

"Brothers of Stone"

by

Robert W. Grubbs

WGA # 1463396

Post Office Box 367  
Palestine, Ark. 72372  
870-633-1169  
Corpus@arkansas.net

A BLACK SCREEN:

SUPER:

"It happened during the Black Summer... a time when a great pestilence spread over the earth. It was a poor, sorrowful time for both animals and man alike. Entire herds and clans perished from the disease, and those that didn't die had to find a way to survive."

FADE IN:

EXT. BADLANDS - DAWN

Sunlight illuminates a prehistoric landscape. A heavy layer of fog covers the area.

SUPER: "Badlands - Somewhere in the Far North. Early Autumn".

A herd of woolly mammoths BELLOW and ROAR as THREE HUNTERS pursue them across the plains.

Their leader is a strong, capable man named ROCK - authoritative, mild mannered, with intense features and bulging muscles.

Two other cave men follow close behind him: BEYLOR, short, loyal, with an average build and an eager face, weaves in and out of the herd.

ASHGAR, twenty, tall, impressionable, with a disarming smile, runs in a parallel position to the mammoths.

Rock yells orders like a drill instructor, and because of his urgings, the gap between the hairy beasts and his men begins to narrow.

Under cover of brush, a second BAND of HUNTERS wait hidden in the fog. They crouch next to a crudely excavated hole in the earth. This motley assortment consists of:

THERNAR, thirtyish, slightly aboriginal in appearance, with large forearms and hands. An arrogant brute of a man, he carries a spear and a club for protection.

ENCHANDRA, the only female member of the hunting pack, wipes sweat from her brow. Sensual and athletic, she has long black hair, ample breasts and cold green eyes like a cat.

Next to her kneels WHARTOK, cynical, self-centered, with deep scars on his face from too many hunts. He carefully eyes the terrain.

GARTH, philosophical and wise, clutches a heavy stone ax in his hand. The last of his tribe, he has tattoos of several forest animals all over his body.

At his feet rests "Kaw" and "Muck Muck", two wolves he tamed to hunt mammoths. They pant anxiously as the SOUNDS of the STAMPEDE grows louder.

Unaware of the trap that has been set for them, the mammoths continue to run, when two of the animals fall helplessly into the pit.

The hunters RACE towards the pit as Kaw and Muck Muck lead the way. Whartok bumps Enchandra from behind, slows her down into second place. She frowns at his cavalier treatment, but quickly regains her balance.

They leap into the pit after the mastodons and impale them with their spears. Moments later, Rock, Beylor and Ashgar join in on the slaughter.

The mammoths BELLOW and WAIL from the assault, but it does no good. Rock and the other hunters do not stop until the last one is dead.

WHARTOK

(raises a bloody spear)

Rejoice, my brothers! The hunt is over!

THERNAR

(pats him on the back)

Yes, celebrate. We have done a good thing today.

ROCK

We have done nothing! The hunt is not over!

WHARTOK

Here is meat for the women and the old ones. Is this not enough?

ROCK

No, it is not!

ASHGAR

Whartok speaks the truth, Rock. What is it you want from us?

ROCK

To run faster... until your legs  
grow weary! And when that happens  
I want you to run some more!

THERNAR

You lag behind yourself, brother.  
Do not blame these men for your own  
slothfulness.

WHARTOK

Thernar is right! Our belly's ache,  
but now there is meat for the fire!

The cave men HOOT and cheer, WOO- HOO! WOO- HOO! Whartok  
gets carried away. He begins to dance in front of Enchandra.  
She grabs him from behind, throws him face down into mammoth  
excrement and guts.

ENCHANDRA

(places a knife to  
his throat)

You like that, huh? Do you want  
some more?

ROCK

Release him!

ENCHANDRA

No, I've had enough of his foolishness!

THERNAR

(slightly amused)

Let them fight, Rock! She wants to  
hunt with the men, let's see if she  
can fight like one!

ENCHANDRA

(to Whartok)

You want to be a big man? Show off  
in front of the pack?

WHARTOK

Let me go, woman, or I will....

ENCHANDRA

(interrupts him)

...Will do what, Whartok?

ROCK

Enough! Put away your knife!

ENCHANDRA

He must apologize first! I will not be made a mockery of! I have earned my place in the group!

ROCK

Put your knife away! Save your energy for the hunt!

ENCHANDRA

(to Whartok)

Apologize!

WHARTOK

I am sorry.

Enchandra stands up, sheath's her knife, scowls at the men around her. Whartok rises to his feet, rubs his neck, falls back in line with the other hunters.

WHARTOK (CONT'D)

She doesn't belong with us! A woman's place is in the village... not hunting with the men!

ENCHANDRA

(gestures with her hands)

No one tells me what to do! I go where I want to go, and I do whatever pleases me!

WHARTOK

She belongs in the village! With all of the other females!

Enchandra raises her arm to strike him. Rock grabs her before she can swing.

ENCHANDRA

(jerks her arm free)

Let me go!

ROCK

It's over. He will not harm you again. I give you my word.

ENCHANDRA

I don't need your promises. I've heard them all before.

ROCK

Do not challenge me, Enchandra. I am not your enemy.

ENCHANDRA  
Are you finished?

ROCK  
Yes.

ENCHANDRA  
Good.

She shoulders her way past the men, takes out her knife, begins the task of butchering the meat.

ROCK  
(to the hunting pack)  
You will fight no more! Put aside your differences, or I will settle them for you!

WHARTOK  
I will not hunt with her! She could never be my equal!

ROCK  
You are not hunting pack leader, Whartok. She stays with us.

GARTH  
He speaks the truth. Enchandra's skills with a bow cannot be matched.

ROCK  
Come. We must butcher these animals quickly.

LATER

The hunting pack works together to butcher the woolly mammoths. Prime pieces are cut away from the bone and left to dry in the sun, then packed in baskets for easy hefting back to the village.

Rock approaches Thernar as he crafts new spear heads from bits of stone.

ROCK  
(picks up a spear head, tests the weight in his hand)  
How many more are there?

THERNAR  
A dozen... more or less.

ROCK  
Good. We need them for the hunt.

THERNAR  
Patience, Rock. They will be ready.

ROCK  
You have learned your craft well.  
Did Heilos teach you?

THERNAR  
No, it was my mother.

ROCK  
She was a stone mason?

THERNAR  
Yes.

ROCK  
What happened to her?

THERNAR  
Our father left her die in the Far  
Away Place.

ROCK  
I don't remember her.

THERNAR  
Of course you don't. This happened  
before you were born.

ROCK  
Strange, our father never talks  
about her.

THERNAR  
That's because she was not clan.  
He never loved either one of us.

ROCK  
You're his eldest son. One day you  
will be shaman.

THERNAR  
I am not clan. I cannot become shaman.

ROCK  
...But you're his son.

THERNAR  
Am I, Rock?

Kaw and Muck Muck gnaw hungrily on discarded pieces of entrails and bones. Garth sits next to them. He plays a melancholy tune on a flute made from a bear's leg bone.

ENCHANDRA

(to Garth, not  
mincing her words)  
Filthy beasts. You treat them like  
they are your kin.

GARTH

They are my friends. We depend on  
each other.

ENCHANDRA

Keep them away from me. I don't  
need their company.

Thernar casts a concerned look at the wolves. He picks up a piece of sinew, begins to bind it to a long, wooden shaft. In their space now, the wolves SNARL at him as a warning.

GARTH

Don't do that.

THERNAR

(grunts, warily)  
I have done nothing to them.

GARTH

I was talking to the wolves.

Beylor checks the last of the baskets, notices that it has not been closed yet.

BEYLOR

Are we almost finished here, Rock?

ROCK

Yes, pack the meat tightly. Don't  
leave any scraps behind.

