

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 [NOTE: 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.

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 --
to return to Metru Nui and there
fulfill the legend of the Great
Rescue. To recover those Matoran
left behind, held in deepest sleep
by the dark power of the 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 legendary 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 and the strange heroes that 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 an 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 only 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 water, clearly in her element. Water rolls down her sleek figure as her CHYRON appears and fades.

NOKAMA

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

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 out of here?

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 Matoran?

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF LE METRU - NIGHT

The Toa STUMBLE over an uneven terrain, it rife with neglected growth. As they do, we see their Toa bodies are not cut out for this type of work, traversing such an unstable landscape.

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

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

(MORE)

MATAU (cont'd)
 (then)
 Whoa...

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

SKYLINE OF LE METRU / 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...

Vakama takes charge, directs the conversation:

VAKAMA
 Which means what?

WHENUA
 The Archive houses a specimen of each form of Rahi ever discovered --

A wet GROWL comes from somewhere within the city.

WHENUA
 At least, it used to.

VAKAMA
 And the webs?

WHENUA
 Visorak. Nasty creatures.

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

Wild things SWING and SCAMPER about the space, owning 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.

ONEWA

Or get pulverized. 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 few 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

Okay. 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 all right?

NUJU

Paralyzed by some sort of exotic bio-toxin... but otherwise unharmed.

MATAU

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

NOKAMA

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

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?

NOKAMA

We're about to find out...

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

CREATURES

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

ONEWA

Lemme guess -- Visorak?

WHENUA

Yes. In their language, 'the venomous destroyer of worlds.'

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 set within gnashing, pincer mandibles, and mounted on their backs are the poisonous projectile launchers that so effectively felled the Toa. Everything about the Visorak is virile, animal. Off their sight and Whenua's last:

MATAU

Hmm. Wonder where they came up with that?

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 TRUNDLE, who ENTERS the coliseum upon reaching it.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - MATORAN VAULT - SAME

Trundle ambles THROUGH a towering hallway lined with silver cannisters familiar to those that have seen LEGENDS OF METRU NUI or assembled a Bionicle.

The feel of the space is clinical, it lit with cold and even white light. Trundle EXITS the antiseptic vault --

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

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

THRONE

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

TRUNDLE
<AUDIO 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
Trundle. It's nothing important, I hope -- seeing as you're late.

TRUNDLE
<AUDIO FX>

SIDORAK
This had better be good...

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

TRUNDLE
<AUDIO FX>

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

SIDORAK
Toa?

Trundle NODS.

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

Sidorak EYEBALLS Trundle.

SIDORAK

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

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

TRUNDLE

<AUDIO 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 - THRONE ROOM - SAME

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

SIDORAK

Destroy them at once.

TRUNDLE

(cheerful affirmative)

<AUDIO FX>

Trundle 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

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 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 of a demise that will be remembered and spoken about for all time.
 (then, spins)
 For the sake of your legacy, of course.

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

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

Roodaka HISSES appeasement. Coos:

ROODAKA
 I have always loved your creativity.
 (then)
 Only be sure your plan allows some proof. For posterity's sake...

SIDORAK
 Proof?

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

ROODAKA
 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

FALLS

much to the amusement of its peers. Less so Whenua:

WHENUA

That's encouraging.

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, offers with fake discretion:

MATAU

I'm not even gonna tell you what he just said...

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 all as best I could. It obviously wasn't good enough. 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

Roodaka, Sidorak, and Trundle 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 she WATCHES intently, Roodaka TAKES Sidorak's hand, offers breathlessly:

ROODAKA

Brilliant.

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 premeditated 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. Onewa tries to follow Vakama's lead, formulate profound last words. Can't:

ONEWA

Uh... bye.

In rapid succession Onewa, Whenua, 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... 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 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

Careful. Careful with me!

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. 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 TAHKON, 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?

Tahkon 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 a Toa!

TAHKON
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 begins to MOVE through the sprawling space.

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

Matau heads INTO the depths of the scene --

EXT. RUINS OF GA METRU - STREAM - LATER

-- and ARRIVES at a weakly running stream, it the result of a burst water main. It's obvious Mutau, 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 stream's dirty water.

