing, come pay the
 price for treason!

With an ear-splitting GROWL, Keetongu LEAPS at Sidorak and
 Roodaka, ENGAGES them in a fight he has no hope of winning.
 It's a heroic act of sacrifice, this not lost on Nokama and
 Matau -- they RENEW their efforts with newfound purpose.

NOKAMA
 To the stadium!

INT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

Vakama PACES back and forth along one of the stadium's
 interior levels. His action is interrupted by:

LAHKA (O.S.)
 You wanna go help them, don't you?

Vakama LOOKS to where the five captured

RAHAGA

are plastered to the facing of the stadium with Visorak webbing, like bugs on a windshield. Frustrated, Vakama allows:

VAKAMA

Yes. I'm useless here.

POUKS

(interjects)

Tell us about it.

LAHKA

You should go.

VAKAMA

This coming from you?

LAHKA

Uh-huh. I bet the Toa could totally use your help.

Vakama's not pleased with Lahka's very intentional assumption, JABS a finger at the helpless Rahaga.

VAKAMA

Listen very carefully, miniscule one -- I don't care about the Toa!

LAHKA

I hear you fine. I just don't believe you.

VAKAMA

Then maybe you'll be convinced when you see them crushed by my hand.

Vakama heads TOWARDS the battle with a biting:

VAKAMA

Thanks for the advice.

After a long moment, a comic admonition:

NUKKOR

Way to go, Lahka.

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

Keetongu FIGHTS for all he's worth against the combined might of Sidorak and Roodaka, but

FALLS

again, for what seems the last time. Sidorak and Roodaka LOOM over the defeated creature.

SIDORAK

The finishing blow is yours, my
queen-to-be.

(then, pompous)

A gift.

Roodaka seems to accept the gesture, begins to CHARGE the coup-de-grace. A powerful VORTEX takes shape in her hands.

ACROSS THE FIELD: the Toa are being OVERWHELMED by the Visorak. Our heroes FIGHT valiantly, but there's just no way they can win.

WHENUA

(efforting)

There's... too many of them.

Nokama BLOCKS an incoming attack, DISPATCHES the attacker. Another Visorak grunt FILLS its place immediately, and the cycle begins anew.

NOKAMA

We can't hold out much longer...

Matau SPIES

VAKAMA

watching the battle from the stadium's observation deck, GETS an idea.

MATAU

Just hold on.

Matau begins TOWARDS the stadium. Nokama asks as she PARRIES:

NOKAMA

Where are you going?

MATAU

To see an old friend.

And with that Matau begins to DODGE and WEAVE his way through the Visorak army. He STRIKES only when he has to, in this way GAINS on the stadium using his Hordika abilities.

MATAU

Almost there...

Matau EVADES and then VAULTS off a nearby Visorak, REACHES the base of the stadium with:

MATAU

There!

Matau LOOKS up -- there's no way for him to reach Vakama, the stadium's entrance clogged with Visorak.

MATAU

But now what...?

A handful of Visorak NOTICE Matau, begin TOWARDS him.

MATAU

Whatever it is, it better be quick...

Matau ACTIVATES his spinner disc -- he'll only be able to take out one of the APPROACHING horde before being overtaken.

VISORAK HORDE

<Hiss.>

MATAU

Don't worry, guys. It's not what you think...

The Visorak LEAP at Matau, who

LAUNCHES

his spinner -- but UPWARD. Matau GRABS the disc as it ASCENDS, in this inventive way is

LIFTED

at great speed UP the face of the stadium and TOWARDS an oblivious Vakama. BELOW: the Visorak COLLIDE at the spot Matau just vacated. Off this:

MATAU

(rising)

Told you soooooo!

INT. GREAT STADIUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

Matau REACHES the observation deck, SWINGS off the disc and
KICKS

Vakama in the chest. The red Toa SPRAWLS to the ground as
Matau STICKS his landing.

MATAU
Sorry to drop in like this, Red,
but we gotta talk...

