

BIONICLE: CITY OF SHADOW

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THIRD DRAFT, POLISH ACTS 1 & 2

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EXT. GREAT BARRIER - CLIFF FACE - NIGHT

THE MAKUTA'S MASK

FILLS the frame, it encased in transparent protodermis as per the events of LEGENDS OF METRU NUI. A sickly thin finger (it belongs to a largely unseen ROODAKA) cuts ACROSS the frightening face, as it does uses its wickedly sharp nail to CARVE a jagged sliver of protodermis from the larger mass. The SQUEAL of the action is awful, only ends when a jagged

SHARD OF PROTODERMIS

is cleaved from the rest. It FALLS through undefined space, TUMBLES end-over-end...

BLACK OUT.

[NOTE: Vakama's prologue and epilogue dialogue is subject to change per the film's ultimate title, edit, and similar considerations.]

OVER BLACK: TURAGA VAKAMA speaks to us from the dark:

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)
Gathered friends, listen again to
our Legend of the Bionicle...

EXT. AMAJA CIRCLE - DAWN

Day BREAKS. Radiant light BATHES six Toa stones, which are arranged in the traditional way, form a circle in a ceremonial sand pit.

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)
The Makuta has been defeated. Our
six Toa have discovered a new
home.

The Toa stones begin to RADIATE energy. It creates WAVES in the sand, the surface BECOMING as water.

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)
But they have a promise to keep.
The Toa must return to Metru Nui
and there fulfill the legend of
the Great Rescue -- to recover
the many Matoran left behind,
held in deep sleep by the dark
power of Makuta.

Shadow falls OVER the Toa stones. A moment later and we see its source -- the

PROTODERMIS SHARD

HITS the ground amidst the Toa stones. Its crystal clear surface TURNS a perfect and impenetrable **black** on contact, BECOMES the

MAKUTA STONE

familiar to those that know Bionicle lore. For those that don't, it's enough that it's the scariest rock ever -- an inexplicably frightening and evil artifact. Camera PUSHES INTO its sinister depths --

EXT. TOA P.O.V. - PROTODERMIS OCEAN - NIGHT

-- and EMERGES at dizzying SPEED, pushed by a towering wall of protodermis in its shimmering liquid form.

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)

The island city of Metru Nui, once a place of great knowledge and power, has fallen. It has become something darker -- a land of chaos and ruin, of fearsome creatures without heroes to fight them, a city of light...

The wave of mercurial liquid BREAKS over the screen, makes the scene

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK: Turaga Vakama concludes his introduction in a whisper:

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)

... a city of shadow.

BIONICLE: CITY OF SHADOW

EXT. LE METRU - INDUSTRIAL PORT/COASTLINE - NIGHT

Camera FINDS

ONEWA

as he SKIDS to a stop. A CHYRON appears, identifies the perturbed Toa. After 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. A spooky silhouette.

ONEWA

Waaaaaa!

The figure EXCAVATES itself from a skin of seaweed, ship oil, and barnacles, BECOMES the familiar form of

NUJU

a CHYRON appearing to cement the Toa's identification.

NUJU

It would appear there was error
in our transport. Pilot error.

A handsome green mask BURSTS from a pile of rubble between the two Toa, SHAKES the irritating debris away to REVEAL

MATAU

who expresses his annoyance with Nuju's accusation after his CHYRON:

MATAU

Hey! I was order-taking. Vakama
was the one order-giving.

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 of protodermis, clearly in her element. Mercurial liquid ROLLS down her sleek figure as her CHYRON appears and fades.

NOKAMA

...regardless of how gracefully,
we made it here.

MATAU

Yeah. Well... Whatever.

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

MATAU

Uh, could somebody dig me up?

A Toa Tool JUTS into frame, TILLS the pile surrounding Matau. The black-armored hand that holds it then PULLS him free. Matau REGARDS his savior, a hulking Toa identified as

WHENUA

in the same manner as the rest.

MATAU

Thanks.

Whenua responds in his good-natured if gravelly voice:

WHENUA

Hey, 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 ruined city the littered shore 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 the Matoran?

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF LE METRU - NIGHT

The Toa TRAVERSE rough terrain, it rife with neglected growth and in a general state of disrepair. As they do, we see their Toa bodies are not specifically suited to it.

MATAU

What's with all the fog?

Matau has a point -- their efforts are further hampered by a fog so thick it occasionally reduces the Toa to silhouette.

MATAU

(wryly)

It's not exactly encouraging my Toa-hero spirit...

(then)

Whoa.

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

SKYLINE OF METRU NUI

in the distance. It's changed drastically since 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. A moment, and then an unlikely sight given the urban environment -- a herd of wild

RAHI BEASTS

STAMPEDE by, their figures partially obscured by the fog.

NOKAMA

What was that?

WHENUA

The Archive must have been breached...

ONEWA

What did you have in there?

WHENUA

Everything.

(then, admits)

Most of it dangerous.

Vakama divines from this a single, loaded word:

VAKAMA

Rahi.

Whenua elaborates upon realizing Vakama doesn't plan to:

WHENUA

The Onu-Metru Archive houses a specimen of every Rahi beast ever discovered --

A wet GROWL comes from somewhere within the city.

WHENUA

At least, it used to.

The fog CLEARS for a moment, allows us to see that Whenua's right --

THE ONU-METRU ARCHIVE

has been split open from inside. Webbing is highly concentrated on and about the structure -- it has perhaps become a nest. The fog COVERS the startling sight once more.

VAKAMA

And the webs?

WHENUA

Visorak. Nasty creatures.

ONEWA

Coming from you, that, well...
it's not good.

NOKAMA

I've never heard of such
creatures.

WHENUA

Most haven't. They're not from
around here.

(then, rethinks)

Originally.

Wild things SWING and SCAMPER about the space, owning it.
Matau puts a button on it:

MATAU

Well, there goes the old
neighborhood.

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

NOKAMA

An unexpected and unwelcome turn
of events. But what does it
change?

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

VAKAMA

Nothing. We go to the coliseum.
We rescue the Matoran. We leave.

WHENUA

Or get pulverized.

The others shoot Whenua a LOOK. Nuju defends him:

NUJU

It is a possibility.

Vakama pushes past that, addresses and rallies the group:

VAKAMA

We've faced the Makuta and won --
I really doubt a few crusty
relics are going to give us much
trouble. Agreed?

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

VAKAMA

All right.
 (then, authoritatively)
 Follow me --

He only makes it a single STEP when a

SPINNER DISC

shoots from the abundant shadows, HITS Vakama. It PARALYZES him instantly.

MATAU

What the --

Five more come in quick succession, HIT each of the others.

VAKAMA

Can't... move.

Whenua's massive frame TIPS towards the immobilized Toa, his huge body completely out of his control.

WHENUA

Can't... stop!

MATAU

This is gonna hurt...

Whenua TOPPLES into the rest -- they FALL like dominoes, end up stacked atop one another in a heap. Vakama calls up from its bottom:

VAKAMA

Is everyone okay?

NUJU

Paralyzed. But otherwise unharmed.

MATAU

Yeah. We're right behind you, fearless leader. Literally.

NOKAMA

Bickering won't get us out of this, Matau.

MATAU

No, but think-talking before charging straight into a trap might have.

Vakama BRISTLES at the challenge to his decision-making:

VAKAMA

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

MATAU

Forget it.

We see that Whenua's butt is very much IN Matau's face, neither able to move to remedy the situation. Matau EYES the metallic rump suspiciously, decides:

MATAU

I got bigger problems.

A scuttling NOISE comes from the shadows. It gets LOUDER.

ONEWA

Wh -- what's that?

NUJU

We'll soon find out...

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

CREATURES

EMERGE from the mist-shrouded wasteland, SURROUND the paralyzed Toa. Matau identifies them for the audience:

MATAU

Let me guess -- Visorak?

WHENUA

Yes. In their tongue, 'the
poisonous scourge.'

The GREEN VISORAK are a fearsome sight. Their mouths are set within gnashing, pincer mandibles, and mounted on their backs are the toxic projectile launchers that so effectively felled the Toa. Everything about the Visorak is virile, animal. Off their sight and Whenua's last:

ONEWA

Do they even have tongues? All I
see are teeth...

The Visorak CLOSE IN on the Toa. Nokama whispers to Vakama:

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. Admits:

VAKAMA

I... don't know.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - DAY

THE GREAT COLISEUM

is a shadow of its former self. 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 coliseum, walking as fast as it can without surrendering to a run. This is KOLLORAK, who ENTERS the coliseum upon reaching it.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - MATORAN VAULT - SAME

Kollorak ambles THROUGH a towering hallway lined with silver cannisters familiar to those that have seen LEGENDS OF METRU NUI or assembled a Bionicle. Visorak webbing covers the cannisters, suspends some. Kollorak EXITS the dreary vault --

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

-- and ENTERS what is the grandest of the coliseum's many crypt-like chambers. His posture and attitude SHIFT suddenly, become formal. Kollorak BOWS low in front of a massive

THRONE

its back turned to conceal its occupant. 'Speaks':

KOLLORAK
<VOICE FX>

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
Kollorak. It's nothing important,
I hope -- seeing as you're late.

KOLLORAK
<VOICE FX>

SIDORAK
In that case, my tardy
hordemaster, this had better be
good...

SIDORAK (ALTERNATE)
This had better be good...