ASHGAR

You worry like an old woman. What  
are you so afraid of?

ROCK

I am afraid of the sickness. It is  
still here, in our valley.

ASHGAR

People get sick... animals get sick  
and die. It has never stopped us  
from hunting before.



ROCK  
Do you wish to die?

ASHGAR  
Of course not. Do you?

ROCK  
This is the worst plague I have  
ever seen. There is much death,  
and hunger in our village.

ASHGAR  
As long as we can still hunt, what  
does it matter?

ROCK  
Soon there won't be any game left  
for us to hunt.

THERNAR  
We should move on. To better and  
more plentiful hunting grounds.  
Here, there is only death.

ROCK  
And where are we to go?

THERNAR  
There are other valleys and caves  
to the north, across the Frozen Lands.

ROCK  
How will we get there? Do you know  
the way?

THERNAR  
I only know one thing... this  
valley is poison now. If we stay  
here we are all going to die.

ROCK  
I have told our father we should  
move on, but he refuses to listen.

BEYLOR  
What did he say?

ROCK  
Heilos is old. He still clings to  
the Old Ways. He believes that if  
the gods wanted us to leave, they  
would reveal to him a sign.

BEYLOR  
 Maybe this is a sign, Rock?

ROCK  
 Yes, I believe it is.

ASHGAR  
 That doesn't make a lot of sense.

THERNAR  
 It's not supposed to make any sense.  
 Heilos just wants us to remain here  
 so he can...

ROCK  
 (interrupts him)  
 Wait...

THERNAR  
 For what?

ROCK  
 Listen. Do you hear that?

THERNAR  
 Hear what?

ROCK  
 Do you feel that?

THERNAR  
 I feel nothing.

ROCK  
 The ground... it trembles.  
 Something is coming this way.

Rock kneels close to the ground, touches it, senses the vibrations with his hands. Suddenly, a cloud of dust descends upon them as a HERD of CARIBOU goes by.

In the early morning mist, one of the STRAGGLERS FALLS head first into the pit. The frenzied animal SNORTS and JUMPS about wildly as it tries to climb back out of the grave.

BEYLOR  
 Look out!

ROCK  
 Watch it's hooves... don't let them  
 kick you!

WHARTOK

This is our lucky day, Rock! More  
meat for the fire!

Whartok steps in front of the animal, attempts to grab it around the neck. Rock tries to corral the beast with his spear, but it breaks in his hands.

Rock flashes his knife, cuts a deep gash across the caribou's throat. It jerks away from him, knocks Enchandra to the ground.

GARTH

Enchandra!

ENCHANDRA

I'm all right!

Rock rushes to her side, kneels down as if to pick her up, but he grabs her spear instead. Enchandra's face flushes red as he moves away from her.

ROCK

Can you stand?

ENCHANDRA

Yes!

ROCK

(tosses her his knife)

Here! Use this!

Enchandra gets back up onto her feet, frowns disapprovingly at Rock's cavalier treatment.

The reindeer charges again! Beylor picks up another spear, opens a second wound underneath the caribou's shoulder. It's blood spills upon the ground.

WHARTOK

Let me have him!

Whartok climbs onto the back of the caribou, which causes it to kick Beylor in the groin. Suddenly, the crazed animal climbs over the top of one of the slain mammoths and leaps out of the pit!

Still seated on its back, Whartok grips the reindeer's antlers and holds on for the ride of his life.

ROCK

(to Beylor)

Are you all right, my friend?

BEYLOR

Yes, Rock. It kicked me only slightly.

ROCK

Where's Whartok?

ENCHANDRA

Somewhere trying to prove his manhood, or what's left of it.

GARTH

Sometimes when a man feels his best years are behind him, he starts acting like a child again.

ROCK

The fool! He's going to get himself killed!

GARTH

In my village, there once was a man who used to throw stones at tigers.

ASHGAR

What happened to him?

GARTH

One day a tiger ate him.

ASHGAR

Whartok may be crazy, but he's not an old man!

GARTH

He still feels the need to prove himself... that he still has... how do you say it... some guts?

ROCK

The fool! After him!

Rock and the others climb out of the pit using ropes tied to pegs pounded into the ground.

Seated on the reindeer's back, Whartok holds on as the animal speeds across the plains and finally dies from its own wounds.

He drags the carcass back to the pit amidst the taunts and jeers of his other pack members.

ENCHANDRA

Does your butt hurt?

WHARTOK

(rubs his hind quarters)  
It was a short trip. One I will  
not soon forget.

ROCK

Enough, Whartok! I grow tired of  
your childish ways!

WHARTOK

Forgive me, Rock, for being so  
callous. It was not my intention  
to offend you.

ROCK

You will do as I say! If you must  
kill yourself, do it when I'm not  
around!

Brushes the caribou's blood from off of his clothing.

WHARTOK

Are we not hunters, Rock? Here is  
meat for the fire.

ROCK

Do you welcome death? It will come  
soon enough.

WHARTOK

I am not afraid of dying. It's  
living that displeases me.

Beylor hovers over the carcass, retreats from the kill.

BEYLOR

By the gods! Rock, take a look at  
this!

They move closer to the dead caribou. Every orifice and  
sore on its body oozes a greenish color fluid. It sizzles  
upon contact with the air.

ROCK

This beast is unclean. It's blood  
bares the mark.

GARTH

That's why it charged us. It has  
been driven mad from the sickness.

ASHGAR

Is it supposed to smell like that,  
Rock?

ROCK

The meat carries the sickness.  
Bury it quickly before the stench  
kills us all.

GARTH

(to Rock)

He has touched this animal. His  
skin must be cleansed.

ROCK

(to Whartok)

Remove your furs. They must be burned.

WHARTOK

I will be naked.

ENCHANDRA

(sarcastically)

No one will stare.

ROCK

(pulls back a swath  
of mammoth hides,  
gives them to Whartok)

Take these... whatever killed this  
beast poisons you now.

WHARTOK

(takes off parts of  
his furs)

Here, take them! Someone should  
build a fire!

ASHGAR

I will do it.

ROCK

We must hurry. There may be hungry  
predators around.

ENCHANDRA

He's right. I don't want to be out  
here all day.

ROCK

Agreed.

EXT. VALLEY - MORNING

Sunlight flickers over the mountains and into the valley.

EXT. VALLEY - ALCOVE - MORNING

As the sun begins to rise, so does the inhabitants of this valley: a large group of CRO-MAGNON'S known as the FAMILY CLAN.

Located below a large terrace, within a sandstone alcove, are their cliff-side dwellings: over twenty compact, irregularly shaped caves connected by stairs, corridors and open doorways.

At the base of this alcove, the cave dwellers gather to perform their daily activities: SEVERAL WOMEN roast deer meat over an open pit, while others either clean fish or weave baskets made from plants.

One of them is pregnant. This is LENA, mid twenties, tall, with braids in her hair, and dark eyes. Despite the harsh environment that she lives in, there is still an undeniable innocence to her.

Next to Lena stands a young female named PEELAR, twentyish20s, tall, with narrow hips and pale skin. She helps to nurse the flame.

NYSSTRA, a soft-spoken, mature-looking woman, approaches them. She assumes the role of a big sister to Lena during her pregnancy.

SEVERAL CHILDREN, ages five through twelve, RUN in semi-circles around the fire. Dogs SCAMPER about the village with them as they play.

NYSSTRA

Are we almost finished?

LENA

No, we need more meat.

NYSSTRA

One of the men will have to go get it.

LENA

(pensive, removes a slab from the hearth)

I will tell Heilos to send someone to the cellar.

NYSSTRA

Is something wrong? You look worried.?

LENA

I'm all right.

(beaming, turns to her)

Heilos has told Rock that soon he will have a son.