MATAU
This seems as miserable a spot as
any.

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

in the water's ruddy surface. 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...

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 -- but Matau is still and obviously 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. Together.

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. He steps AWAY with:

VAKAMA

I'm through making plans.

MATAU

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

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 toward 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 your old selves again...

The Toa WATCH as

TAHKON AND THE RAHAGA

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

TAHKON

...you will listen.

INT. SUNDIAL ROOM - SAME

Roodaka's gnarled finger TAPS at 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, great one. Sleep, and know that as you do...

CAMERA PULLS BACK: we see the Makuta Stone is embedded in the chest plate of Roodaka's armored form, functions as her heartstone. 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. There's something disconcerting about her obsidian self, it unique from all other beings in the Bionicle universe. Mystical.

ROODAKA

The Toa have returned -- as you said they would. Even now, their broken bodies are being brought to me so that I may drain them of the elemental powers they used to bind you, break the seal that keeps us apart.

She STROKES the protodermis' surface as she continues:

ROODAKA

(caustic)

And then there will be no need for these charades, for a king that would wash his hands of conflict instead of dirty them with it, for Toa and the weak-minded Matoran that call such pitiful curiosities heroes.

(then, oddly romantic)

The Great Spirit sleeps by your dark hand, and as he does we will carve a new world from the burning husk of this one, and rule it together forever...

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

ROODAKA

How long have you been here?

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

TRUNDLE

<VOICE FX>

ROODAKA

And what did you hear in that moment?

TRUNDLE

<VOICE FX>

ROODAKA

Exactly.
 (then)
 What is it?

It takes Trundle forever to get the lone syllable out:

TRUNDLE

<VOICE FX>

Whatever Trundle 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.

ROODAKA

What of the Toa?
 (then, realizes)
 And why do you speak of them as if
 they're alive?

Trundle doesn't make a peep, can't bring himself to say it.

ROODAKA

Speak.

That does it. He manages a meek:

TRUNDLE

<VOICE FX>

ROODAKA

Saved! But how?!

Another pathetic and monosyllabic:

TRUNDLE

<VOICE FX>

Roodaka REACTS to it -- she spits the word out:

ROODAKA

Rahaga.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - SAME

TAHKON

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

TAHKON

Keetongu.

The strange word is lost on the Toa.

MATAU

Gesundheit.

TAHKON

(ignores Matau)

If you are to be the Toa you once were, it is Keetongu you must seek.

NOKAMA

But... what are we now?

TAHKON

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

MATAU

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

TAHKON

I am 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.

MATAU

Right. And that means...?

TAHKON

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

MATAU

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

TAHKON

(flatly)

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

NOKAMA

Tahkon, can you take 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 most of our very long lives -- and there are those that doubt his existence entirely.

Nuju's cyclonic eye NARROWS as he asks:

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?
(then, to Vakama)
What do you say, molten-mask?

VAKAMA

is alone 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 using the Hordika powers
you so suddenly find yourself
gifted with? Powers you have no
idea how to use properly...

VAKAMA

I don't know.

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

TAHKON

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

Vakama KILLS the fire's light, EXITS the scene with:

VAKAMA

Either.

NOKAMA

Vakama!

TAHKON

Let me talk to him.

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

MATAU

What about the rest of us?

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

TAHKON

Prepare yourselves. You'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 massive, horned

CREATURE

SPRINGS from the debris 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

makes an animalistic show of strength. As he does, a spinner disc instinctively EMERGES from his anatomy, it a part of the Hordika metamorphosis. It

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, to great effect -- the imposing creature FLEES back into the ruins.

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. They're similar to the animal he's just encountered.

TAHKON

There's a bit of them in you.
(then, re: spinner disc)
Careful with that. It's a powerful tool.

Vakama RETRACTS his spinner back into his armor.

VAKAMA

Gray mask, I mean to find out.

TAHKON

All by yourself? That's not the plan you came here with...

Vakama REFERENCES himself, responds with a loaded:

VAKAMA
Things change.