Kollorak takes a deep 'breath'. Then, a single word/sound:

KOLLORAK
<VOICE FX>

It GETS Sidorak's undivided attention. He reiterates and translates between meaty lips:

SIDORAK
Toa?

Kollorak NODS.

SIDORAK
So, they've returned for the
Matoran -- Matoran that now
belong to me.

Sidorak EYEBALLS Kollorak.

SIDORAK
I assume your telling me this
without twitching uncontrollably
means the Toa have already been
captured?

Kollorak INDICATES the throne room's massive viewing window. It takes up the whole of a wall, offers a majestic view of the surrounding city. Vocalizes an affirmative:

KOLLORAK
<VOICE FX>

Sidorak GOES to the window, LOOKS out to where --

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

-- THE TOA

are cocooned with, hang from lines of Visorak webbing. They're SUSPENDED between the coliseum and a distant tower in Ko Metru, a decidedly fatal fall beneath them. SURROUNDING THE SCENE: a bustling CROWD of Visorak has gathered.

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

Sidorak is pleased by the sight, issues a curt order:

SIDORAK
Drop them.

SIDORAK (ALTERNATE)
Thank you. Kill them.

KOLLORAK
 (cheerful affirmative)
 <VOICE FX>

Kollorak MAKES to carry out the order, is stopped by:

ROODAKA (O.S.)
 Is it to be so simple, Sidorak?

Sidorak TURNS toward the hypnotic voice that speaks from the shadows. It's plain to see the Visorak king is infatuated with Roodaka's unseen self.

SIDORAK
 My queen.

ROODAKA (O.S.)
 No, not your queen. Not yet.

SIDORAK
 Of course. Formalities.
 (then)
 You have something to say?

Roodaka FLITS about in the darkness -- we see only that she is long of limb, sleek and sharp in design.

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

SIDORAK
 The Toa.

ROODAKA
 A fantastic adversary, my king. Worthy of your rule -- and therefore a demise that will be remembered and spoken about for all time.

Sidorak CONSIDERS that -- Roodaka has swayed him before he even speaks:

SIDORAK
 I suppose I could allow the situation to become more... legendary.

Roodaka HISSES appeasement. Coos an insincere:

ROODAKA
 I have always admired your judgment.
 (then, a caveat)
 (MORE)

ROODAKA(cont'd)

Only be sure your method allows
some proof. For posterity's
sake...

SIDORAK

Proof?

Roodaka's voice ends the scene. It comes hushed and cold:

ROODAKA

Bring me their bodies.

ROODAKA (ALTERNATE)

I want their bodies.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - MILES ABOVE THE CITY - SAME

Visorak of every hue hang from weblines or cling to the
coliseum itself, anxiously await the inevitable. They
JOSTLE for position, and in the process one is knocked from
its perch and

FALLS

much to the frenzied and callous amusement of its mob-
mentality peers. Less so Whenua:

WHENUA

That's encouraging.

WHENUA (ALTERNATE)

That doesn't look fun.

MATAU

Well, fire-spitter, we can't say
you didn't show us the city...

(then, escalating)

'Course, we can say that you got
us captured, poisoned, and seeing
as I don't think we've been
brought up here for the view,
imminently smash-dashed!

Onewa's cocoon GIVES a little. The webbing that encases him
rises higher on him than the others, COVERS the mouth of
his mask. He EYES the strands that remain warily, 'speaks':

ONEWA

Mmmppppffff!

Matau estimates the mumble -- to his advantage, of course:

MATAU

He agrees.

NOKAMA (O.S.)

This is not Vakama's fault!

Each and every Toa shoots dissenting LOOKS Nokama's way.

NOKAMA
 (meekly)
 Not entirely...

VAKAMA (O.S.)
 Don't bother, Nokama.

The Toa TURN in as much as they can to face Vakama. He DANGLES at their periphery, isolated.

VAKAMA
 I tried to lead you as best I could. I wish I was better at it, but if I've learned one thing from all we've been through, it's that I am what I am. And no matter how much I might want to...

He LOCKS EYES with the rest, concludes:

VAKAMA
 ...I 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.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

Sidorak, and Kollorak are out in the open air on the coliseum's OBSERVATION DECK, from there have a perfect view of the Toa and their plight. As he WATCHES intently, Roodaka puts an approving and intimate hand ON Sidorak's shoulder from behind.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

Vakama's strange

METAMORPHOSIS

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

MATAU
 I'm not liking this!

There's a Sidorak-approved side effect to all this rapid change -- 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 DETERIORATES the fastest, in proportion to his rapid physical change. It begins to UNRAVEL partially.

NOKAMA

Vakama!

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

VAKAMA

I'm sorry I let you all down.

And with that, Vakama

FALLS

into the night, is soon LOST from sight. The Visorak mob CHEERS lustily. Whenua tries to follow Vakama's lead, formulate profound last words. Can't:

WHENUA

Uh... bye.

In rapid succession Whenua, Onewa, and Nuju

PLUNGE

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

MATAU

Nokama, I want you... no, I need
you to know that I've always --

But before he gets more out, Matau's cocoon UNWINDS and he

DROPS

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

EXT. MID-AIR - SAME

The Toa FALL through the night, the ground rushing TOWARDS them. 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 was --

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

Easy. Don't snatch-scratch the armor!

Matau is YANKED roughly 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. They're a bit of a paradox -- wise yet unrefined, civilized and primal, something intangibly animal about them. 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 often fractured structures. As they DO, Vakama STIRS -- he's slung over the shoulders of NORIK, eldest and leader of the Rahaga. As he struggles to speak, we see that the metamorphosis has made his familiar

MASK

almost unrecognizable.

VAKAMA

Wh -- what's happened to me?

Norik doesn't respond, just puts more distance between them and the city. This angers Vakama, who draws on what little strength the transformation hasn't drained, demands:

VAKAMA

Answer me. I'm Toa!

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
 Answer me. I am Toa!

NORIK
 Not exactly.

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

BLACK OUT.

EXT. RUINS OF GA METRU - NIGHT

Matau's green form is seen at distance, facedown in a gutter. He COMES TO, finds himself hopelessly ALONE.

MATAU
 Guys?

No answer. The mixture of steel, shadow, and shrub that is Ga Metru seems to extend forever, DWARVES Matau. He's seen in such a way that we can't make out his detail as he calls out:

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

ANGLE: on Matau's eyes to the exclusion of the rest of his mask. He CLEARS grit out of their corners, OPENS them fully and is immediately greeted by his

REFLECTION

in the ruddy water that's pooled by the gutter, it the result of a burst water main. As Matau and the audience discover together, the once handsome Toa has been turned into a brutish creature. Homely would be the nice word.

MATAU
 No!

Matau FEELS the lumpy surface of his mask, speaks softly to himself:

MATAU
 But this isn't me...

Matau STIRS the water's surface with an angry swipe of his hand, DISTORTS his image. When the water RESOLVES, we see

THE TRANSFORMED TOA

have arrived silently behind him, are reflected there.

NOKAMA
It's all right, Matau.

Matau TURNS to, CONSIDERS his fellow Toa. The body of each manifests readily apparent CHANGE, an animalistic leaning -- but Matau is still the undisputed ugly duckling of the group. He disagrees vehemently with Nokama's hanging sentiment:

MATAU
All right? You call this all right?

NOKAMA
We're all here. We'll find a way.
Together.

NOKAMA (ALTERNATE)
We're all here. We'll make it be.

WHENUA
That's what friends do.

Matau gets IN Vakama's face, challenges:

MATAU
I don't hear you saying that, smelt-head. What's the matter -- too busy cooking up another master plan?

Vakama's newly-minted qualities mark him as a loner, physically and in demeanor. His answer is a partial snarl, which he gives as he steps AWAY:

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
Regardless of how we look, it might be better if we use our energy to find out why we've become...
(then, uncertainly)
...whatever it is we are.

NOKAMA
The sooner we do that, the sooner we can rescue the Matoran.

MATAU
 How are we to be-savin' when
 we're the ones need-savin'?

Norik's voice answers unexpectedly from alarmingly nearby:

NORIK (O.S.)
 If you are wise, if you wish to
 be your old selves again...

The Toa WATCH as

NORIK AND THE RAHAGA

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

NORIK
 ...you will listen.

INT. SUNDIAL ROOM - SAME

Roodaka's gnarled finger CARESSES the surface of the

MAKUTA STONE

it instantly recognizable from the prologue. She speaks to
 it and the gloomy space familiar from LEGENDS OF METRU NUI,
 both extensions of and brimming with the dark essence of
 Makuta.

ROODAKA (O.S.)
 Rest, my Makuta. Sleep, and know
 that as you do...

CAMERA PULLS BACK: we see the Makuta Stone is held tenderly
 in Roodaka's taloned hand, gets the occasional and loving
 STROKE as she speaks. We WIDEN further, in doing so REVEAL

ROODAKA

in imposing full for the first time.

ROODAKA
 ...I draw close to waking you.

Roodaka is slender and powerful, her long limbs concluding
 in razor-sharp claws. Equal parts beautiful and terrifying.

ROODAKA
 The Toa have returned -- as you
 said they would. Even now, their
 broken bodies are being brought
 to me so I may drain them of
 their elemental powers.

(MORE)

ROODAKA(cont'd)

Powers I will use to shatter the
wretched seal they bound you with
and that keeps us apart.