NYSSTRA

This is wonderful news. I was hoping it would be so. Boys bring good luck to a Family Clan...

LENA

...And girls bring trouble. I've heard all of that before.

NYSSTRA

You should be happy. Many of our women folk cannot bare children.

LENA

I am happy, Nysstra. I was just thinking about what happened to Adora.

NYSSTRA

(frowns, painfully remembering)

The gods took her from me during the Black Summer. I have never forgiven them for that.

LENA

But the gods are also merciful. You still have Cynthus to raise.

NYSSTRA

No matter how many children you bare, there's nothing like the pain of loosing your first born.

LENA

I'm sorry, Nysstra. I didn't mean it that way.

NYSSTRA

I know. You don't have to apologize to me.

LENA

You must worry about her a lot.?

NYSSTRA

Yes, I do. Sometimes I feel that no matter how hard I try, I'm going to loose my other daughter as well.



Suddenly, they heard the SOUND of a HORN. This is the signal for everyone to gather in the alcove.

LENA

It's Heilos. He's calling for us.

NYSSTRA

We had better hurry.

The cave dwellers advance towards the court yard. At the bottom of the stairs stood stands an old, bearded man with white hair, wrinkled skin and long, bony fingers.

This is HEILOS, the Shaman, leader of the Family Clan. Dressed in tribal garb, he appears to be over one hundred years old.

In front of him stood stands a fragile-looking man close to death. On his chest is an enormous growth that needed doctoring.

As the last of the primitives draw near, Heilos steps forward to perform his "magic".

HEILOS

(with outstretched arms)

Hear me, Tubrock. Hear my pleadings from on high, the place of our birth, across the Great Sea.

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Here stands before you a blasphemer, a disbeliever stricken with the sickness.

Heilos approaches the man, places both hands on his forehead, and lays him gently on the ground.

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Heal him now, O divine one. His is not a bodily ill, but punishment for his immoral ways.

Heilos reaches inside a small pouch, removes a reddish colored paste. He smears it upon the man's chest. Using broad, circular motions, he massages the sarcoma with his fingertips until a small incision is made.

The man WRITHES in pain. The old Shaman reaches inside his chest, removes a mass of bloody tissue that he tosses onto the ground. It SIZZLES upon contact with the air and bursts into flames.

Heilos waves his scepter from side to side. The wound miraculously cauterizes itself, the skin folds back and returns to its original color.

Completely healed now, the man stands on his feet, walks around without any signs of pain or discomfort.

The cave dwellers gasp in awe at the powers of their Shaman.

HEILOS

(to the man)

Go now to your place of rest, and thank the gods for this day.

INFECTED CAVEDWELLER

Thank you, Heilos. Bless you and the gods.

AD LIBS:

It's a miracle... Heilos' powers are great... and true... bless us all, Heilos... yes, Heilos... we need your ministrations!

HEILOS

You must have faith, my children. You must believe in the Old Ways, if you want to be healed.

Now a MAN and a WOMAN approach the Shaman. They have a pair of wreaths on their heads as Heilos prepares to perform their Matrimonial Ceremony.

PEELAR

(excited, turns to  
Lena and Nysstra)

Soon my turn will come. Haygorth has promised me it will be so.

NYSSTRA

You should not believe every word he tells you, Peelar. You are not the first girl he has kissed.

PEELAR

That's not a very nice thing to say. Haygorth loves me.

NYSSTRA

We shall see.

Suddenly, they are approached by a young, virile- looking man with an amorous smile, named HAYGORTH.

HAYGORTH

Hello, Lena.

LENA

Good morning, Haygorth.

HAYGORTH

Nysstra.

She doesn't answer.

HAYGORTH (CONT'D)

Peelar, may I speak with you?

PEELAR

Sure.

They walk away from the cooking spot.

HAYGORTH

Where were you last night? I waited at the river for almost an hour.

PEELAR

My mother did not go to sleep until the moonrise, by then it was too late.

HAYGORTH

I forgive you... but only if you cook breakfast for me. I'm hungry enough to eat a bear.

PEELAR

I cannot. Someone will have to go to the cellar first.

HAYGORTH

Heilos has sent for me, Peelar. He asked me to go. You can come with me.

PEELAR

It is forbidden. Clan women are not allowed into the cellar.

HAYGORTH

You cannot get in trouble if you don't go inside.

PEELAR

I don't know. Heilos' word is law.

HAYGORTH

He will not find out. If he does, I will tell him I asked you to go.

PEELAR

Are you sure?

HAYGORTH

Yes, I am sure. Don't you trust me?

Peelar smiles, reveals her vulnerability.

PEELAR

All right. I will walk with you,  
but there is something I must ask  
you first.

HAYGORTH

More riddles for me? Sometimes I  
think you enjoy making me beg.

PEELAR

No, it's not that.

HAYGORTH

What is it then?

PEELAR

The things you said to me the last  
time. I want to know if you really  
mean them.

HAYGORTH

Why must you have so many doubts?.  
Does your heart not know the answers?

PEELAR

It's my heart that keeps asking the  
questions.

HAYGORTH

Come. The fire cannot wait.

PEELAR

And neither can my heart.

HAYGORTH

Soon I will tell you all you need  
to know.

Peelar and Haygorth head towards the cellar as dark clouds  
roll in from the badlands.

EXT. BADLANDS - MORNING

Thunderheads hang menacingly over the land. The hunters  
heft the backpacks over their shoulders and head back across  
the grassy plains.

BEYLOR

The sky grows dim. I think a storm  
may be approaching.

ROCK

We had better hurry. If the rains  
come, they will only slow us down.

THERNAR

(grabs his spears)

A few rain drops cannot harm us,  
Rock. There's nothing to be afraid of.

ROCK

You would be wise not to speak so  
foolishly. I have seen what comes  
out of those clouds.

BEYLOR

A wind devil?

ROCK

Yes.

ASHGAR

What's a wind devil?

ROCK

Some say it is the finger of the  
gods. The wind alone from one can  
kill you.

ASHGAR

(laughs, heartily)

You cannot frighten me with such talk.

BEYLOR

He speaks the truth.

ASHGAR

Have you ever seen one?

BEYLOR

Yes, I have.

ASHGAR

All right, I believe you. My only  
desire is to get back home.

WHARTOK

You mean if you get back. I saw  
some strange-looking tracks not far  
from here.

ROCK  
What kind were they?

WHARTOK  
They looked like bear... but bears  
don't get that big.

GARTH  
Why would bears be roaming the bad  
lands? We are miles away from any  
of their dens.

ROCK  
Searching for food, perhaps. They  
must follow our scent.

GARTH  
This is very strange. We could all  
be in great danger.

ROCK  
Come. There is no time to waste.

The hunters carry the meat back to the village.

EXT. CELLAR - DAY

The lovers arrive at a large, semi-subterranean structure  
used to cure and store meat for the winter.

PEELAR  
I have been thinking about this for  
a long time.

HAYGORTH  
Thinking about what?

PEELAR  
You say you love me, but I've seen  
you with other women of the village.

HAYGORTH  
Which ones?

PEELAR  
Enchandra. Do you love her?

HAYGORTH  
No, Peelar. I only have feelings  
for you.

PEELAR  
Yes, I know. When I'm lying on my  
back, giving you pleasure.

HAYGORTH

You are wrong about me, Peelar.  
 (gestures, touches  
 her hand)  
 There will be a full moon again  
 tonight. Come with me to the river,  
 so we can talk.

Peelar smiles, kisses him on the cheek.

PEELAR

Alright. I will.

HAYGORTH

Good.

Suddenly, Peelar's eyes grow wide with terror. Scraps of  
 meat, bones, and skulls lie on the ground in front of her.

HAYGORTH (CONT'D)

By the gods! What can this be?