Vakama starts AWAY, is stopped by:

TAHKON
And what of your friends?

Vakama TURNS back, the word angering him. Vents:

VAKAMA
Friends don't say the things they
did!
(then, bitterly)
They think being a leader is so
easy, they can lead themselves.

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

VAKAMA
And 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 truth, Vakama. If you
and your friends are to rescue the
Matoran, you must do so together.
(then, pointedly)
This is something that won't
change.

Vakama CONSIDERS that, then stalks OFF into the night.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF METRU NUI - SAME

The transformed Toa WAIT with the Rahaga for
Vakama's/Tahkon's return. The SOUND of steel on stone
indicates someone or thing APPROACHES.

NOKAMA
(hopefully)
Vakama?

Tahkon steps OUT into the light. 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 a lot on his mind. But I am confident that before this is over, he will again stand by your side.

WHENUA

Well, 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 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, ugly thing like that 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...

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
All right, then. Who?

TAHKON
Someone you know.

Tahkon says no more than that, begins OFF with:

TAHKON
Come.

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
Tahkon. I'll show them all. Then
maybe they'll listen to me for a
change...

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)
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 -- but a swarm of

BLUE VISORAK

EMERGE from the night and BLOCK his path.

VAKAMA

I don't suppose you guys came here
to talk...

The Visorak ACTIVATE their spinner discs, begin TOWARDS
Vakama.

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

The Toa and Rahaga REGARD something unseen. Matau's
unimpressed:

MATAU

This is your brilliant idea?

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

It could maybe have helped our old
Toa selves, but...

Matau CONSIDERS the unlikely

LOT

each strange and animalistic in their own way.

MATAU

...now?

NOKAMA

We'll never find a way to change
back, 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
hideous monster!

Tahkon pushes past Matau's outburst:

TAHKON

If you're quite done, we should go
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 EXPRESS silent agreement. In this moment, their fascination with their new forms is forgotten and each feels guilty about being distracted from their duty. Tahkon lets them off the hook gently:

TAHKON

I understand. More than you could
know.

(then)

Our work here will not go
unnoticed. We will be as quick as
we can, but I must ask that you buy
us the time it takes at all costs.

Nokama NODS.

NOKAMA

Consider it done.

She begins OFF, her brothers JOINING her. All except for Matau, who calls after them:

MATAU

Wait! Don't you think we should --

None break their animalistic strides to answer:

TOA (ALL EXCEPT MATAU)

No!

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

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 way:

MATAU

Yeah, yeah, yeah. 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.

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

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 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. OUTSKIRTS OF TA METRU - LATER

Roodaka leads Vakama THROUGH an elevated urban landscape.
They walk along rooftops as they speak:

ROODAKA

I apologize for taking you all the
way out here, but Sidorak mustn't
know we speak.

VAKAMA

Your king doesn't know about me?

ROODAKA

Not yet.

VAKAMA
Some leader he is.

ROODAKA
My thoughts exactly.

Vakama REACTS, surprised by her openly treacherous statement.

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 for you to fail so they can replace you...

ROODAKA
Still upset about the way your friends treated you? The awful 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 wickedly, 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 distinct skyline of

TA METRU

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

VAKAMA

Ta Metru.

ROODAKA

It can be your home again, Vakama.
Yours. To rule as you see fit. Just
 do for me what you did for those
 self-serving Toa -- lead the
 Visorak horde!

VAKAMA

When I was Matoran, it was my whole
 world. It meant everything to me.
 It still does...
 (then, pointedly)
 But it's not enough to make me 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 REFERENCES his strange shape, his animalistic posture.

VAKAMA

I don't even know what that is
 anymore...

ROODAKA

A leader. Your new form only makes
 you more so, even if you don't
 understand how yet. You're greater
 than 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 off the edge.

As Vakama WATCHES in horror, they DO just that.

VAKAMA

No!

Vakama looks OVER the edge. There's NOTHING but
EMPTY SPACE

there, the Blue Visorak already gone from view.

VAKAMA

Why did you do that!

ROODAKA

To teach you a lesson. The first of many, I hope.