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

Sidorak and Roodaka stand OVER Keetongu as the creature
STRUGGLES to stand.

SIDORAK
What are you waiting for, Roodaka?
End him!

Sidorak TURNS to find Roodaka

WALKING AWAY

her back towards her king. As she goes:

ROODAKA
You're the great king, Sidorak. You
do it.

Keetongu STANDS, battered but unbowed. And mad.

SIDORAK
(meekly)
But I can't defeat him myself.

ROODAKA
I know.

Roodaka CONTINUES into the distance, STRANDS Sidorak.
Heartbroken, he manages only a weak:

SIDORAK
Roodaka...

Keetongu ATTACKS. We CUT just before the massive blow hits,
to

ROODAKA'S MASK

as it draws up into a satisfied SMILE at the SOUND of impact:

SFX
<Rending metal.>

ROODAKA
The king is dead...

She LOOKS to the observation deck, where

VAKAMA

is just now making his feet. She finishes while WATCHING him:

ROODAKA
...long live the king.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

Vakama BONKS Matau square in the mask.

MATAU
I said talk, Vakama, not punch!

VAKAMA
I don't take orders -- I give them.

MATAU
Jeez. What's gotten into you?

Vakama GROWLS at Matau, CLOSES the gap that separates them.

MATAU
You know, outside the obvious.

VAKAMA
The truth.

Vakama HITS Matau again, the force of the blow sending the green Toa OVER the edge of the observation deck. Matau GRABS the stadium's framework at the last second, DANGLES from it OVER the --

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

-- BATTLE that rages a fatal fall BELOW. The Toa SURROUND a prone and helpless Keetongu, spent from dispatching Sidorak.

NUJU
He's in bad shape.

Nokama and the others DEFLECT a volley of INCOMING -- sensing weakness, the Visorak are pushing the attack.

NOKAMA
How bad is bad?

Nuju's eye ROTATES as he STUDIES the creature.

NUJU
Not moving anytime soon, bud.

Nokama CONSIDERS what that means, bravely declares:

NOKAMA
Then we make our stand here.

The Toa INCREASE their heroic efforts. Whenua DISPATCHES a Visorak, comments:

WHENUA
One down...

He SURVEYS the endless mass of Visorak heading TOWARDS them.

WHENUA
...one billion to go.

ONEWA
I think you missed a couple...

INT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

The five captive Rahaga WORK against their bonds, but can't break free.

BOMONGA
It's no use.

A grappling hook ARCS into the stadium, finds PURCHASE amongst them. A moment later and

TAHKON

climbs the attached zipline, ENTERS the scene -- he's used the Toa's frontal attack as a diversion.

KUALUS
Tahkon!

LAHKA
What took you so long?

Tahkon CUTS at the webbing that binds the Rahaga with the tip of his staff.

TAHKON
Climbing isn't as easy as it used to be. I'm not Toa anymore, you know.

In a moment, Tahkon has all of the Rahaga FREE.

TAHKON
Speaking of which -- let's go help those that are.

The Rahaga move OFF together to do just that.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

Vakama STEPS on Matau's fingers, his only link to life. Matau YELPS as his grip SLIPS that much more.

VAKAMA
You're weak, former brother.

MATAU
You're right, Vakama -- I am weak. Nokama, Whenua, Onewa, Nuju -- we all are.

VAKAMA
So, at the end you see the truth.

MATAU
Yeah, I guess I do. I've made a lot of mistakes, Vakama -- that's what happens when you're brave enough to make decisions.

(then)
I understand that now.

VAKAMA
Forgive me if I don't believe that coming from your mask.

(then, adds)
And while you're at it, for this!

Vakama RAISES his fist, prepares to reign a final blow down upon Matau, knock him off the stadium and to his doom.

MATAU
Wait!

VAKAMA

Not for long.

Vakama keeps the hand COCKED as Matau seizes the opening:

MATAU

I just need you to know I'm sorry for the things I said. We all are. That we're sorry for making you leave. You see, that's the reason we're weak, Vakama -- because we don't have you.