PEELAR

Something is wrong here.

HAYGORTH

The beasts of the forest. They got  
 into the cellar last night.

They pause at the entrance. Haygorth peers inside the dark  
 interior.

PEELAR

Wait! Don't go in there!

HAYGORTH

I hear something... it sounds like  
 huffing.

PEELAR

We should go back to the camp.

HAYGORTH

Stay here. I don't want you to get  
 hurt.

PEELAR

No, Haygorth. You don't know  
 what's in there.

Takes out his knife.

HAYGORTH

Go back and get help. I can take care of myself.

PEELAR

No! I'm not leaving you here!

HAYGORTH

Do what I tell you, Peelar! I'll be all right!

INT. CELLAR - DAY

Haygorth walks down the steps, around the support poles and hooks, spots a large grizzly bear on the other side of the room.

Slowly he attempts to back up. From the corner of his eye, Haygorth sees another grizzly rush towards him. The bear knocks him to the ground, claws him repeatedly on the face and chest.

Haygorth struggles for his life, breaks free and runs for the cellar door.

EXT. CELLAR - MOMENTS LATER

Peelar stands motionless at the entrance. She screams when Haygorth runs past her, the two grizzlies not far behind him.

PEELAR

Haygorth!

HAYGORTH

The village! Get help!

Peelar turns to run, when suddenly another GRIZZLY appears behind her, LARGER and more FEARSOME than the others. It's hair is completely white, with a thick ring of fur around it's neck and angry red eyes.

Startled, she falls to the ground as the bear stands on it's hind legs and URINATES in her face. The frightened girl gets up, runs in the direction of the village.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Suddenly, the sky turns black. The hunters listen intently to the sound of thunder as it echoes across the plains.

BEYLOR

What are we going to do now, Rock?



ROCK

I don't like the looks of those clouds. We had better seek shelter.

ENCHANDRA

Where can we? There's no place we can hide.

GARTH

There is a camp not far from here. Maybe we can reach it before the storm hits?

ROCK

Are you sure?

GARTH

Yes. It is abandoned, but that does not matter now.

ROCK

Hurry! Follow me!

Rock and the hunting pack begin to run. Soon, they reach the top of a hill. In the distance, they could see a funnel of swirling black death in front of them.

GARTH

Look! Over there!

ROCK

By the gods! It's a wind devil!

WHARTOK

It's coming straight towards us!

ROCK

Which way is it to the camp?

GARTH

That way! To the east!

ROCK

Move! This way.

The hunters half run, half slide down the hillside with their heavy load. Through the maelstrom, Rock glimpses the tops of several cruciform-shaped structures, barely visible in the high wind.

ROCK (CONT'D)

Over there!

BEYLOR

Is it the camp!

ROCK

Yes, it has to be!

They race towards the encampment, the mammoth meat still on their backs.

EXT. ALCOVE - DAY

Lena and Nysstra help the other women skin two reindeers. They use sharp pieces of bone to scrape the hides clean.

NYSSTRA

Where is Peelar?

LENA

I don't know. She was here a minute ago.

NYSSTRA

Could she have gone to the cellar?

LENA

I hope not. She knows better than that.

CYNTHUUS, nine, brown hair, bossy, with freckles, plays a game sort of like tag with several other children. Hobbled by the sickness, she still manages to keep up with her faster, more agile playmates.

CYNTHUUS

Okay, whose turn is it now?

MIRRAH

It's nobodies turn. You have to catch us all first, remember?

CYNTHUUS

I've already caught each of you twice already.

MEKKO

She's right. You're not following the rules of the game.

NAULLAH

Mirrah, you're the oldest. You should be it.

MEKKO

Who asked you, Naullah?

CYNTHUUS

None of you are playing right, and  
you know it!

MEKKO

We are too! You're just afraid to  
get caught!

CYNTHUUS

All right, you'll see! If I catch  
any of you I'm going to peck your  
eyes out!

The children begin to run again. Their movement catches  
Nysstra's attention.

NYSSTRA

You're getting too close to the  
fire, Cynthuus.

CYNTHUUS

(pauses to catch her breath)  
These lazy elephants don't know how  
to play right.

NYSSTRA

Then you will have to teach them.  
Move away from the fire before you  
get burned.

CYNTHUUS

Yes, mother.

The children widen their circle, away from where Nysstra and  
the other women are cooking.

Suddenly, Peelar runs into the camp. The cave dwellers stop  
what they are doing when they hear her frantic screams for help.

PEELAR

Lena! Nysstra!

LENA

What's wrong, Peelar?

PEELAR

Bears got into the cellar! They  
attacked Haygorth!

LENA

Are you sure?

PEELAR

Yes! We must help him!

They are approached by Heilos. Several ELDERS and other hunters are with him.

HEILOS

What's this I hear about Haygorth?

PEELAR

Bears... in the cellar! Haygorth tried to dissuade the beasts, but he could not stop them!

HEILOS

Did you see them?

PEELAR

Yes, Heilos, I did! One of them pissed on me!

HEILOS

It is forbidden to venture into the cellar without my permission.

PEELAR

I am sorry, Heilos! Haygorth wanted me to cook breakfast for him. We didn't have enough meat, so I asked him...

HEILOS

(interrupts her,  
makes the gesture for death)  
Silence! Because of your impetuosity, Haygorth may be dead.

LENA

She meant no harm. It was just a mistake of youth.

HEILOS

Peelar has broken the law! Now she must pay for her insolence!

LENA

The Tribunal? No, Heilos. You cannot do this.

HEILOS

There is nothing else I can do.  
(waves his hand)  
Take her away.

Three men grab Peelar by the arms, forcibly take her from the village.

LENA

I beg you, have mercy. It was as much my fault as it was hers.

HEILOS

Some of you men... come with me.  
We will deal with these scavengers.

Heilos and several of the men grab stone axes and spears. They hurry off in the direction of the cellar.

NYSSTRA

The Tribunal? There has to be a way we can stop this.

LENA

I wish Rock were here. He would know what to do.

NYSSTRA

Bears, so close to our camp. Why?

LENA

They must be foraging... preparing for their hibernation time.

NYSSTRA

It makes me frightened just to think about bears in our village.

LENA

Come. We will wait in our caves until our men return.

The women climb the stairs leading to their caves.

EXT. ABANDONED CAMP - DAY

Partially fortified by dirt and grass, the mounds of the five seasonal houses are a welcomed sight in the powerful storm.

The hunters bound towards the largest one. The tornado is almost on top of them now, heavy rain and hailstones pelt the ground around them.

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind knocks Enchandra off her feet, carries her away.

ROCK

Enchandra!

THERNAR

She's gone!

ROCK

No! She can't be that far!

THERNAR

Let her go, Rock! Save yourself!

ROCK

No! I will not leave her behind!

Rock fights against the wind and torrential rain fall. He finds Enchandra lying unconscious several yards from the structure.

Rock picks her up by the arms, carries her back to the abandoned camp, lays her on the ground.

ROCK

Take her!

GARTH

Quickly! Save yourself, Rock!

ROCK

Help me get her inside!

INT. DWELLING - LATER

On their bellies, Rock and the others crawl through a narrow passageway that leads into the interior of the structure.

Ashgar finds a trap door, next to the hearth that leads downward into a small storage area.

Kaw and Muck Muck find refuge in a corner. Rock and Garth lower Enchandra down into the cellar, then they climb down after her.

Enchandra slowly regains consciousness, spits blood onto the floor. She trembles from the fury of the storm. Rock grabs her hand, pulls her close to him.

ROCK

(to Enchandra)

Hold onto me!

She resists at first, unsure of his motives, then she repositions herself to find comfort in his strong arms.

Rain falls in buckets upon the roof. Enchandra and the other hunters lie motionless in the pit.