Roodaka steps CLOSE to Vakama, makes her play:

ROODAKA

You are not the problem, Vakama --
it is the Toa. And if you join me,
I will change that -- quiet all the
questions and meaningless opinions
and put under your command those
that would obey you for what you
are... their master.

(then, softer)

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

Vakama begins to TURN towards darkness the moment he asks:

VAKAMA

And this is something your king
would allow?

ROODAKA

There is a way, if you would have
it.

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

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

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 has to prompt:

TAHKON
Lahka, what did you hear?

LAHKA
That's the thing -- I can recognize everything 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 concerns, he comforts Lahka:

TAHKON

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

LAHKA

I guess I have been working kinda hard...

Tahkon cloaks his urgent order with a soothing tone:

TAHKON

Take a break. Gather your brothers from their work and go outside, check up on the Toa.

LAHKA

And what about you?

He lies gently:

TAHKON

I'll be right behind you.

Lahka ASCENDS a set of spiral steps. As he does, Tahkon reiterates, more forcefully this time:

TAHKON

Find the Toa.

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

TAHKON

Show yourself.

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL: behind Tahkon, 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.

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 upstairs.

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,

VAKAMA

DROPS from the ceiling, a metal missile. For the brief moment we see him, he's a fierce and powerful beast. His snarling self FILLS the frame and we

BLACK OUT.

EXT. RUINS OF METRU NUI - DAWN

Dirt is being shovelled OUT of a gaping hole dug amongst the ruins. Nokama ENTERS the scene, STOPS at its edge, 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 this is the most secure hole in all of Metru Nui.

She INDICATES Matau's handiwork, asks the obvious:

NOKAMA
That 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.

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 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. BRIDGE TO THE GREAT TEMPLE - DAY

Nokama, Matau, Nuju, Whenua, and Onewa CROSS the thin bridge that connects the city to the Great Temple. As they go:

NOKAMA

Tahkon seemed so concerned, and 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 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

Be patient, Matau.

MATAU

I have zero patience for being like this. And I never will --

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

EXT. GREAT TEMPLE - SAME

-- THE GREAT TEMPLE

which is in a state of violent disrepair. They RACE to it 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'm not getting anything.

ONEWA

What do we do?

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

NOKAMA

I wish Vakama was here.

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 lost forever now, turned to dust.

WHENUA

Stand aside.

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

TAHKON

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

TAHKON

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

Off the Toa's conflicted REACTIONS, we --

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - 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

Hordika.

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

SIDORAK

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 cage that holds the five missing

RAHAGA

underneath. Sidorak's laughter STOPS.

SIDORAK

Let's talk.

The heavy gates groan OPEN. Vakama BEGINS inside.

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 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 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 over 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 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

It's kind of cool.

TAHKON

You must all feel them. The urges...

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

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?

The Toa REACT -- there is reluctance here. Some are fond of the Hordika abilities they're just beginning to understand.

NOKAMA

All we want is to save Vakama.

Each individual Toa AGREES -- Nokama's wish is their own.

TAHKON

Then we must find Keetongu.
(then, darker)
Though I warn you, Vakama may already be beyond anything even he can do.

MATAU

Well, we have to try. We owe him that much.

ONEWA

We were kinda hard on him...

The others CONCUR, each 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:

WHENUA

So, right back to where we started from? Searching for this Keetongu across all of Metru Nui...

TAHKON

Not exactly.

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

MATAU

Quick-speak.

TAHKON

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

(then, recites)

'Follow swiftly running water north to Ko Metru, to where it climbs high into the sky.'

MATAU

(sarcastic)

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
He 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. You figure there's a
reason for that?

TAHKON
I'm certain there is.

Tahkon clarifies no more than that, moves OFF.

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

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

LAHKA
Vakama...

CAMERA PULLS BACK: the Rahaga are webbed to the facing of one of the coliseum's inner tiers. Vakama stands in front of 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, that
is. To place your trust in others
that are even more so?

VAKAMA
Never.

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

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

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

She ENTERS the coliseum with:

ROODAKA
 Come. It's time you got a glimpse
 of your 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 freaked Onewa -- a
 layered scuttling noise, steel on stone. Coming CLOSER.