Roodaka INSTALLS the Makuta Stone within her chestplate --
it functions as her heartstone.

ROODAKA

(then, oddly romantic)
And then there will be no need
for these charades. Together, you
and I will --

Roodaka STOPS her morbid swooning mid-stream. Asks
suddenly:

ROODAKA

(murderously calm)
What is it?

Kollorak steps OUT of the thick shadows that dominate the
space, offers in trembling tone:

KOLLORAK

<VOICE FX>

ROODAKA

The Toa?
(then, realizes)
Why do you speak of them as if
they're still alive...?

It takes Kollorak forever to get the meek syllable out:

KOLLORAK

<VOICE FX>

What Kollorak says makes Roodaka SMASH some massive
decorative element of the room. In this flash of anger, we
see just how much power resides within her elegant frame.
She spits the words out:

ROODAKA

Rahaga.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - SAME

NORIK

stands in front of the Toa, his features underlit by a fire
that spits from a ruptured gas main. Camera PUSHES IN on
his mask, makes it FILL frame. It's then he speaks:

NORIK

Keetongu.

The strange word is lost on the Toa. Especially Onewa:

ONEWA
 (misunderstands,
 grandly)
 The key to Nongu...

Norik gives Onewa a LOOK in receipt of the incorrect and pretentious reiteration, then continues:

NORIK
 Keetongu is a most honorable creature, and skilled in the way of venoms -- not to mention our only hope to stand against the Visorak horde.
 (then, certainly)
 If you are to be the Toa you once were, it is Keetongu you must seek.

NOKAMA
 But... what are we now?

NORIK
 Hordika venom courses within you. If it is not neutralized, it will take root... and Hordika you will be.
 (then)
Forever.

Nuju's eye CYCLES, picks something subtle up. He gives it pointed voice:

NUJU
 Like you?

NORIK
 (not a denial)
 I am a Rahaga. Norik is my name.

One by one, Norik INDICATES the other

RAHAGA

who are located about the space at irregular intervals. Gives them names:

NORIK
 Gaaki, Bomonga, Kualus, Pouks, and Iruini.

The weight of the introduction brings a moment of silence. Matau fills it awkwardly:

MATAU
 So... how's that working out for you?

NORIK
 (flatly)
 It has its moments. This is not
 one of them.

Nokama, as ever, keeps them on task:

NOKAMA
 Rahaga, can you take us to this
 Keetongu?

Iruini stifles a LAUGH. Norik shoots him a stern LOOK.

NORIK
 Iruini.

NOKAMA
 I don't understand.

NORIK
 What Iruini so inappropriately
 suggests is that this will be...
difficult.
 (then)
 We Rahaga have come to Metru Nui
 in search of Keetongu ourselves,
 and there are those that, well...
 (admits sheepishly)
 ...doubt his existence entirely.

Nuju's cyclonic eye NARROWS as he asks:

NUJU
 And you?

Norik's response comes firm, devote, resolute:

NORIK
 I believe.

NORIK (ALTERNATE)
 I believe in legends.

NOKAMA
 Then so must we.

MATAU
 Whoa, there, sister. Shouldn't we
 think-talk about this? You know,
 group-like?
 (then, to Vakama)
 What do you say, mask-melter?

VAKAMA

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

VAKAMA

I say we returned to Metru Nui to rescue the Matoran, not go on safari.

NORIK

And you have a way to do this? Perhaps using your new Hordika powers?

(then, foreboding)

Powers you have not yet learned to use...

VAKAMA

I don't know.

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

NORIK

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

Vakama TURNS a crank on the gas main's pipework, KILLS the fire's light and DISAPPEARS from view in the resulting darkness. He speaks his last unseen:

VAKAMA (O.S.)

Either.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)

Neither.

NOKAMA

Vakama!

NORIK

I will talk with him.

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

MATAU

What about us?

Norik gives Matau a SMILE that is equal parts whimsical and unsettling. His tone follows suit:

NORIK

Prepare yourselves. We've a legend to prove.

EXT. CITY RUINS - SAME

Vakama walks THROUGH the towering ruins that are the outskirts of Metru Nui, his head bowed. At least, until a large and sabre-toothed

MUAKA

SPRINGS from the debris directly in front of his path. The creature clearly means to do Vakama harm, but as it MOVES to do so Vakama

GROWLS AND POSTURES

makes an animalistic show of strength. As he does, a spinner disc EMERGES from his anatomy, it an as-yet unknown part of the Hordika metamorphosis. The spinner

ACTIVATES

for the first time, BURNS bright in the dark of night -- it's in this way we see the Toa's elemental powers have become linked to their spinner discs. Vakama is more Hordika than Toa in this moment, and to great effect -- the imposing Muaka FLEES back into the ruins. Vakama REACTS -- to the spinner, the encounter. Manages only:

VAKAMA

What was...?

NORIK (O.S.)

It meant you no harm.

Norik APPROACHES. He's been trailing Vakama silently.

VAKAMA

I beg to differ.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)

Gray mask, I beg to differ.

NORIK

It was just scared. Muaka are loners by nature, and uncomfortable being close to others.

Norik INDICATES the physical changes brought on by Vakama's metamorphosis.

[NOTE: they should in some obvious way be similar to the animal he's just encountered.]

NORIK

There's a bit of them in you.

(then, re: spinner disc)

Careful with that. It's a most powerful tool.

Vakama RETRACTS his spinner back into his armor, pleased with the newfound source of strength.

VAKAMA
 I certainly mean to find out...
 (sarcastic snarl)
 ...wise one.

Vakama starts AWAY, is stopped by:

NORIK
 And what about your friends?

Vakama TURNS back, the word angering him. Growls:

VAKAMA
Former friends.
 (then, bitterly)
 They think being a leader is so
 easy, they can try it themselves.

NORIK
 True.
 (then)
 But they won't succeed without
 you. Nor you without them.

VAKAMA
 And how do you know that?

NORIK
 I don't.
 (then)
 But the Great Spirit does.
 (recites, hits first
 hard)
Unity, Duty, Destiny. If you Toa
 are to rescue the Matoran, you
 must do so together.
 (then, knowingly)
 This is something you can't
 change.

Vakama CONSIDERS that, responds defiantly:

VAKAMA
 Watch me.

He stalks OFF into the night.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - SAME

The transformed Toa WAIT with the Rahaga for
 Vakama's/Norik's return. SOUND indicates someone or thing
 APPROACHES.

NOKAMA
 (hopefully)
 Vakama?

Norik steps OUT into the light. Nokama's happy and relieved to see him, just less so. Tries to hide that:

NOKAMA

Norik. It's good you're back.

NORIK

Vakama has a lot on his mind. We must give him time to find his destiny.

ONEWA

And if he finds a particularly bad one...?

Norik doesn't answer. It's funny and scary all at the same time when he quickly redirects as if the question was never asked:

NORIK

Now then -- we should begin our search for Keetongu at once.

Matau butts into the scene:

MATAU

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

NUJU

But where to start?

WHENUA (OPTIONAL)

It's a big world...

NORIK

Somewhere you know well.

Norik clarifies no more than that, heads OFF. The Rahaga FOLLOW. After a moment, the Toa DO as well.

EXT. CITY RUINS - SAME

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

VAKAMA

I can do it alone. I'll show them all...

Vakama trails off as he ARRIVES at --

EXT. OVERLOOK - SAME

-- a steep precipice which offers a breathtaking view of
DOWNTOWN METRU NUI

and while the urban sprawl is darker than it should be,
it's no less impressive a sight. The scale of it provides
Vakama with instant perspective:

VAKAMA

Oh, who am I kidding?

(then)

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

(then, realizes)

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

A spinner disc WHIZZES past Vakama's head, narrowly misses
him. He performs a quick set of ACROBATICS, confronts the

BLUE VISORAK

that fired it.

[NOTE: all Blue Visorak are female.]

VAKAMA

Thanks for the warning shot.

The Visorak FIRES again, and Vakama EVADES once more.

VAKAMA

All right, so you've just got bad
aim.

Vakama ACTIVATES his own spinner disc with:

VAKAMA

Watch and learn.

Vakama FIRES -- but just before his disc strikes the
Visorak, another spinner DEFLECTS it, knocks it off course.
Vakama LOOKS towards it's source, to where three more

BLUE VISORAK

EMERGE from the landscape. They cut off any means of
escape, trap Vakama between their whirring spinners and the
overlook's deadly fall. Cornered, he lets out a fearsome:

VAKAMA

<GROWL>

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

The Toa and Rahaga REGARD something unseen. Matau doesn't understand:

MATAU

Here?

CUT TO REVEAL: the strange travellers stand in front of the Great Temple. It's the one thing that hasn't changed from the previous films, seemingly in defiance of that which has befallen the rest of Metru Nui.

MATAU

I'm sure it could have helped our old Toa selves, but...

Matau CONSIDERS the unlikely

LOT

each strange and animalistic in their own way. Finishes uncertainly:

MATAU

...now?

ONEWA

We'll never find a way to change back if you keep talking like that.

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 monster!

Norik pushes past Matau's outburst:

NORIK

If you're quite done, we should go inside.

The Rahaga MAKE to do just that. The Toa HESITATE, conflicted EXPRESSIONS on their masks.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - 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. Vakama's

MASK

JUTS into frame, ECLIPSES the heavenly bodies. He --

VAKAMA

<HOWLS>

-- longingly, the sound instinctive and primal.