ROCK (CONT'D)

Keep your head down!

The funnel cloud passes right over them. The wind shakes the walls of the structure, down into the pit where Rock and the others lay.

The danger is over now. The rain subsides, everything returns to normal.

GARTH

That was close.

ROCK

(to Enchandra)

Are you hurt?

ENCHANDRA

No, thanks to you. You saved me.  
I am in your debt.

THERNAR

She will live, Rock. It was only a bump on the head.

Rock's still holds Enchandra in his arms. Whartok smiles with amusement at his moment of weakness.

ENCHANDRA

You can let me go now, Rock.

He removes his arms from around her shoulders.

ROCK

Come. I think the storm may be over.

WHARTOK

That depends on which storm you are talking about.

They climb back out of the shelter, into the open air.

EXT. VILLAGE - ALCOVE - EVENING

It is almost dusk when Rock and the hunting pack return to the village. The cave dwellers gather around them, anxious to see the meat they brought back from the badlands.

LENA

(embraces him)

At last, you're home. I was beginning to worry about you.

ROCK

What's wrong?

LENA  
(hesitantly, in a  
somber tone)  
Haygorth is dead.

ROCK  
How? What happened?

LENA  
Bears got into the cellar. They  
killed him.

ROCK  
Bears? Are you sure?

LENA  
Yes, I am sure.

ENCHANDRA  
(flippantly, without regard)  
He should have been more careful.  
It was foolish of him to go there  
alone.

NYSSTRA  
He wasn't alone. Peelar was with him.

ENCHANDRA  
She is but a child. The two of  
them together are no match for a bear.

ROCK  
Does my father know about this?

LENA  
Yes, Rock. He does.

NYSSTRA  
Heilos has called for the Tribunal.

ROCK  
The Tribunal?

LENA  
You must talk to him, Rock. Make  
him understand that what happened  
to Haygorth could not be foretold.

ROCK  
I cannot. Heilos' word is law.

LENA  
You must do something.



ROCK  
Was Peelar certain about what she saw?

LENA  
Yes, I think so.

ROCK  
These bears... what did they look like?

LENA  
She said they were grizzlies,  
except one was huge, with silver-  
tipped hair.

BEYLOR  
What is it, Rock?

ROCK  
Only one creature could have done  
this. The Katogha.

The cave dwellers gasp from the revelation, their attention  
captured by his every word.

WHARTOK  
The Katogha is only a myth. It  
doesn't exist.

ROCK  
That would explain the tracks you  
saw today.

ASHGAR  
The Katogha? What's that?

ROCK  
An ancient legend. I remember  
hearing about it when I was a boy.

ASHGAR  
What is it that you heard?

ROCK  
According to the words of an  
ancient prophecy, there was an old  
woman lost in the mountains,  
begging for food. She came upon  
this valley, but instead of being  
given meat she was hung from a tree.

WHARTOK  
You speak of an old wives' tale,  
Rock. Stories told to amuse our  
children.

ASHGAR

...And why would anyone believe such a tale?

ROCK

You asked me what I heard. The elders swear that it's true.

ASHGAR

What happened after that?

ROCK

The old woman was a shaman. A curse was placed upon this valley when she died... the appearance of this beast would call forth the death's of all who still live here.

BEYLOR

It has to be the Katogha. No other creature would dare come into our camp.

BEARDED MAN

This is terrible. Someone should do something about this.

ROCK

(accepts the task)

I will speak to my father. Where is he?

LENA

In his cave.

BEARDED MAN

What will you say to him, Rock?

ROCK

I don't know. He's bound by the old ways. Nothing else seems to matter.

THERNAR

Perhaps we should talk to him together?

ROCK

Agreed. He needs to hear this from the both of us.

(to Garth and Baylor)

Carry this meat to the cellar. Make sure the beast isn't hiding inside.

BEYLOR

Yes, Rock.

GARTH

Now we must hunt to replace what  
was stolen from us.

INT. HEILOS' CAVE - LATE EVENING

Sunlight filters in through an opening in the ceiling above  
them.

Strewn about the room is a collection of herbs in various  
stages of preparation, healing stones, cave bear skulls, and  
tribal masks.

On the walls are VIBRANT paintings of religious ceremonies,  
COLORFUL ANIMALS and HUNTS.

On the floor is a PATTERN of EARTHWORKS, similar to a  
Medicine Wheel.

Heilos sits in the center of this circle, COMMUNING with the  
spirits.

Rock and Thernar enter the sanctum, gazes about the room,  
and at their father - one with boyish fascination and the  
other with contempt.

ROCK

Father, we must speak to you.

Opens his eyes.

HEILOS

Rock. I did not hear you come in.

ROCK

Lena told me what happened.

HEILOS

It is customary to make your  
presence known before speaking.

ROCK

Forgive us, Father. We meant no  
disrespect.

HEILOS

(to Rock, stands)

I'm surprised to see the both of  
you together. What is it you wish  
to speak to me about?

ROCK

We are all in great danger.

HEILOS

In what way?

ROCK

Those bears that attacked Haygorth.  
I believe one of them was the Katogha.

HEILOS

The Katogha is only a legend. It  
doesn't exist.

ROCK

Peelar said she saw the beast. It  
almost killed her too.

HEILOS

Peelar could have easily been  
mistaken. She ran to save her own  
life.

ROCK

Whartok found bear tracks in the  
badlands. Was he mistaken as well?

HEILOS

Why would such a beast come here?  
To this valley?

ROCK

For survival. Many of the animals  
have been driven away from their  
homes. I believe the Katogha has  
come here searching for food.

The old shaman picks up some HEALING POWDER and ROOTS, lays  
them on a plate, burns the mess with a torch. He inhales  
the aroma deeply, to replenish his strength.

HEILOS

Our ancestors have lived in this  
valley since the time of the Great  
Freeze. No one has ever seen this  
beast before.

THERNAR

(interrupts, gestures wildly)  
Nevertheless, we should move on  
now... follow the mammoths across  
the snow. You cannot keep us here  
any longer.

HEILOS

And where are we to go? Back to the Faraway Place... over the bridge made of ice?

THERNAR

(continues, with his animated gestures)

There are other valleys and caves to the North of here. They may not be infected with the sickness.

ROCK

No, Thernar. We will only run into more glaciers by going north. We should try heading west... or maybe to the south.

THERNAR

(rebukes Rock's suggestion)

To the west is only desert, and the southern lands are all cursed! Our only chance for survival is if we head northward, across the tundra!

HEILOS

(invigorated, his steps are more confident and quick)

It's too dangerous. We could never reach them before the springtime. Once the ice starts to melt it will be impossible for us to cross.

THERNAR

You are wrong for keeping us here. Your spells cannot protect us. Neither can your magic.

HEILOS

Enough, Thernar. A curse is not the reason for Haygorth's death. Haygorth died because he lost faith.

ROCK

We are punished for the simplest of things. Where is the fairness, father?

Heilos walks over to a niche in the wall, reaches in, and removes an elegantly carved stone dagger. He hands it to Rock.

HEILOS

Remember this?

ROCK  
Yes, father. I do.

HEILOS  
It's the knife I used to kill my  
first buffalo.

ROCK  
That was a long time ago, father.  
Much has changed since then.

HEILOS  
I was afraid, but somehow I knew  
the beast was going to die that day.

THERNAR  
What has this to do with anything?

HEILOS  
(to Rock and Thernar)  
You used to believe in the Old Ways.  
What has happened to your faith?

THERNAR  
I grew up.

HEILOS  
(disheartened, places  
the knife back into  
the wall)  
There is much you do not know about  
the outside world.  
(gestures, slowly)  
I have shielded both of you from  
the terrors of the night.

ROCK  
Will you spare Peelar's life?