Vakama REACTS -- he tries to conceal his feelings, but Matau is getting to him. Matau REFERENCES their animalistic exteriors as he continues:

MATAU

We're a family, Vakama. Things change, but I'll always be your brother and you'll always be mine. And something more -- something it took all of this for me to see...
(then)
You're our leader, Vakama. You're my leader.

Matau's grip SLIPS again -- he's a moment away from falling.

MATAU

Now, do what you're gonna do.
(then, to himself)
And to think I came here to save you...

Vakama's fist SHAKES, begins FORWARD -- but instead of becoming a fierce blow, Vakama

PRESENTS

it to Matau in the traditional Toa greeting.

VAKAMA

You just did.

Matau TAPS it with his own and Vakama GRABS his hand, helps his brother to solid ground.

MATAU

Feel free to return the favor -- there's no shortage of Toa needing savin'!

Vakama SMILES as he breaks his self-imposed moratorium:

VAKAMA
Yeah. I've got a plan for that...

EXT. GREAT STADIUM - SAME

The Toa WILT under the constant pressure of the Visorak.

NOKAMA
This is it. May the Great Spirit
welcome us...

TAHKON (O.S.)
Mind if we lend a hand?

The Toa WATCH as Tahkon and his Rahaga

ZIPLINE/RAPPEL

from the stadium INTO the heart of the fray.

BOMONGA
We're small, but we can fight!

ONEWA
Good. You're gonna have to...

The Rahaga JOIN the battle. Even with their help, the outcome seems inevitable. Nokama notices this even as she and Tahkon FIGHT back-to-back:

NOKAMA
Tahkon, even with your help...

TAHKON
I know, Nokama. It's all right --

ROODAKA (O.S.)
I'm glad to hear you've made your
peace, Rahaga...

Roodaka APPROACHES -- in Sidorak's absence, she LEADS the Visorak army. Her attention SHIFTS to the Toa:

ROODAKA
But first -- you have something I
want.

NOKAMA
What more could you possibly take
from us?

ROODAKA
Your elemental powers.

Roodaka INDICATES each Toa as she recites their totem, takes stock:

ROODAKA
Earth. Stone. Ice. Water. Fire's
already accounted for...
(then)
Wait -- one's missing.

As if on cue, Matau SKIDS into the scene, SLAMS against Keetongu.

MATAU
(meekly)
Yeah. That would be me.

Vakama JOINS Roodaka, having just tossed Matau.

ROODAKA
Now about those powers...

Matau ACTIVATES his spinner disc. It GLOWS with vibrant elemental energy.

MATAU
You want them so bad...

The others ACTIVATE their spinners, PREPARE to fire.

MATAU
...take them!

All at once, the Toa

FIRE

their spinner discs. They STRIKE Roodaka, STAGGER her towering form. But as the energy of the attack SUBSIDES:

ROODAKA
<Creepy laughter.>

MATAU
All right. Who fired the tickle
spinner?

ROODAKA
Fools! Your powers are weak...

She INDICATES Vakama, elaborates:

ROODAKA
 ...so long as they are not united.
 And seeing as Vakama stands with
 me...

Roodaka SUMMONS her own dark energy, but before she can
 unleash it:

VAKAMA (O.S.)
 Actually...

Roodaka LOOKS to

VAKAMA

who ACTIVATES his own spinner. It's AIMED squarely at her.

VAKAMA
 ...I wanted to talk to you about
 that.

Roodaka REACTS -- for the first time, she looks scared.

ROODAKA
 You can defeat me, Vakama...

She GESTURES at the Visorak army that SURROUNDS the scene.

ROODAKA
 ...but not all of them. Strike me
 down, and they will devour you and
 your friends.
 (then)
 Think about it.

VAKAMA
 I have. And seeing as you convinced
 Sidorak to put me in charge of
 them...

Vakama SHIFTS his attention, speaks to the Visorak horde:

VAKAMA
 Get out of here, all of you. You're
 free.