VAKAMA

What's happening to me...?

Roodaka ENTERS, as she does answers Vakama's self-directed question:

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 and cabled strands of Visorak

WEBBING

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 GESTURES as she EXITS. In response, Vakama's bonds RELEASE and clatter to the floor. The Toa MULLS his options -- and then FOLLOWS Roodaka out into the night.

EXT. SUNDIAL ROOM - OVERLOOKING TA METRU - LATER

Roodaka leads Vakama as they speak at great height. The space is shadowy and isolated, their conversation on the sly:

ROODAKA
 Secrecy is such a burden, but
 Sidorak mustn't know we speak.

VAKAMA
 Sidorak?

ROODAKA
 Ruler of the Visorak.

VAKAMA
 And he doesn't know you've
 captured me?

ROODAKA
 Not yet.

VAKAMA
 (snide)
 Some leader.

ROODAKA
 I agree.

Vakama REACTS, surprised by her openly treacherous statement.

VAKAMA
 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
(biting)
Right. Like you are to Sidorak?

ROODAKA
Yes.
(then, more eloquently)
They obey me because I am strong.
They fear me, and therefore do
not dare question my authority.
(then)
That is leadership, Vakama. That
is how the other Toa should treat
you.
(then, leading)
Maybe then they wouldn't say such
awful things...

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

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

The Blue Visorak LAUGH wickedly, reveal themselves as the source of Roodaka's information. Vakama doesn't give in:

VAKAMA
I trust my fellow Toa --

Roodaka interrupts, really pushes her agenda:

ROODAKA
To do what? Hold you back?
They're not worthy of a leader
like you...
(then, loaded)
Which is why I've brought you
here.

Roodaka STOPS their walk for effect. From here, the distinct skyline of a ruined

TA METRU

can be seen in the distance, Vakama's former home.

VAKAMA
Ta Metru.
(then)
(MORE)

VAKAMA(cont'd)

When I was Matoran, it was my whole world. It meant everything to me...

(then)

It still does.

ROODAKA

It can be your home again, Vakama -- to rule as you see fit. All you need do is lead those that will obey you properly.

(then, commands)

Lead the Visorak horde!

Vakama CONSIDERS that, the wheels turning behind his mask...

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

Norik NOTICES the Toa have not joined him and the other Rahaga. He RETURNS to them with:

NORIK

Is something wrong?

The Toa REACT -- none are comfortable with entering the Great Temple. 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 EXPRESS silent agreement. In this moment, their fascination with their new forms/powers is forgotten and each feels guilty about being distracted from their duty. Norik lets them off the hook gently:

NORIK

I understand.

(then)

Our work here will not go unnoticed. I must ask that you buy us the time it takes at all costs.

NORIK (ALTERNATE)

I understand.

(then)

Our work here will not go unnoticed. I must ask you to make sure it is not interrupted.

Nokama NODS.

NOKAMA
Consider it done.

She begins back ACROSS the bridge that connects the Great Temple to Metru Nui, her brothers JOINING her animalistic stride -- all except for Matau. He calls after them:

MATAU
Wait! Don't you think we should
talk about --

None break their animalistic strides to answer:

TOA (ALL EXCEPT MATAU)
No!

Overwhelmingly outvoted, Matau FOLLOWS. The transformed Toa head for the city as the Rahaga ENTER the Great Temple.

EXT. SUNDIAL ROOM - OVERLOOKING TA METRU - LATER

Vakama continues to STRUGGLE with his portentous decision, the Toa and Hordika sides of his self at odds.

VAKAMA
I... don't know.

ROODAKA
I understand your reluctance. You
require proof.

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

ROODAKA
Throw yourselves off the edge.

As Vakama WATCHES in horror, they DO just that.

VAKAMA
No!

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

VAKAMA
I didn't know there was a ledge.

ROODAKA
Neither did they.
(then)
Obedience. This is but the first
of many lessons I can teach you.

Vakama begins to TURN towards darkness the moment he says:

VAKAMA
And this is something 'your king'
would allow?

ROODAKA
There is a way.

A long moment, then an awful allowance:

VAKAMA
I'm listening.

ROODAKA
Six ways...

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

GAAKI

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

NORIK (O.S.)
Are you all right, Gaaki?

Norik ENTERS the scene -- he's checking the progress of
each Rahaga, is coordinating the efforts of the group.

GAAKI
Norik. I... heard something.

NORIK
Probably just my approach. Age
makes us loud as well as wise.

Gaaki CONSIDERS letting Norik's humor defuse her concern --
then doesn't, speaks with a firmness not natural to her:

GAAKI
No. This was a creature.

NORIK
Visorak?

Gaaki SHAKES her head, falls silent. Norik has to prompt:

NORIK
Gaaki, what did you hear?

GAAKI

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

Norik REACTS -- he does not like the sound of that. But rather than dwell on his own concerns, he comforts Gaaki:

NORIK

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

GAAKI

I guess I have been working kind of hard...

Norik cloaks his urgent order with a soothing tone:

NORIK

Gather your brothers and go outside, check on the Toa.

GAAKI

What about you?

He lies gently:

NORIK

I'll be right behind you.

Gaaki ASCENDS a set of spiral steps. As she does, Norik reiterates, more forcefully this time:

NORIK

Find the Toa.

Gaaki EXITS the scene. A moment later, Norik asks of what seems an empty room:

NORIK

Show yourself.

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL: behind Norik, an imposing

FIGURE

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

VAKAMA

I doubt you'd recognize me.

Norik 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 -- Gaaki's not going to find her brothers upstairs.

NORIK

What have you done with them?

Vakama's replies come from different parts of the room:

VAKAMA (O.S.)

Nothing.
(then, darkly)
Yet.

NORIK

Then it's not too late, Vakama. You don't have to do this...

VAKAMA (O.S.)

(earnestly)
Give me one reason I shouldn't.

NORIK

The other Toa. They need you to lead them.

Vakama's voice CHANGES, becomes angry and animalistic:

VAKAMA (O.S.)

Always what's best for the others!
(then)
She was right about them, Norik. About me.

NORIK

Who have you been talking to, Vakama? Who's put these thoughts in your head?

VAKAMA (O.S.)

You'll find out soon enough.
(then, loaded)
I'm counting on it.

NORIK

I don't understand.

VAKAMA (O.S.)
 You don't have to understand the
 message, Norik -- just carry it.

NORIK
 This message. What is it...?

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

VAKAMA (O.S.)
 <FIERCE GROWL>

The primal SOUND comes from ABOVE. There:

VAKAMA

DROPS from the ceiling towards Norik, a metal missile. For
 the brief moment we see him, he's nothing but a beast.

BLACK OUT.

EXT. GATEWAY TO THE GREAT TEMPLE BRIDGE - DAWN

Nokama ENTERS the scene and calls out:

NOKAMA
 Matau?

Small bits of rock and wood RAIN down on her from above.
 She LOOKS up to their source, to an elaborate if makeshift

NEST

that is under construction in the eaves of the impressive
 arch that marks the way to the Great Temple. A moment and
 Matau's mask PEEKS over the edge of the nest, embarrassed.

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 building this. But much more
 with the guard-watching. It was
 quite a sight, me and the...
 watching.

NOKAMA (OPTIONAL)
 (flatly)
 Surely, this is the most secure
 construction of an insane Toa in
 all of Metru Nui.

She INDICATES Matau's handiwork, asks the obvious:

NOKAMA
 Seriously -- 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.
 (then, disbelieving)
 To nest-make!

Nokama eases Matau's embarrassment with a confession:

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

She REFERENCES their strange shapes rather than finish.
 Redirects:

NOKAMA
 It's nearly morning. We should
 find the others and see what the
 Rahaga have learned.

She MAKES to do just that. Matau DUSTS himself off, FOLLOWS
 after Nokama with a hopeful:

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

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE BRIDGE - DAY

Nokama, Matau, Nuju, Whenua, and Onewa CROSS the expansive
 bridge that leads to the Great Temple. As they go:

NOKAMA
 Norik seemed so concerned, but no
 one saw anything all night?

WHENUA
 Nothing. Lots of nothing.

ONEWA
 Yeah. Bor-ring!

NUJU

I don't know -- I found the sounds of the night fascinating.

MATAU

Riiiiiiight.

(then)

I wonder what's taking the Rahaga 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 time before time? Hard.

NOKAMA

Be patient, Matau.

MATAU

I have no patience for looking like this!

Matau TAKES the lead, marches out in front of the others, sets a breakneck pace.

MATAU

We've already wasted a whole night. The way I see it, the faster we get to --

Matau's rhetoric fractures as he SEES that in the distance

THE GREAT TEMPLE

is in a state of violent disrepair. Smoke BILLOWS out of it, wafts up into and darkens the morning sky.

MATAU

(finishes weakly)

-- the Great Temple.

Without further words, the Toa RACE across the bridge towards the temple.

INT. GREAT TEMPLE - MOMENTS LATER

The interior is even worse than the exterior -- the place is an ash covered shambles, much of which still SMOLDERS.

NOKAMA

Norik?

The Toa SCOUR the space as best they can, given the canopy of smoke. Nuju's eye CYCLES.

NUJU
I can't see anything.

ONEWA
What should we do?

Nokama LOOKS to Matau. He SHAKES his head -- he's got no answer for her.

NOKAMA
I wish Vakama was here.