HEILOS  
I am afraid she is lost.

ROCK  
A curse on the gods and the Old  
Ways! I will not bow to any  
religion that sacrifices women and  
children!

HEILOS  
....Then I am afraid you are lost  
as well.

ROCK  
Once again, you will cause our  
people to suffer!

His rage explodes. Rock hurls the dagger onto the floor, then he leaves. Thernar picks up the knife, hides it in his tunic.

THERNAR  
(picks up the knife,  
hides it in his tunic)  
Sleep well, old man. You're going  
to need it.

EXT. FOREST - DAWN

Rock and the hunting pack are on the trail of a small herd of caribou. Soon, they come upon a deer feeding on the fertile undergrowth.

WHARTOK  
Look! Over there!

BEYLOR  
Yes, I see him. A buck... he's  
magnificent!

Whartok lifts his bow from his shoulder, strings an arrow with his hands.

ENCHANDRA  
What are you doing?

WHARTOK  
Getting us dinner. He will make a  
fine offering for the fire.

ENCHANDRA  
Careful, make sure your aim is true.

WHARTOK  
I cannot miss from here.

Whartok advances a few more steps towards the deer, careful to remain down wind of him.

ENCHANDRA  
Quiet, or he will hear you.

WHARTOK  
I have him in my sights. This will  
be a swift and easy kill.

Whartok shoots his arrow, strikes the deer above the shoulder. The animal falls down, gets back up again and runs into the woods.

BEYLOR

You missed!

WHARTOK

No! He's wounded!

ENCHANDRA

Aren't you going after him?

WHARTOK

Stay here! I will bring him back!

ROCK

No! It's too dangerous!

WHARTOK

I'll be back, with fresh meat to eat!

He breaks away from the pack, toward a sparse grove of trees where the caribou last stood.

ROCK

No! Whartok! Come back!

ENCHANDRA

Let him go, Rock. He should take better aim next time.

ROCK

After him.

ENCHANDRA

Whartok isn't a child. He can take care of himself.

ENCHANDRA

Whartok isn't a child. He can take care of himself.

ROCK

There is no time to argue.

The hunters advance into the forest.

EXT. MISTY GROTTO - DAY

Whartok races for nearly half a mile through the marsh like soil of the forest. The hunter enters a cove hidden by tall pine trees and brush.



He hears a strange sound, like a whisper on the wind, turns and see's the Katogha watching him from the trees.

Whartok moves closer to get a better look at the creature, when suddenly he falls waist deep into a pool of life-sucking quicksand.

WHARTOK

Rock! Beylor! Help! Somebody help me, please!

Moments later, Enchandra catches up to him. She hears his screams for help.

ENCHANDRA

I thought I heard your voice.

WHARTOK

(struggles, frantically)  
Get me out of here! I'm sinking!

ENCHANDRA

Is that quicksand you're in? It is, isn't it?

WHARTOK

Stop playing around! Give me your hand!

ENCHANDRA

Why would I do something like that?

WHARTOK

Enchandra, you witch! Go get Rock! Hurry!

ENCHANDRA

They are too far away to help you. No one is coming to your rescue.

WHARTOK

Whatever I did to you... I'm sorry! Don't leave me here to die!

ENCHANDRA

Not until you say the magic word.

WHARTOK

Please! I beg you! Get me out of here!

Continues to struggle, reaches for her leg, but she backs away from him.

ENCHANDRA

Very well, Whartok. I must be going. Good luck.

WHARTOK

Enchandra! Enchandra! Wait!  
Don't leave me here!

He sinks slowly into the quagmire. Enchandra watches for a few seconds more. Suddenly, Rock and Beylor catch up to her. She pretends not to know what happened.

ROCK

Where's Whartok?

ENCHANDRA

He's dead.

ROCK

What happened?

ENCHANDRA

(points, towards the pool)

In there. He must have fallen in.

Rock kneels close to the edge, inspects the pool for any signs of life. The surface bubbles menacingly from where the water was broken. In the pool he finds Whartok's bow and his spear.

ROCK

You did nothing to help him?

ENCHANDRA

It happened so fast. There was nothing I could do.

BEYLOR

She lies, Rock. It's no secret that they hated each other.

ENCHANDRA

Watch your tongue! No one talks to me that way!

BEYLOR

She let him die. There is no mud on her hands or her feet.

ROCK

Does he speak the truth?

ENCHANDRA

He's dead, Rock! I heard him  
scream for help! When I got here  
he was already gone!

ROCK

How could he have fallen in and you  
did not?

ENCHANDRA

(resentful, makes the  
gesture for death)

He's gone! There's nothing you can  
do to save him now!

BEYLOR

We can't just leave him in there!

ROCK

(picks up Whartok's  
spear and his bow)

The pool is too deep. When his  
body returns to the surface we will  
come back for him then.

BEYLOR

It's not fair! He didn't deserve  
to die like this!

ROCK

There is nothing fair about death.

BEYLOR

What now? There's no sign of the  
Katogha or its lair.

ROCK

Keep looking. There's only one  
other place it could be.

ENCHANDRA

The swamp?

ROCK

Come. The Katogha is a nocturnal  
beast. We must find its den before  
nightfall.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Rock and his band of hunters enter into the confines of this  
dark abode. Swirling gasses and mist rises from the ground,  
mixes with the air above.

They race for nearly a mile through a narrow meadow hidden by tall pine trees. At the narrow end of the grove, they encounter a pair of SABER-TOOTH TIGERS feeding on the carcass of the deer Whartok wounded with his bow.

BEYLOR  
Watch out! The cats!

ROCK  
Behind the trees!

They take a defensive position among the trees.

GARTH  
These must be the ones we saw close to the river.

ROCK  
A mother and her son.

BEYLOR  
Saber-tooth's hunt in pairs. Where is the male?

ENCHANDRA  
Maybe she killed him?

BEYLOR  
If we stay down wind of them, m. Maybe they won't see us?

GARTH  
That's a good idea.

ROCK  
(to Enchandra)  
Watch for my signal.

Under cover of brush, Rock and Beylor circle around behind the saber-tooth's. Both animals were so involved with feeding they didn't hear the hunters as they approached them.

ROCK (CONT'D)  
Are you ready, my friend?

BEYLOR  
My arrows are dipped in poison. It should be a quick and easy kill.

ROCK  
Shoot the mother first. She's big and fast. One chance is all we're going to get.

BEYLOR  
Is Enchandra ready?

ROCK  
Yes.

Rock moves closer to the saber-tooth, raises his arm for Baylor to let loose his arrows.

Baylor takes aim at the big cat and fires. His arrow strikes the female in the neck.

She let's out a howl, rolls over onto her side, and stands back up on her feet again.

ROCK (CONT'D)  
Now, Enchandra!

ENCHANDRA  
(to herself)  
I knew this wasn't going to work.

A second arrow fired from Enchandra's bow strikes the son underneath his belly, the force of which knocks him to the ground.

The hunters rushed the saber-tooth's. Even though mortally wounded, both animals clawed and swiped at them with their huge paws.

Each time the cats would charge them, the hunters stepped back and lunged with their spears.

Enchandra strings another arrow and fires, catching the carnivore underneath his jaw. The mother swings around now and charges at her. She rolls out of the way as the cat lands only a few feet away.

Rock gets cornered by the mother between two trees. He is unable to get away, when suddenly Enchandra comes to his rescue.

Enchandra charges again and again at the saber-tooth. Whenever the big cat would attacks, she would spears her side in the side.

Suddenly, the mother catches Rock from behind and slams him hard against a tree. It moves in for the kill. when suddenly Ashgar and Garth emerge from the mist.

The saber-tooth charges at them instead, when Kaw and Muck Muck JUMP upon its back. The fearsome wolves distract the cat long enough for the two men to drag Rock out of harm's way.