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

Onewa NODS.

MATAU
 He meant it. Go.

Onewa STEPS towards a massive

SUSPENSION BRIDGE

that spans and connects two metrus. BENEATH: the intricate

AQUACHUTE SYSTEM

we remember from LEGENDS OF METRU NUI flows swiftly, marks
 the way to Keetongu. The bridge itself has seen better days,
 is fissured and cracked in spots -- not the stuff of
 confidence. Onewa notices:

ONEWA

Uh-uh!

Onewa BACKPEDALS. AHEAD: The other Toa COMPLETE their cross.

MATAU

All right, Onewa. Look at it this way. It's either forward...

Matau points BEHIND them, toward the SOUND of impending doom.

MATAU

...or back.

Onewa scampers for all he's worth ACROSS the rickety bridge.

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, PLOPS onto his all-important seat of power.

SIDORAK

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

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 leader for your horde.

SIDORAK

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

ROODAKA

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

(then, projects)

Imagine -- the former Toa, your subservient generals. You will be remembered for all time as the greatest of rulers. A legend.

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

(to Vakama)

And you would have this?

VAKAMA

More than anything.

A long moment as the Visorak king DELIBERATES. Then:

SIDORAK

Well, then...

Roodaka REACTS -- anticipating the arrival of her Machiavellian endgame. It comes:

SIDORAK

Let's 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/Tahkon cling to a sheer

CLIFF FACE

are SCALING the natural wonder. The pipeline of water that so spites Matau disappears INTO the rock below them, makes following it directly impossible.

MATAU

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

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

NUJU

Apparently not.

MATAU

On the bright side, I guess if any body of water's gonna have the nerve to defy gravity, it's this one.

Tahkon LOOKS below, speaks on what he sees:

TAHKON

They don't seem to mind.

THERE: a swarm of Visorak are 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 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>

EXT. WIDE OPEN SPACE - SAME

Matau speaks between catching, strained 'breaths':

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

Nokama is by Matau's side, in a dead sprint. Responds:

NOKAMA
Really?

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

BEHIND THE TOA: the Visorak horde gives fevered CHASE along the aquachute's bank.

ONEWA

Yeah. They'll never catch us!

Onewa's got a point -- at least, until the aquachute comes to an abrupt END. The pipeline is shattered, purges its contents OUT its fractured end with great force. The end result is a makeshift

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 us some answers...

TAHKON

Agreed.

ONEWA

(concerned)
Survive what...?

Matau NUDGES Onewa OFF the edge.

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

LEAP

INTO the falling water which FUNNELS them BELOW ground. ABOVE: the Visorak REACH the aquachute's burst end. The two in the lead share a comic and discretionary LOOK -- and then REVERSE direction in search of a more prudent route.

INT. AQUACHUTE - SAME

The Toa and Tahkon --

TOA AND TAHKON

<SCREAM>

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

MATAU

Cold. Cold. Cold.

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

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.

He says the word with warmth, genuinely happy to be back in his frigid home metru. But something's 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?

WHENUA

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

TAHKON

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

The water...

The Toa and Tahkon 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 has flowed to and collected over time, frozen to become a crystalline mountain.

MATAU

...it does climb into the sky.

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 PONDERs that, tries to divine her meaning. She helps:

ROODAKA
Here comes one now...

Sidorak ENTERS the scene. As he does:

SIDORAK
How is the horde, Vakama?

VAKAMA
Obedient.
(then)
And ready, my king. 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 CLIMBS up to the observation deck, looks OUT over the city. Finishes from there:

VAKAMA
We wait.

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

Vakama SHARPENS his former Toa Tool to a wicked EDGE.

SFX
<BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.>

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

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 coliseum, doesn't bother with an answer.

ROODAKA

There!

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

SIDORAK

Great Spirit! What is that...?

We WATCH with them as

KEETONGU

breaks through the fog, the transformed

TOA

right by his side -- in as much as they can be given his massive size. Vakama answers Sidorak's hanging question:

VAKAMA

I'd guess it's Keetongu.