The Visorak immediately DISPERSE. As they go:

FRICK
 We are outta here!

FRACK
 Sweet!

The happy exodus leaves what will in time be called the Field of Honor EMPTY, save for the four

BLUE VISORAK

that are Roodaka's most trusted allies.

VAKAMA

That goes for you, too -- you don't have to serve her anymore if you don't want to.

The Blue Visorak burst into spontaneous CELEBRATION. They skitter AWAY, their servitude at an end.

ROODAKA

Traitors!

VAKAMA

You can't betray someone you're enslaved to.

ROODAKA

And to think I thought you could be king...

VAKAMA

I don't want to be king. From now on, I lead those that choose to follow. That's the difference between being a leader and what you are.

Vakama WINKS at Matau.

VAKAMA

A certain Toa taught me that.

He MAKES to fire his spinner with --

VAKAMA

It's a duty I will never fail again... starting now!

-- in the instant before he does, Roodaka PRODUCES the

PROTODERMIS SHARD

she carved from the Makuta's cell, HOLDS it between Vakama and herself. Tahkon SEES this, screams in SLOW MOTION:

TAHKON

No, Vakama! Don't!

REAL TIME: Tahkon's warning comes too late -- Vakama

FIRES

his spinner disc. Its fiery energy COMBINES with that from the other Toa upon IMPACT, creates brilliant LIGHT. When the fireworks subside, Roodaka is GONE.

TAHKON

Vakama, you have no idea what you've just done --

VAKAMA

The protodermis?

Tahkon REACTS -- Vakama does know.

TAHKON

Yes, the same you sealed Makuta with. In destroying it, you've broken that seal --

VAKAMA

And set Makuta free.

Vakama CONSIDERS his fellow

TOA

his course of action confirmed by their sight.

VAKAMA

For some reason, he just doesn't scare me anymore.

Tahkon LAUGHS. It SPREADS to the others, even:

KEETONGU

<Pained laughter.>

VAKAMA

Keetongu!

All GATHER by the creature's side, HELP him sit up.

VAKAMA

You owe us nothing, Keetongu, especially in light of all you've given. But my duty requires I ask -- will you change us back into Toa?

Keetongu VOCALIZES, Tahkon translates:

TAHKON

He wants to know why you want that, being you've made peace with the beast within? That you might even be the better for it...

VAKAMA

There's a certain promise we made to the Matoran we must be our old selves to keep.

The Toa NOD, confirm that Vakama's wish is their own. Keetongu GRUNTS his critical decision:

TAHKON

Then so will you be.

(then)

But Keetongu would have you know that regardless of shape, Toa you have always been, and Toa you will forever stay.

Vakama holds his fist OUT. The other Toa ADD theirs, create a

CIRCLE OF SIX

once again.

MATAU

All right, big guy. Hit it...

Keetongu SUMMONS his mysterious power, WHITES OUT the scene.

INT. GREAT STADIUM - MATORAN VAULT - SAME

The white of the screen BECOMES that of an industrial door. It OPENS. BEHIND IT: the

TOA METRU

stand six deep, their frames once again refined and familiar as they CONSIDER the many

MATORAN CYLINDERS

that line the sterile space, stacked like firewood.

VAKAMA

Time to wake up, friends. We're going home...

EXT. METRU NUI SHORE - MORNING

A striking

HOVERCRAFT

is docked on the sandy shore. It looks like a pirate ship, is a huge vessel cobbled together from both the natural resources and abandoned tech that has become Metru Nui. The Toa and Rahaga (less Tahkon and Vakama) CARRY Matoran cannisters from the Great Stadium to the strange craft, LOAD them aboard. Their efforts pale in comparison to those of

KEETONGU

who hefts their Matoran payload by the dozen. As they work:

MATAU

Nice ship you guys built.

ONEWA

Just don't crash it this time,
okay? My sockets are still soggy.

They ENTER. NEARBY: Tahkon and Vakama speak, their backdrop a breathtaking SUNRISE.