With a running LEAP the son POUNCES on the back of Ashgar and takes him SCREAMING down to the ground.

Enchandra stands up, picks up Ashgar's spear, and impales the saber-tooth in the side with it.

Rock re-joins the melee just as an arrow fired from Thernar's cross bow stops the mother dead in her tracks.

Alone and outnumbered, the son breaks away from the hunters and retreats back into the forrest.

THERNAR

(to Rock, sarcastically)  
Your plan didn't work, Rock.  
Ashgar is dead.

ROCK

Where were you?

THERNAR

You told us to stick to the high ground. I thought we had found the Katogha's lair.

ROCK

Was it?

THERNAR

No.

GARTH

Where's Whartok?

ROCK

Quicksand. We could not find his body.

(to Enchandra)

What were you trying to do? Get yourself killed?

ENCHANDRA

No, I was trying to help you. I thought maybe I could...

ROCK

(interrupts her)

I don't need your help! I don't need anyone's help!

ENCHANDRA

(surprised, without consternation)

All right! Next time I won't!

GARTH

Enough, Enchandra. That's not what Rock meant....

ENCHANDRA

It does not matter! Ashgar and Whartok are dead because of him!

BEYLOR

You cannot blame Rock for their death's, Enchandra.

THERNAR

She speaks the truth. This never would have happened if we had stayed together.

ROCK

Do you wish to take the lead, Thernar?

THERNAR

Maybe someone else should. You no longer seem capable of guiding the pack.

Rock grabs Thernar by the arm and punches him in the face. He falls to the ground, but quickly gets back up on his feet again.

Thernar pulls out his knife and swings at Rock. Baylor and Garth steps between the two brothers, holding them back.

ROCK

(to Baylor)

Let me go!

GARTH

(to Thernar,  
restrains him)

No! He's your brother!

THERNAR

(to Garth)

If he were not my brother I would kill him for that!

ROCK

I am pack leader! You will do as I say without question!

THERNAR

The pack is broken! We have lost two men today!

The two brothers face off against each other. Filled with rage, Thernar can hardly speak.

ROCK  
 (to Beylor)  
 Let me go. I will not strike him.

Beylor releases his hold on Rock.

THERNAR  
 You have always been our father's favorite! No matter what he says, you have wronged me for the last time!

Enchandra walks over to Thernar, places her arm around him as a show of support.

ENCHANDRA  
 It's useless, Rock. This is how we all feel.

Rock searches the faces of his pack members for any signs of discontent.

ROCK  
 Does Enchandra speak for the rest of you as well?

There is an awkward silence, until Beylor decides to speak.

BEYLOR  
 No, Rock. She does not.

ROCK  
 (to Enchandra, accusingly)  
 Is this because I would not come to your bed?

ENCHANDRA  
 As I have told you before... no man tells me what to do.

ROCK  
 Suit yourself. I will not stand in your way.

Rock signals for Beylor and Garth to return with him to the clearing where Ashgar was killed. Thernar and Enchandra remain alone in the forest.



EXT. ALCOVE - NIGHT

The mood in the camp is subdued. Rock and the hunting pack are not greeted with the usual excitement and commotion they were always accustomed too.

After leaving Ashgar's body for burial, Rock finds Lena sitting next to the hearth. She appears to have been crying. When he sees Peelar's bracelet in her hands, he knows it can mean only one thing...

ROCK  
The Tribunal?

LENA  
Yes.

EXT. SACRED MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

The jagged peaks of an eerily shaped mountain.

EXT. SACRED MOUNTAIN - MONOLITH - LATER

A large monument on a flat plateau, surrounded by a circular setting of huge, freestanding stones (similar to the ones at Stonehenge).

On the ground is a pattern of earthworks, similar to the one in Heilos' cave, over which is placed a stone altar.

Heilos steps forward, along with three other ELDERS. He wears a ceremonial cloak made out of animal skins and fur.

Rock approaches his father in one final attempt to save Peelar's life.

ROCK  
Must she face the Tribunal?

HEILOS  
Peelar has broken the law. Now she must be judged.

ROCK  
Haygorth's death was an accident, father. No one knew the bears were in there.

HEILOS  
It does not matter. Peelar's disobedience cannot be excused.

ROCK

We have all made mistakes. She did not mean to break the law.

HEILOS

Like so many of our people, Peelar has lost faith. Now she must pay for her sinful ways.

Heilos beckons for all of his children to come closer, and gather around the altar.

Now, Peelar is led into the center by a procession of SIX MEN, carrying torches. Her body is painted white with a strange ash-type substance that accentuates her nakedness.

The men position her next to the altar so that she is in full view of Heilos and the ELDERS.

With dagger in hand, Heilos faces east and, touches his forehead. and said,

HEILOS

Ateh.

Then with the dagger,, he touched his breast., and said,

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Malkuth.

Heilos touched his right shoulder with the dagger., and said,

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Ve-beburah.

Heilos then touched his left shoulder., and said,

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Ve-gedula.

Heilos claps his hands. and said,

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Le-olam.

And with the dagger clutched between his fingers, he points to the heavens and said,

HEILOS (CONT'D)

Amen.

Suddenly, the wind begins to rise as if by magic and dark clouds boil in the sky. Lightning flashes across the heavens as the stones begin to hum.

Heilos walks over to the altar, reaches into his pouch and scatters a handful of cave bear bones across its surface, watches as if he expects for them to move.

Next, he raises his scepter high into air, evoking the powers of the gods.

HEILOS

Oh, great spirits! Hear my humble plea! We seek your divine wisdom and knowledge!

SPIRIT DANCERS begin to chant, while others beat drums made out of animal skins and bones.

FIRST ELDER

(to Peelar)

What is the punishment for disobeying the law?

PEELAR

(head bowed)

Banishment or death.

SECOND ELDER

What say the law about going into the cellar?

PEELAR

It is forbidden. Women of the village are not allowed into the cellar.

FIRST ELDER

Which do you choose?

Peelar begins to cry, her body shakes like a leaf on a tree.

FIRST ELDER (CONT'D)

Have you no tongue? Speak! It is a simple question!

PEELAR

(in a low voice)

Death.

SECOND ELDER

Louder!

PEELAR

I choose death.

FIRST ELDER

(parroting, to the  
cave dwellers)

She chose death!

Several of the cave dwellers mummer to themselves in hushed voices, others shout for mercy.

SECOND ELDER

Silence!

The humming of the stones increases in intensity as they radiate a bluish colored glow.

LENA

Rock, I am afraid.

ROCK

Don't worry. I will protect you.

Peelar becomes transfixed. The costumed Dancers circle around the altar, their movements a gory pantomime of death and the afterlife.

HEILOS

Look down upon us from on high!  
Hear my incantations! Come to us  
now, we need your eternal strength  
and wisdom!

Suddenly, the wind rises, lightning strikes the altar, and the bones transform into the shape of a deer.

HEILOS

It is so ordered! Banishment!

ROCK

No! You must not do this!

SECOND ELDER

Silence! Judgment has been  
rendered! It is forbidden to  
interfere!

ROCK

No, father! This is madness!

HEILOS

Take her away!

The torch bearers approach Peelar. They prepare to send her back, into the forest. Rock grabs one of the men's torches, sets his body ablaze.

LENA

Rock!

Rock fight's with the men. Struck from behind, he gets overpowered, falls helplessly to the ground.

THERNAR

(to Lena)

He should not have interfered.

HEILOS

Take him back to your cave.  
Administer to his wounds.

Beylor and Garth help Lena carry Rock down the mountainside.

EXT. ROCK'S CAVE - NIGHT

The wind howls shrilly along the northern cliffs. Its icy cold fingers rise briskly up from the valley floor.