NORIK (O.S.)
He was.

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

that bears the telltale script the Rahaga were translating. Its message is lost forever, turned to dust. Whenua DIGS into the flaming debris with his Toa Tool drill, and it's in this way that

NORIK

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

NORIK
(coughing, reiterates)
He was.

Off the Toa's conflicted REACTIONS, we --

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM GATE- SAME

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

VAKAMA

in good light, his form and posture exceedingly animalistic as he POUNDS on the Great Coliseum's main gate with dragging knuckles. There's a large and clunky object by his side, it covered with a veil spun from Visorak webbing.

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

SIDORAK (O.S.)
You must be confused, Toa. We do not welcome your kind here -- we exterminate it.

VAKAMA

It's you that's confused,
Sidorak. I am no simple Toa.

A gleaming oculus TELESCOPES from the gate, STUDIES Vakama.

SIDORAK (O.S.)

Hordika.

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

SIDORAK (O.S.)

Why have you come here?

VAKAMA

To join you.

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

VAKAMA

And to present you with proof of
my worth.

Vakama YANKS the sheathe of webbing OFF the unknown object,
REVEALS a yoke to which the five missing

RAHAGA

are bound and dangle beneath. Sidorak's laughter STOPS.

SIDORAK (OPTIONAL)

Let's talk.

A moment later and the coliseum's heavy gates groan OPEN.
Vakama BEGINS inside.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

The Toa are gathered outside what remains of the Great Temple. A recovering Norik has just finished recounting Vakama's actions, to which they REACT. Nokama does so strongly:

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 Norik:

NORIK

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

MATAU

But...?

NORIK

He's changed. Just as you all will, if we do not find Keetongu.

(then, darker)

I fear Vakama has given himself completely to the beast that lurks within us all.

Onewa does a TAKE, tries to peer inside his armor.

ONEWA

Beast? I'm pretty sure it's just me in here...

NORIK

The ancient. The primal. The parts of ourselves we like to think progress has made us forget.

(then, with weight)

Hordika is its name.

WHENUA

I don't think I want to be Hordika.

NORIK

It's not all bad, Whenua -- not if you don't allow it to be. Being Hordika grants you certain gifts, abilities you would have never thought possible before.

Norik broadens his argument, puts to the rest:

NORIK

You must all get them. The urges...

Matau and Nokama exchange a LOOK -- busted. Quickly:

NOKAMA

(faux naive)

Assuming you're right... we must find Keetongu and rescue the Matoran before the beast overcomes us, too.

NORIK

Yes.

(then, darker)

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

MATAU

Well, we have to try. We owe the fire-spitter that much.

(then, reluctantly admits)

I was kind of hard on him...

The others CONCUR, each guilty in their own way about driving their leader from the group.

NORIK

And if you can't help him?

MATAU

(darkly)

You leave that to me.

A beat of uncomfortable silence after that. Then:

NUJU

So, back to searching.

NORIK

Not exactly.

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

MATAU

Quick-speak.

NORIK

We were able to translate much of the inscription before Vakama's attack.

(then, recites)

"Follow falling tears to Ko Metru, until they reach the sky."

The Toa LOOK to the desecrated

GREAT TEMPLE

where a steady stream of protodermis rolls off its carved face -- makeshift teardrops. It is clearly a sign, marks their way.

NORIK

It is there we will find Keetongu.

MATAU
 (skeptical)
 Protodermis that runs upward?

Onewa is more optimistic:

ONEWA
 It's not much of a plan...
 (then, the bright side)
 But it is one.

Norik CLAPS Onewa on the shoulder, appreciating his determined spirit. They begin OFF together. After a moment, the others FOLLOW, Matau the last to do so.

INT. / EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

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

IRUINI
 Vakama...

CAMERA PULLS BACK: the Rahaga remain bound fast in their yoke, are now webbed to the facing of the coliseum's observation deck, displayed as a trophy for all to see. Vakama stands in a position of dominance over them, responds:

VAKAMA
 That name means nothing to me.

NUUKOR
 It did once. It can again...

Vakama CONSIDERS that. But it's not him that replies:

ROODAKA (O.S.)
 That's true. It can.

We WIDEN to watch Roodaka ENTER the scene, Darth Vader-like.

ROODAKA
If you want to be weak again.

VAKAMA
Never.

ROODAKA
 (to Rahaga)
 Save your strength. Bait is best
 when it squirms.

Roodaka places a hand ON Vakama, lets it linger there.

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

She ENTERS the coliseum, bound for its throne room with:

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

Not knowing what that means, Vakama FOLLOWS.

EXT. WEB BRIDGE - SAME

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

ONEWA
 What was that?

A beat and we hear the same SOUND that so freaked Onewa --
 a layered scuttling noise. Coming CLOSER.

MATAU
 I'll give you one guess -- as
 long as it's Visorak.
 (then)
Beat-feet!!!

Onewa takes a STEP towards a massive and intricately spun

WEB BRIDGE

that spans and connects two metrus. BENEATH: the swiftly
 flowing canal of protodermis that marks their path. Onewa
 STOPS in his tracks, asks:

ONEWA
 You think it'll hold?

MATAU
 I don't know.

Matau JABS a finger back at the SOUND of approaching
 Visorak.

MATAU
 But I'd rather take my chances
 with it than them.

ONEWA
 Good point.

AHEAD: the others have nearly completed their cross. Nokama
 TURNS back, calls to the lagging pair:

NOKAMA
Matau. Onewa. Hurry!

Onewa puts a foot ON the bridge -- the webbing snaps, it not built to take the weight of so many Toa. Nuju, Whenua, Nokama, and Norik are

LAUNCHED

into the air, the bridge effectively a very large slingshot. The Toa manage to SCRAMBLE up the other side, work together to MAKE solid ground. The perceptive sort, Nuju notices:

NUJU
Where's Norik?

NORIK (O.S.)
Up here...

The Toa LOOK up to where

NORIK

is suspended above the canal, ensnared in a bit of the bridge's splayed webbing.

NORIK
This is not entirely pleasant.

WHENUA
Yeah. Been there, done that.

Nokama LOOKS across the expanse, to where Onewa and Matau are stranded with Visorak rapidly approaching. Uncertainty and fear register on her mask -- what are they going to do...?

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - 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. He YANKS his hand back as if it's a hot stove.

ROODAKA
Well? What did you see...?

Vakama THINKS on that, but just before he answers:

SIDORAK (O.S.)
(re: throne)
You can look, Vakama, but don't
touch.

Sidorak ENTERS, flanked by two hulking VISORAK ROYAL GUARD and Kollorak, PLOPS onto his all-important seat of power.

[NOTE: the Royal Guard, Sidorak's personal protection, are black Visorak and slightly nastier than the other shades.]

SIDORAK
I wanted to thank you personally.
Because of you, the Rahaga will
be put where they belong -- in a
cage.

SIDORAK (ALTERNATE)
I wanted to thank you personally.
Because of you, the Rahaga will
meet a fitting end.
(then)
Just as soon as I think of one.

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

SIDORAK
(intrigued)
Is that so...?

ROODAKA
It is, my king.
(then, a presentation)
Vakama is my gift to you. A
fitting master for your horde.

Kollorak REACTS -- he doesn't like the sound of this.

SIDORAK
Hordika or not, there's only one
of him --

ROODAKA
Which is why the other Toa are on
their way here. With Vakama
leading your horde, they will be
captured and trained just like
him.

(then)
(MORE)

ROODAKA(cont'd)

Will all six be enough to please
you?

Sidorak PONDERES that. It will.

SIDORAK

A fine offer, Roodaka.

ROODAKA

Consider it an engagement gift.

ROODAKA (ALTERNATE)

And if you accept it, consider it
an engagement gift.

A long moment as the Visorak king DELIBERATES. Then:

SIDORAK

Well, then...

Roodaka REACTS -- anticipating the arrival of her
Machiavellian endgame. It comes as Sidorak SHIFTS his
attention to, finishes to Vakama:

SIDORAK

We should introduce you to the
horde.

EXT. WEB BRIDGE - SAME

Matau LOOPS multiple strands of webbing around some piece
of the environment, is building a contraption. As he does:

MATAU

C'mon.

ONEWA

You're not thinking what I think
you're thinking...

Matau PULLS the scavenged webbing taught, TESTS its
strength. He steps into the center of the makeshift device,
backs up against the resistance of the webbing, STRETCHES
it out.

ONEWA

Yes you are.

We see that Matau's handiwork has created a rudimentary if
effective

SLINGSHOT

of sorts, he and Onewa its intended ammunition. Onewa JOINS
Matau in the firing position with:

ONEWA
I knew there was a reason I
always liked you.

Working together, they ELONGATE the webbing to its breaking point. Just before firing:

MATAU
Tight-hold.

Onewa GRABS onto Matau, and in the next moment the two are
SHOT

across the abyss. BEHIND THEM: the Visorak horde BURSTS from the surrounding area, all teeth and claws, narrowly MISS our rapidly-moving heroes. As they 'fly':

ONEWA
Going our way?

Onewa SNATCHES Norik from the tangle of webbing as he passes. The Rahaga --

NORIK
<LAUGHS>

-- as they CONTINUE, loving every second of the ride.

MATAU
We did it. We're going to make
it!

But Matau's wrong -- their momentum is not sufficient to cross the entire chasm and they come up short, FALL towards the water below.