VAKAMA

I guess this is it, then.

TAHKON

No, Vakama -- this is just the
beginning.

VAKAMA

Of what?

Tahkon SMILES, answers:

TAHKON

I wouldn't dream of spoiling it for
you.

VAKAMA

Well, whatever it is...
(then, with weight)
Thank you.

TAHKON

You are most welcome, Vakama, but
it's me that should be thanking
you...

VAKAMA
I don't understand.

TAHKON
It's not every day I get to see a
legend come true, you know.

Vakama EYES Keetongu as the creature clowns around with his
newfound friends, makes play of work.

VAKAMA
Yes, he is quite a sight.

TAHKON
Indeed -- except I wasn't talking
about Keetongu.

That LOSES Vakama. Tahkon clarifies:

TAHKON
The Great Rescue, Vakama. One of
our most sacred legends, come to
pass.

The enormity of what they've done DAWNS on Vakama.

TAHKON
The Rahaga will be forever proud to
be a footnote in it.

VAKAMA
Tahkon, I'm pretty sure you'll have
your very own chapter.

The two share a LAUGH. When it subsides:

VAKAMA
Why didn't you change back?

TAHKON
It's funny -- you spend your whole
life chasing something only to find
out when you finally catch it that
the pursuit was what's important.
That it's changed you, and you no
longer have use for what was once
an all-important thing...

(then)
And there I go again, speaking in
riddles.

VAKAMA

It's okay -- I understand you
perfectly.

(then)

I guess I've changed, too.

Tahkon NODS.

TAHKON

You have freed us Rahaga to simply
be what we are, certain that the
new world and its Matoran are in
capable hands. Which means that the
last time I will ever use this
gesture...

Tahkon OFFERS his fist in the Toa greeting.

TAHKON

...is to say thanks. I like that.

Vakama TAPS the Rahaga's fist gently, begins TOWARDS the
beach with:

VAKAMA

Me too.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

The Toa's strange ship CRASHES through waves as it makes for
Mata Nui. ABOARD: Nokama JOINS Vakama at its rail.

NOKAMA

(re: Metru Nui)

Will you miss it?

Vakama LOOKS back towards the shore, FINDS

THE RAHAGA AND KEETONGU

there. The unlikely group WAVES after the ship.

VAKAMA

Some things.

Vakama WAVES back. Upon receipt of the gesture, the Rahaga
and Keetongu DISAPPEAR into the wilderness off the beach.

MATAU (O.S.)

Next stop, Mata Nui!

Matau PILOTS the craft via some elaborate wheel. The Toa CONGREGATE around him, WATCH as they APPROACH the

GREAT BARRIER

that divides the old world from the new. Onewa POINTS at it, alarmed:

ONEWA

The Makuta! He's gone!

We and the Toa SEE that he's right -- the Makuta's protodermis prison is

EMPTY

as Roodaka promised it would be.

VAKAMA

Not for long. I imagine we'll be seeing him again very soon.

NOKAMA

And when we do?

VAKAMA

We'll find a way to defeat him.

Vakama speaks with confidence, but he's not cocky as at the beginning of the film -- he's come a long way, has had his faith in the others and himself tested and confirmed. He gives it the respect it deserves:

VAKAMA

That's what Toa do.

The Toa let out a triumphant --

TOA (ALL)

<Cheer.>

-- as their ship ENTERS the rift in the Great Barrier that leads to Mata Nui. Camera rushes INTO the brilliant light.

WHITE OUT.

OVER WHITE: our Narrator's omniscient voice returns:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Vakama was right. Makuta would follow them to the new world, and once again threaten to cast them and those it is their sworn duty to protect into everlasting shadow.

(then)

But Vakama was also right about the Toa -- they would band together in the face of Makuta's evil, and relying upon one another do heroic battle for the very fate of the Bionicle Universe!

The screen suddenly goes dark.

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK: the Narrator concludes our tale, his voice full of mirth and whimsy:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But that is another legend entirely.

THE END