SIDORAK

But Keetongu doesn't exist!

VAKAMA

I guess 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. His response doesn't disappoint her:

VAKAMA

Roodaka's right.
(then, threatening)
(MORE)

VAKAMA (cont'd)
 You've made a grave mistake coming here...

NOKAMA
 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 ruler of the Visorak.

MATAU
 And if we don't?

VAKAMA
 I'll make you.

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

NOKAMA
 I don't think so.

The other Toa DO the same.

MATAU
 Yeah. You and what army?

As his answer, Vakama TOSSES his Toa Tool off the top of the coliseum. It FALLS through the air,

BURIES

itself in the ground in front of the Toa and Keetongu. The action is a signal -- the Great Coliseum's gates OPEN and the

VISORAK HORDE

storms OUT, rushes TOWARDS the Toa.

MATAU
 Oh. Right. That one.

Nokama ACTIVATES her spinner disc. Prompts the others:

NOKAMA

Ready.

The others FOLLOW her lead, ACTIVATE their own spinners.

WHENUA

You 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 upper levels of the coliseum.

MATAU

Ask me again in a minute...

The horde draws dangerously CLOSE. Off their proximity:

ONEWA

Uh, Nokama...?

NUJU

Steady, Onewa.

The horde is nearly ON them now, a HISSING mass.

NOKAMA

For Vakama and the Matoran...

(then)

Fire!

All at once, the Toa

LAUNCH

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

FLIGHT

UP and OVER the Visorak, BYPASS their enemy completely. As they go:

MATAU

Keetongu... now!

Keetongu SMASHES the coliseum's main gate, chokes the entrance with rubble and debris. The action SEALS the coliseum off from the horde, isolates them against the legendary creature. The Visorak REACT -- not at all liking the matchup. Keetongu TAPS his fist against him empty hand, feeling very much the opposite.

ONEWA

Suckers!

Onewa SLAMS into the side of the coliseum. Nokama, Whenua, and Nuju are more focused -- they GRAB their spinner discs, RIDE them, use them to GRIND the many Visorak weblines that lead inside the coliseum and ENTER the massive structure.

Matau continues UPWARD, towards --

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

-- where Vakama REACTS, enraged that the Toa have adapted so readily, effectively upstaged him.

VAKAMA

They're working together. And with Keetongu's strength...

(then)

I'll have to stop him myself.

Vakama 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 battle below. Vakama challenges:

VAKAMA

Where is my place?

Roodaka answers as she and Sidorak continue AWAY:

ROODAKA

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

Sidorak and Roodaka EXIT. Her parting 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 memory of his past duty. Matau's RISING voice makes that difficult:

MATAU (O.S.)

Now there's an idea!

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 were made Toa in the
first place, remember?

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

Keetongu DECIMATES the Visorak horde, KNOCKS their swarming ranks into the distance with each SWIPE of his huge hand. That done, he begins to CLIMB the coliseum's exterior, a biomechanical King Kong. But as he does, a BOLT of dark energy

HITS

Keetongu, knocks him OFF the structure. This is how

SIDORAK AND ROODAKA

ENTER 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 stunningly pathetic.

Keetongu LEAPS at Sidorak and Roodaka, ENGAGES them in a fight he has no hope 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 the likes
of you -- 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 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 towards her challenge, FINDS Roodaka

WALKING AWAY

towards the coliseum, her back to him.

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

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

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

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

ROODAKA
I know.

Roodaka CONTINUES into the distance, STRANDS Sidorak. He manages only a weak and heartbroken:

SIDORAK
Roodaka...

Keetongu ATTACKS. We CUT before the 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

stands seemingly triumphant over Matau.

ROODAKA
...long live the king.

INT./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 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. We all are.
That we're sorry for making you
leave. You see, that's why we're
weak, Vakama -- because we don't
have you.

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

MATAU

We're a 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. He's a moment away from falling, resigned to it:

MATAU

Do what you're gonna do.

(then, to himself)

And to think I came here to save you...

Vakama's fist begins FORWARD -- but instead of using it to attack, he

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 him to solid ground.

MATAU

Well, brother, 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...