MATAU
Or not.

Matau, Onewa, and Norik SPLASH into the canal. ABOVE: Nokama, Whenua, and Nuju have just watched this all, deal with its implications.

WHENUA
Uh, what do we do now?

NOKAMA
Seeing as Norik is the one that
knows the way to Keetongu...
(then, happily)
...we swim!

Nokama DIVES gracefully into the canal. Her entrance barely disturbs its surface. ABOVE: Whenua and Nuju share a LOOK.

WHENUA

Oh, brother.

They JUMP. Whenua ends the scene with a painful BELLYFLOP.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - TUNNEL - SAME

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

SIDORAK

You know, Vakama, you remind me a bit of myself at your age...

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 the floor. We see that it's

TRUNDLE

hard at work at his new job. The sight of him makes Sidorak's last especially ironic.

SIDORAK

My horde is an obedient one. They will do anything you command.

(then, a caveat)

Unless I command differently, of course.

VAKAMA

Of course.

Sidorak SLAPS Vakama on the back, a bit too hard.

SIDORAK

Good. Now, then...

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

--

INT./EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

-- and EMERGE in brilliant sunshine. Roodaka WAITS for them upon the observation deck that tops the highest tier of the coliseum, allows for an unimpeded view of both the structure and the city. BELOW/INSIDE THE COLISEUM: the entire

VISORAK HORDE

is ordered in color-coded columns. A massive force.

SIDORAK
...meet the troops!

At the sight of Vakama, every Visorak in the horde

BOWS

low in unison. Vakama REACTS -- he likes the power trip.

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

Vakama CONSIDERS that, issues a bestial SOUND instead:

VAKAMA
<ROARS>

The horde RISES to its collective feet, responds in kind:

VISORAK HORDE
<ROARS>

INT. AQUACHUTE - SAME

The Toa and Norik --

TOA AND NORIK
<SCREAM>

-- as they whiz PAST camera, in the grasp of an aquachute's raging current. They're being pushed at great speed through the subterranean tunnel, a situation only Nokama is comfortable with given her aquatic abilities -- until the water/protodermis suddenly BECOMES ice.

MATAU
Cold. Cold. Cold.

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

EXT. KO METRU - SAME

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

NOKAMA
Where are we?

NUJU
Home.

NUJU (ALTERNATE)
My home.

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

ONEWA
Good. Then you know where we are?

Nuju SURVEYS the majestic

ARCTIC LANDSCAPE

is surprised to have to answer:

NUJU
(confused)
No.

WHENUA
Always watching the stars...
(then)
But the earth has its secrets,
too.

Norik's head POPS out of the canopy of snow, imparts wisdom:

NORIK
Keetongu has never been found,
friends. It follows that where he
lives hasn't, either.

MATAU (O.S.)
I don't believe it...

The group TURNS to where Matau has pulled himself free of the snowdrift. He POINTS into the distance with:

MATAU
It does sky-touch.

MATAU (ALTERNATE)
The 'dermis. It does sky-touch.

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

stabs at the sky. The formation is the end result of the ruptured aquachute, where its water/protodermis has flowed to and collected over time, frozen to become a crystalline mountain.

Norik MAKES for the mountain of ice, giddy at being so close to Keetongu.

NORIK
(excited, urgent)
Come.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - DUSK

The Visorak horde is gearing up for combat, DRILL in the center of the cavernous coliseum. ABOVE THE SCENE: Vakama WATCHES over their preparations.

ROODAKA (O.S.)
Is it everything I promised you?

Roodaka EMERGES from inside the coliseum, JOINS Vakama.

VAKAMA
We'll soon find out.

ROODAKA
Yes, a night of great consequence falls.
(then, pointedly)
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. As he does:

SIDORAK
How is my horde, Vakama?

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

SIDORAK
Including Toa?

VAKAMA
Especially Toa.

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

SIDORAK
 Well, then... what now?

VAKAMA
 The hardest part of all...

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
 The hardest part...

Vakama CLIMBS to the observation deck, LOOKS out over the city. Finishes from there:

VAKAMA
 We wait.

EXT. ICEBERG SUMMIT - SAME

Matau REACHES the peak, SURVEYS the off frame scene.

MATAU
 Hurry up, you guys. It's
 amazing...

The others CREST and JOIN Matau. CUT TO REVEAL: there's
 NOTHING

atop the iceberg, just frozen and barren space.

MATAU
Not.

Norik TAKES point of the group with:

NORIK
 Don't be so quick to judge,
 Matau.

The Rahaga addresses the harsh and empty landscape formally:

NORIK
 We are sorry to disturb your
 rest, noble one, but the duty of
 these Toa requires they ask for
 your help...

For a long moment, nothing happens. Matua is unimpressed:

MATAU
 Can I be judgemental now --

But before Matau can finish the sarcastic sentence, the scene begins to SHAKE. As it does:

NORIK

Yes.

KEETONGU'S POV: camera RISES out of the ice, concludes its ascent high ABOVE the stumbling Toa. Onewa POINTS up at our lofty perspective with:

ONEWA

Whoa!

We see

KEETONGU

in close-up for the first time. His large and lone eye DILATES as he takes in his small visitors, reiterates one of Norik's words in a rough but reverent voice:

KEETONGU

Toa.

Norik CONSIDERS the creature, just drinks its reality in. He says the name with a mixture of awe and warmth:

NORIK

Keetongu.

SILENCE falls over the scene, the two parties sizing each other up. Matau breaks it awkwardly:

MATAU

So, big guy, about that favor...

TIME CUT TO:

INT. KEETONGU'S LAIR - MOMENTS LATER

Norik, the Toa, and Keetongu sit in a circle inside the creature's underground lair. We join their conversation in progress:

[NOTE: Keetongu's back could be to camera, or he could be in shadow should we want to save the reveal of his scale for the coliseum battle.]

NOKAMA

(midstream)

-- all of which is why we came here, and why we need your assistance. Will you help us get Vakama back?

Keetongu GRUNTS an inarticulate but audible:

KEETONGU

No.

ONEWA

(quickly)

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

Whenua's huge hand CLAMPS onto Onewa's shoulder, keeps him
still. Keetongu elaborates in a series of strange SOUNDS
that Norik translates:

KEETONGU

<VOICE FX>

NORIK

Keetongu cannot start a battle on
your behalf...

The Toa REACT -- pure dejection. Until:

NORIK

...but he can aid those loyal to
the three virtues. Those like
Toa.

(then)

In fact, doing so is his sworn
duty.

The Toa REACT again -- thrilled this time.

MATAU

So, he'll change us back into our
good-looking, Toa-hero selves?

Keetongu GRUNTS again:

KEETONGU

No.

Again, the Toas' celebration DIES. Whenua expresses the
sentiment of the group, it unintentionally comical given
his voice and cadence:

WHENUA

I'm confused...

Keetongu VOCALIZES clarification. Off it:

KEETONGU

<VOICE FX>

NORIK

Of course.

NOKAMA

What is it?

Norik translates/explains:

NORIK
 Keetongu sees with one eye what
 we have not with all of ours.
 (then, the point)
 If you are to save Vakama, you
 must use your new forms and
 abilities, not be rid of them.

A moment as that profound analysis sinks in. It doesn't sit well with Matau:

MATAU
 So we've come all this way...
 (then, escalating)
 ...just to find out we didn't
 have to come all this way!

Another string of SOUNDS from Keetongu. Laughter.

NORIK
 He thinks it's funny, too.

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

Keetongu VOCALIZES again. Norik matches his whimsical tone:

KEETONGU
 <VOICE FX>

NORIK
 But your story and devotion to
 your friend has touched Keetongu.
 (then, a caveat)
 He says it probably helps that
 it's the first he's heard since
 the time before time...

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

NORIK
 ...but just the same. He finds
 your quest worthwhile.

Keetongu makes a final GRUNT. Norik is so floored by that he forgets to translate. Until:

KEETONGU
 <VOICE FX>

MATAU
And...?

NORIK
 And he would like to offer us his
 help.

The Toa REJOICE. As this subsides, Nokama

EXTENDS

her fist into space, provides the first element of the Toa
 greeting. One-by-one, the others ADD theirs, the appendages
 in most instances strange and transformed. Nokama INDICATES
 that Norik should take part, and the Rahaga DOES so with:

NORIK
 I am honored.

NORIK (ALTERNATE)
 I would be honored.

The end result is an irregular

CIRCLE

with a noticeable GAP. Matau fills it:

MATAU
 You too, big guy.

Touched by the inclusion, Keetongu uses his pinky to
 COMPLETE the circuit.

INT./EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - NIGHT

Vakama SHARPENS his former Toa Tool to a wicked EDGE. He's
 sick of all the waiting, is ready to get this thing on.

SFX
 <BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.>

The thunderous sound draws CLOSER -- something very large
 is coming towards the coliseum. Sidorak and Roodaka ARRIVE.

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

Vakama just STARES into the thick veil of mist that rings
 the coliseum and obscures its surroundings, doesn't answer.

ROODAKA
 Where are they...?

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

Roodaka's question is answered as the coliseum gates are
BREACHED

suddenly, knocked clean off their massive hinges. The metal
gates SKID into the vanquished coliseum, SPARKING all the
way, a couple of Visorak sentries along for the ride as
well. A moment later and the

TOA

ENTER the stadium, stand boldly at its center. 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.

MATAU

I didn't hear him say that...

Roodaka LOOKS to Vakama, wills his response. He doesn't
disappoint her:

VAKAMA

Roodaka's right.
(then, threatening)
You've made a mistake coming
here...

ONEWA

Not if it's our only chance to
save you.

VAKAMA

The only ones you can save now
are yourselves.
(then, an order)
Bow down and pledge your
allegiance to me --

Sidorak COUGHS for effect. Vakama amends ambiguously:

VAKAMA
-- to the Visorak.

WHENUA
And if we don't?

Vakama BRANDISHES his freshly-sharpened Toa Tool.

VAKAMA
You will.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
You will.
(then, menacing)
One way or another.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
I'll make you.

Nokama SCANS the masks of her fellow Toa -- all NOD encouragement. Bolstered by it, she bravely DRAWS her own Toa Tool with:

NOKAMA
I don't think so.

The other Toa DO the same, present a unified front.

MATAU
Yeah. You and what army?

As his answer, Vakama TOSSES his Toa Tool off the elevated observation deck. It FALLS through the air, finally

BURIES

in the coliseum floor in front of the Toa. The action is a signal -- off it, the

VISORAK HORDE

EMERGES from the coliseum's various corridors, FILLS the massive stadium to capacity. Each ACTIVATES its spinner disc, brings their projectile to bear on the SURROUNDED Toa.

MATAU
Oh. Right. That one.

Nokama ACTIVATES her own spinner. Prompts the others:

NOKAMA
Ready.

NOKAMA (ALTERNATE)
 As we discussed.
 (then)
 Ready.

The others FOLLOW her lead, ACTIVATE theirs.

WHENUA
 You really think this is gonna
 work...?

Nokama doesn't answer, issues the next:

NOKAMA
 Aim.

The Toa DO -- but not at the APPROACHING Visorak. They MOVE their spinner sights OFF the horde, FIX them on the uppermost levels of the coliseum.

MATAU
 Ask me again in a minute...

The Visorak spinner discs WHIR incredibly fast, have reached launching speed. The result is a disconcerting, ambient HUM.

ONEWA
 Uh, Nokama...?

Nokama STUDIES the Visorak intently, waiting for the optimum moment. But just before it arrives:

ROODAKA
Fire.

The usurped order issued, Roodaka FLIPS a switch on the observation deck, makes it RISE around its central spire as the whole of the Visorak horde DOES her bidding. Much to Matau's chagrin:

MATAU
 What she said!!!

Off Matau's panicked prompt, the Toa

LAUNCH

their own spinners. As the discs TRAVEL, we see that a thin but strong strand of Visorak webbing connects the projectiles to each Toa. The organic lines SING taught, and the Toa take resourceful if graceless

FLIGHT

UP and OVER the Visorak horde.

In the next moment, the horde's volley of incoming ARRIVES and DECIMATES the space so recently vacated by the Toa. Onewa can't help but rub it in even as he STREAKS through the air:

ONEWA
(over his shoulder)
Suckers!

Onewa SLAMS into the side of the coliseum.

Nokama, Whenua, and Nuju are more focused -- they GRAB their spinners, RIDE them like skateboards, use the discs to GRIND the many Visorak weblines that crisscross and lead inside the coliseum. It's in this way they ENTER the massive structure.

Except for Matau, who continues UPWARD, towards --

INT./EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

-- the observation deck, which continues its ASCENT.

SFX
<BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.>

ROODAKA
Still that sound...

Roodaka STOPS the deck's rise, LOOKS in the direction of the sound, SEES

KEETONGU

scaling the outside of the spire. He's King-Konging it up the coliseum's superstructure, has made it quite a way as a result of the Toas' diversion.

SIDORAK
What is that?

VAKAMA
I guess it's Keetongu.

SIDORAK
But Keetongu doesn't exist!

Vakama MEETS Sidorak's gaze, HOLDS it a long moment. Responds flatly:

VAKAMA
I guess you were wrong about that.

Vakama SHIFTS his attention to Roodaka, speaks to her:

VAKAMA
I'll take care of him.

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

ROODAKA
No, Vakama. It is not your place.

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

ROODAKA
It is that of a king.

Put on the spot, Sidorak tries to play the part:

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

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

SIDORAK
...he soon will be.

They begin TOWARDS the deck's exit. Vakama challenges:

VAKAMA
Where is my place?

Roodaka answers as she and Sidorak continue AWAY:

ROODAKA
The future, Vakama. The near
future. As I told you before...
(then, loaded)
...be ready.

Sidorak and Roodaka EXIT. Vakama sulks to the edge of the elevated observation deck with:

VAKAMA
I wish it would hurry up and get
here...

Matau's RISING voice grants Vakama's wish:

MATAU (O.S.)
It is!

Matau CUTS free of the weblines that connect him to his spinner disc and in the same motion

KICKS

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

MATAU

It's why we came here, Vakama.
Why we were made Toa in the first
place. To protect the Matoran.

Vakama GETS to his feet, SNARLS. None of that rings a bell.

MATAU

(uncertain)

You remember, don't you...?

Vakama LEAPS towards Matau rather than answer, all animal.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

Keetongu continues to CLIMB the coliseum's exterior --
until a BOLT of dark energy

HITS

him, knocks Keetongu OFF the structure. It's in this way

SIDORAK AND ROODAKA

JOIN the climactic battle, the latter's fingers CRACKLING
with the stuff of the powerful blast.

SIDORAK

On your feet... thing.

Still hurting from Roodaka's blast, Keetongu somehow finds
the will to STAND.

ROODAKA

How impressively pathetic.

(then)

Come.

Keetongu ROARS as he ENGAGES Roodaka and Sidorak in a fight
he has no chance of winning.

INT./EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME

Vakama BONKS Matau square in the mask, sends him REELING.

MATAU

I said I wanted to talk, Vakama,
not punch!

VAKAMA

I don't take orders from you -- I
give them.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
I give the orders -- you obey
them.

MATAU
Jeez. What's gotten into you?

Vakama GROWLS as he CLOSES the gap that separates the two
Toa. Off the sound:

MATAU
You know, outside the obvious.

VAKAMA
The truth.

VAKAMA (ALTERNATE)
Power.

Vakama HITS Matau again, the force of the blow sending him
OVER the edge of the observation deck. Matau GRABS its
framework at the last second, DANGLES from it ABOVE --

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

-- where Sidorak and Roodaka stand OVER a beaten Keetongu,
the creature's metal skin SMOKING from the power of
Roodaka's blasts. Keetongu STRUGGLES to rise, can't.

SIDORAK
The final blow is yours, my queen-
to-be.

ROODAKA
Like all the others?

Sidorak TURNS toward her challenge, FINDS

ROODAKA

walking AWAY, her back to him.

SIDORAK
Where are you going?
(then, desperate)
Finish him!

ROODAKA
You're the great king, Sidorak...
(then, pointed)
You do it.

Keetongu finally MAKES his feet, battered but unbeaten. And
mad.

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

ROODAKA
 I know.

Roodaka ENTERS the coliseum, STRANDS Sidorak. The mighty Visorak king manages only a weak and heartbroken:

SIDORAK
 Roodaka...

Keetongu ATTACKS. We CUT just before the blow hits --

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

-- 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 high above, where

VAKAMA

stands seemingly triumphant over Matau. Finishes:

ROODAKA
 ...long live the king.

INT./EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - 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 lately, 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 send Matau to his doom.

MATAU

Wait!

Vakama keeps his hand COCKED even as he allows:

VAKAMA

Not for long.

Matau seizes the opening:

MATAU

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

Vakama REACTS -- he tries to hide it, but Matau is getting to him. Matau REFERENCES their appearance, continues:

MATAU

We're family, Vakama. Things change... but you'll always be my brother. 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. This thing is coming to a head imminently, one way or another.

MATAU

I guess I just needed you to know that.

(then, challenges)

(MORE)

MATAU(cont'd)

And if there's any of the Vakama
I know left inside you, he'll
know what to do with it.

Vakama SEES what Matau is building to, doesn't know how to
feel about it. Issues a conflicted:

VAKAMA

Matau! What are you --

Matau RELEASES his hold on the observation deck and

FALLS

towards the diamond hard coliseum floor far below. Vakama
REACTS -- he has but a moment to decide what to do...

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

The Toa (less Matau and Vakama) are moving at top speed
through the tangle of corridors that is the innards of the
Great Coliseum, are closing in on the Matoran vault.

NUJU

We're almost there.

Nuju's eye CYCLES as it surveys the path ahead.

NUJU

The Matoran are just beyond.

Bolstered by that, the Toa BURST into the next chamber
with:

WHENUA

We made it!

What WAITS there DAMPENS their spirits immediately -- the
whole of the imposing

VISORAK ROYAL GUARD

protect the Matoran vault. Off their intimidating sight:

ONEWA

And that's a good thing...?

Before Onewa gets an answer, the Visorak ATTACK --

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

-- and knock the Toa THROUGH the coliseum wall and into the
center of the stadium, right back to where they started
from. The Toa LAND in a heap of intertwined limbs and
debris.

WHENUA
 (dazed)
 Weren't we just here...?

ABOVE: Visorak of every hue SWARM from all areas of the coliseum TOWARDS the Toa, push the attack. Seeing this:

NOKAMA
 On your feet. Now.

The Toa and assorted Visorak ENGAGE. It has all the makings of a last stand for our heroes...