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

The Toa (less Matau and Vakama) BURST into the center of the coliseum with:

NOKAMA

We did it! We've made it inside!

What WAITS there dampens their spirits immediately --

VISORAK ROYAL GUARD

protect the coliseum's interior, the Matoran just beyond. They're the cream of the horde, make up for their lesser number with greater size and strength. Off their intimidating sight:

ONEWA

And that's a good thing...?

The nearest of the Guard ATTACKS -- Whenua SWATS him out of the air with the meathooks his hands have become.

WHENUA

One down...

The rest of the Royal Guard begin TOWARDS the four Toa.

WHENUA

...one hundred to go.

The Toa MAKE to defend themselves.

NUJU

I think you missed a couple...

INT. GREAT COLISEUM - 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

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 with the tip of his staff.

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

LAHKA
(leading)
Not exactly...

Tahkon FREES his fellow Rahaga.

TAHKON
Let's go help those that are.

The Rahaga move OFF together to do just that.

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - SAME

The Toa WILT under the intense pressure of the Royal Guard.

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

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

Tahkon and the Rahaga

ZIPLINE/RAPPEL

from the upper levels of the coliseum INTO the fray.

BOMONGA
We're small, but we can fight!

WHENUA
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 Tahkon PARRY back-to-back:

NOKAMA
Tahkon, even with your help...

TAHKON
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 leads the Royal Guard, which FLANK 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 is
 already mine...
 (then)
 Wait -- one's missing.

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

MATAU
 (meekly)
 Yeah. That would be me.

Vakama JOINS Roodaka, having just tossed Matau.

ROODAKA
 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 their spinners.

MATAU
 ...take them!

The Toa

FIRE

their spinner discs. 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

who 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 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
I have.
(then)
And seeing as you convinced Sidorak
to put me in charge of them...

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:

TRUNDLE
<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
I don't want to be. 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.

Vakama MAKES to fire his spinner disc with:

VAKAMA
It's a duty I won't fail again...
starting now!

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

PROTODERMIS SHARD / MAKUTA STONE / HEARTSTONE

we remember from the prologue. Tahkon SEES this, screams in
SLOW MOTION:

TAHKON
No, Vakama! Don't!

REAL TIME: Tahkon'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:

TAHKON

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

VAKAMA

Her heartstone?

Tahkon REACTS -- Vakama does know.

TAHKON

Yes, carved from the same
protodermis you sealed the 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 doesn't scare
me anymore.

Tahkon LAUGHS. It SPREADS to the others, even:

KEETONGU (O.S.)

<PAINED LAUGHTER>

The others TURN to where a battered

KEETONGU

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

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
given. But my duty requires I ask --
will you change us back?

Keetongu VOCALIZES, Tahkon translates:

TAHKON

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

VAKAMA

(loaded)

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

Keetongu GRUNTS his critical decision:

TAHKON

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.
It 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 line the sterile space. Vakama speaks to their
slumbering occupants:

VAKAMA

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

EXT. GREAT COLISEUM - DOCKING SPIRE - DAWN

A striking

BLIMP

of sorts is docked overlooking the city. The huge vessel is
cobbled together from the wealth of abandoned tech and
material that has become Metru Nui, is a steampunk mixture
somewhere between antique and cutting-edge. The Toa and
Rahaga (less Tahkon and Vakama) CARRY Matoran cannisters from
inside the Great 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.

NUJU

Then don't crash it this time...

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
different beginnings.

VAKAMA

Of what?

Tahkon SMILES as he 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.

VAKAMA

(softly, reflexively)
The Great Rescue.

Tahkon NODS, speaks introspectively:

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. 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.

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

TAHKON

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 do this...

Tahkon OFFERS Vakama his fist in the Toa greeting.

TAHKON
...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 craft 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 coliseum, FINDS the

RAHAGA AND KEETONGU

there. The unlikely group WAVES.

VAKAMA
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 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 SEE that he's right -- the Makuta's protodermis prison 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.

OVER WHITE: Turaga Vakama's omniscient voice returns:

NARRATOR (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:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But that is another legend entirely.

THE END