EXT. MID-AIR - SAME

Matau PLUMMETS towards the center of the coliseum and the final battle taking place there.

MATAU
 And to think -- I came here to
save him...

MATAU (ALTERNATE)
 What a mess.
 (then)
 I was stupid to think I could
 save Vakama...

VAKAMA (O.S.)
 You did, Matau.

Matau ROLLS on his back to FIND

VAKAMA

streaking towards him, in heroic free-fall.

MATAU
 Vakama?

VAKAMA
 Yes.

Vakama GRABS Matau, the two dropping in tandem now.

VAKAMA
 (clarifies)
 The one you know.

Matau BRIGHTENS, is his old self again in spite of his outward appearance.

MATAU
 Well, feel free to return the
 favor, brother. There's no
 shortage of Toa need-savin'!

Vakama breaks his self-imposed moratorium with a sly SMILE:

VAKAMA

Yeah. I've got a plan for that.

MATAU

Great.

(then)

But do you have a plan to make us...

Before Matau can finish, the two Toa EASE to a stop. CAMERA PULLS BACK: we see Vakama has a strand of Visorak webbing tied to his ankle, a makeshift bungee cord. The strand is stretched maximally, about to rebound...

Matau REACTS -- happy they've stopped, but then realizes what's coming.

The webbing REBOUNDS Vakama and Matau back toward the observation deck at impossible speed. Matau finishes his hanging sentence as they go, it no longer a question:

MATAU

...stop!

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - UPPER TIERS - SAME

The five captive Rahaga WORK to no avail against the webbing that binds them.

BOMONGA

It's no use.

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

NORIK

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

KUALUS

Norik!

IRUINI

I knew you'd come for us.

LAHKA

What took you so long?

Norik CUTS at their bonds with the tip of his staff.

NORIK
Climbing isn't what it used to
be. I'm not exactly Toa, you
know.

BOMONGA
(leading)
Not exactly...

Norik FREES his fellow Rahaga.

NORIK
Now, then. Let's go help those
that are.

The Rahaga move OFF together to do just that.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

The Toa WILT under the intense pressure of the Visorak
horde.

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

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

Norik and the Rahaga

ZIPLINE/RAPPEL

from the upper tiers of the coliseum and ENTER the fray.

LAHKA
We're small, but we can fight!

ONEWA
You're gonna have to...

The Rahaga JOIN the Toa, aid in their struggle -- but it's
not enough, the battle's outcome inevitable. Nokama notices
this even as she and Norik PARRY back-to-back:

NOKAMA
Norik, even with your help...

NORIK
I know, noble Nokama. And 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 has assumed command of the Royal Guard, which FLANKS her to menacing effect.

ROODAKA
 (to Toa)
 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:

ROODAKA
 Earth. Stone. Ice. Water. Fire
 already belongs to me...
 (then)
 Wait -- one's missing.

As if on cue, Matau SKIDS into the scene on his back.

MATAU
 (meekly)
 Yeah. That would be me.

MATAU (ALTERNATE)
 (meekly)
 Yeah. Air here.

Vakama JOINS Roodaka, having just tossed Matau.

ROODAKA
 Thank you, Vakama.
 (then, to Toa)
 Now, then. About those powers...

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

MATAU
 You want them so bad...

The others follow his lead, ACTIVATE theirs.

MATAU
 ...take them!

The Toa

FIRE

their spinner discs in unison. They STRIKE Roodaka, STAGGER her. 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, reveals the catch:

ROODAKA
...so long as they are not united.

Roodaka SUMMONS her own dark energy.

ROODAKA
And as Vakama stands with me --

VAKAMA (O.S.)
Actually...

Roodaka LOOKS to

VAKAMA

as he ACTIVATES his decisive 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 INDICATES the countless Visorak that SURROUND the scene.

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

Vakama's answer is sure of itself and immediate:

VAKAMA

I have.

(then)

And because you convinced Sidorak
to have them obey me...

Vakama SHIFTS his attention, speaks to the horde:

VAKAMA

Get out of here, all of you.

You're free.

(then, lighthearted)

That's an order.

The Visorak DISPERSE immediately. As they go:

KOLLORAK

<JOYFUL LAUGHTER>

ROODAKA

Traitors!!!

The happy exodus leaves the coliseum eerily EMPTY.

VAKAMA

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

ROODAKA

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

VAKAMA

From now on, I lead those that
choose to follow. That's the
difference between being a leader
and a tyrant like you.

Vakama WINKS at Matau.

VAKAMA

A certain Toa taught me that.

(then)

It's a duty I won't fail again...

Vakama MAKES to fire his spinner disc with:

VAKAMA

...starting now!

In the instant before he acts, Roodaka OPENS a panel on her
armor to REVEAL the

PROTODERMIS SHARD / MAKUTA STONE / HEARTSTONE

we introduced in the prologue. Norik SEES this, screams in
SLOW MOTION:

NORIK
No, Vakama! Don't!

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

FIRES

his spinner. Its fiery energy COMBINES with that from the other Toa on IMPACT, creates brilliant LIGHT.

When the fireworks subside, Roodaka is GONE. After a beat:

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

VAKAMA
Her heartstone.

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

VAKAMA
And set Makuta free.

Norik REACTS -- Vakama does know. Vakama CONSIDERS his fellow

TOA

his course of action confirmed by their sight.

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

Norik LAUGHS. It SPREADS to the others, even:

KEETONGU (O.S.)
<PAINED LAUGHTER>

The others TURN to where a battered

KEETONGU

has somehow managed to climb inside the coliseum. Spent from the effort, he COLLAPSES.

NOKAMA
Keetongu!

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

VAKAMA

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

Keetongu VOCALIZES, Norik translates:

KEETONGU

<VOICE FX>

NORIK

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

VAKAMA

(loaded)

There's a promise we must be our
old selves to keep.

Keetongu GRUNTS his critical decision in broken English:

KEETONGU

Then so will you be.

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, makes the scene

WHITE OUT.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - MATORAN VAULT - SAME

The white of the screen BECOMES that of an industrial door,
which OPENS. The

TOA METRU

stand six deep behind it, their frames once again refined
and familiar as they CONSIDER the multitude of

MATORAN CYLINDERS

that clutter the space. Vakama speaks to their slumbering
occupants:

VAKAMA

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

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - DAWN

A striking

BLIMP

of sorts overlooks the city. The huge vessel is actually a portion of the coliseum's superstructure, it cobbled with the wealth of abandoned tech and material that has become Metru Nui. The end result is a steampunk conveyance somewhere between antique and cutting-edge.

The Toa and Rahaga (less Norik and Vakama) CARRY Matoran cannisters from inside the coliseum, LOAD them aboard the strange craft. Their efforts pale in comparison to those of

KEETONGU

who hefts Matoran by the dozen. As they work:

MATAU

Nice ship.

ONEWA

Just don't crash it this time.

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

VAKAMA

I guess this is it, then.

NORIK

No, Vakama -- this is just different beginnings.

VAKAMA

Of what?

Norik SMILES as he answers:

NORIK

I wouldn't dream of spoiling it for you.

VAKAMA

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

NORIK

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

VAKAMA

I don't understand.

NORIK

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 new friends, makes play of work.

VAKAMA

Yes, he is quite a sight.

NORIK

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

It takes a moment, but Vakama GETS it:

VAKAMA

The Great Rescue.

Norik NODS, speaks introspectively:

NORIK

It's funny -- you spend your whole life chasing something only to find when you finally catch it that the pursuit was what's important. That it's changed you. Forever...

(then)

And there I go again, speaking in riddles.

VAKAMA

It's okay -- I understand you perfectly.

(then)

I guess I've changed, too.

Norik places a hand ON Vakama's shoulder, gets to it:

NORIK

And in doing so freed us Rahaga to simply be what we are, knowing that the new world and its Matoran are in most capable hands. Which means the last time I will ever use this gesture...

Norik OFFERS Vakama his fist in the Toa greeting.

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

VAKAMA
Me too.

Vakama TAPS the Rahaga's fist with his own.

EXT. CLEAR BLUE SKY - LATER

The Toa's strange ship FLOATS over the city 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 city, FINDS

THE RAHAGA AND KEETONGU

atop the coliseum there. The unlikely group WAVES.

VAKAMA
(softly)
Some things.

Vakama WAVES back. Upon receipt of the gesture, the Rahaga and Keetongu ENTER the coliseum, begin the rest of their lives.

MATAU (O.S.)
Next stop, Mata Nui!

Matau PILOTS the craft via some elaborate system. The Toa GATHER 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!

He's right -- the Makuta's protodermis prison from LEGENDS OF METRU NUI is

EMPTY

just 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.

VAKAMA
Because that's what Toa do.

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

WHITE OUT.

[NOTE: the following epilogue will play over a montage from LEGENDS OF METRU NUI which shows that the Toa returned to Mata Nui safely and there successfully revived the Matoran. It is fluid in the same manner as the prologue.]

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)
I was right. Makuta would follow us to the new world, and threaten to cast it and all that came to call it home into everlasting shadow.

(then)
But I was also right about us -- we Toa would band together in the face of Makuta's evil, and once again do heroic battle for the very fate of the Bionicle Universe!

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK: Turaga Vakama concludes our tale, his voice brimming with mirth and whimsy:

TURAGA VAKAMA (V.O.)
But that is another legend entirely.

THE END