INT. ROCK'S CAVE - LATER

Rock lies in bed, unconscious. Lena sits next to him, swabs a wet cloth on the back of his head where he was bludgeoned.

Suddenly, he jerks, tosses and turns spasmodically as if from a bad dream. In his mind's eye, Rock sees himself...

EXT. ROCK'S DREAM - DAY

... .standing alone in the middle of a barren field. At his feet are the bodies of thousands of dead caribou, their blood and entrails cover the snow.

Now, a DARK SHAPE approaches from the north. As the SPECTER draws nearer, Rock recognizes that it's a man. He wears a fur raiment stained with blood.

The man removes his hood so that Rock can see his DECAYING face: it's Haygorth! He kneels down, picks up an entrail and SWALLOWS it whole.

HAYGORTH

What's the matter, Rock? Aren't you hungry?

ROCK

No, you're dead. You're not real.

HAYGORTH

(laughs, wipes his  
mouth,. His eyes cold  
and unforgiving)

Am I? Soon you will be too.

(laughs again)

I'm cold, Rock. Where's Peelar?

Rock attempts to move but he cannot. His feet seem cemented to the ground.

ROCK

Go away. Stay away from me.

HAYGORTH

(in a blasphemous voice)

I'm coming for you, Rock!

Suddenly, the specter changes to that of the Katogha. It GRUNTS ferociously and CHARGES at him.

ROCK

No, get back! Noooooooooo!

BACK TO PRESENT DAY.

Rock's eyes fly open. He bolts upright in bed to find Lena shaking him by the arm. Sweating profusely, he scans around the room for any signs of the beast that was in his dreams.

LENA

Rock! Rock! What's wrong?

ROCK

(relieved, smiles at  
her familiar face)

Lena. What happened?

LENA

You were attacked during the Tribunal.

ROCK

Peelar?

LENA

Thank you for trying.

ROCK

(breathes deeply,  
sits up on the side  
of the bed)

She won't last a day in the forest.

LENA

Get some rest. Maybe you will feel better in the morning.

ROCK

I cannot sleep. Whenever I close my eyes, all I see is death.

She moves closer to him, lays her head down on his shoulder.

LENA

(whispers, proudly)

I felt the first motions of life today. Soon you will have a son.

ROCK

He will be a strong hunter... his spirit will bring new hope for the Family Clan.

LENA

Why do you still despair, Rock? Set your mind at peace.

ROCK

I cannot.

LENA

What do you mean?

ROCK

I had a dream the other night.

LENA

About what?

ROCK

We were all dead, and after our bones had turned to dust, the world... as we know it... faded away.

LENA

(apprehensively,  
removes the bowl of  
water from the bed)

No more of this, Rock. No one can predict the future. To do so would mean blasphemy.

ROCK

Our way of life is changing. What happened during the Black Summer was only the beginning.

LENA

What will be will only come to pass.  
We cannot change the order of things.

ROCK

Thernar wishes to return to the  
Faraway Place, but the direction  
has been lost to by us.

LENA

Have you forgotten? Thernar's  
mother was not clan. Some of his  
people may still live there.

ROCK

I have not forgotten. The fate of  
our people mean nothing to him.

LENA

Have you spoken to Heilos about this?

ROCK

He won't listen.

LENA

It may be hard to understand, but  
Heilos only wants what's best for  
the Family Clan.

ROCK

By sending an innocent girl into  
the forest?

LENA

It's what he believes, Rock. You  
had those same beliefs... until you  
lost faith.

ROCK

Are you mocking me, woman?

LENA

Of course not. I am your wife.

Rock gets up out of bed, stands next to their doorway.

ROCK

I cannot change what my father  
believes, or my brother. I am more  
concerned about what's happening to us.

Lena gets up, walks over to where Rock stands, puts her arms  
around him.



LENA  
I don't want to argue. Not anymore.

ROCK  
You seem different. You act as if  
I am a stranger to you now.

LENA  
I'm having a baby, Rock. I may not  
want to be touched.

ROCK  
Maybe you just don't want to be  
touched at all?

She pushes him away.

LENA  
Perhaps if I were to join the  
hunting pack we could spend more  
time together.

ROCK  
This has nothing to do with Enchandra.

LENA  
This has everything to do with her.

ROCK  
I chose you and not her.

LENA  
She means nothing to you?

ROCK  
No, Lena. She does not.

LENA  
I don't believe you.

ROCK  
Fine. I'm leaving.

ROCK (CONT'D)  
Go back to bed. As you have  
stated... what will be, will be.

He departs from their cave.

EXT. ALCOVE - NIGHT

Rock descends the stairs leading out into the alcove. He  
meets Enchandra at the bottom.

ENCHANDRA

Going some where?

ROCK

I cannot sleep. I have a lot of things on my mind.

ENCHANDRA

Did you and Lena have an argument? You can sleep in my bed, if you like.

ROCK

I'll be all right.

ENCHANDRA

I have something for you, Rock.  
 (smiles, hands him a  
 leather sheath for  
 his knife)  
 It's for saving my life.

ROCK

I can't accept this.

ENCHANDRA

Why not? The other day... in the storm. I know you felt it too.

ROCK

I don't love you.

ENCHANDRA

Is it because of Lena? She's no good for you, Rock. You need a strong woman like me.

ROCK

I have to go.

ENCHANDRA

Give in to your desires, Rock. I want you so badly.

Enchandra places her arms around Rock's body, presses her lips close to his own. Rock considers, then he grabs her by the arms, pushes her away from him.

ROCK

No, I cannot do this!

ENCHANDRA

You are a fool! Any man would be glad to take me to their bed!

ROCK

I have to go.

He walks past her.

ENCHANDRA

You'll be back, Rock. Your heart  
belongs to me.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

At the shallow portion of the river, TWO CAVE DWELLERS,  
AKIRA (20) and KAOLIN (21), skinny-dip in the pale moonlight.  
MORELIA (19) sits quietly on the riverbank, watching them.

AKIRA

(pauses, tests the  
water with her foot)  
This water is cold.

KAOLIN

Don't worry. I'll warm you up.

Akira splashes water on Kaolin with her hands, removes her  
clothes, and dashes into the the river. Unashamedly, she  
beckons for her lover to join her.

AKIRA

(smiles, teasingly)  
Are you ready?

KAOLIN

(removes the rest of  
his clothes)  
Never have I been more so.

Kaolin wades into the water after the girl. He swims over  
to where she stands, fondles her bare breasts, and begins to  
kiss her passionately.

MORELIA

(unamused, brushes  
grass out of her hair)  
Akira. Kaolin. Don't go too far.  
Heilos may come looking for us.

KAOLIN

Let him come. He must catch us first.

MORELIA

I mean it!

AKIRA

Join us... won't you?

MORELIA  
No. I'm staying here.

AKIRA  
Come on, Morelia. It will be fun.

MORELIA  
Fun for the two of you.

The lovers swim away from the riverbank as a huge shadow appears inside of the tree line not far away from them.

MORELIA (CONT'D)  
I think I hear something.

KAOLIN  
What?

MORELIA  
I said I think I hear something...  
in the woods.

KAOLIN  
It was probably just a wild hog or  
boar. There's nothing to worry about.

AKIRA  
Are you coming in?

MORELIA  
No, I'm ready to go back now.

KAOLIN  
In a minute.

MORELIA  
I want to leave. Let's go... please?

The lovers continue to swim until they can no longer be seen or heard.

MORELIA (CONT'D)  
Akira... Koalin... where are you?

Suddenly, the Katogha appears behind her, casts an eerie reflection on the surface of the pool.

Morelia glances up, SCREAMS FROM FRIGHT as the creature descends upon her. It clutches the woman around the throat, flees back into the forest.

LATER.

Soon, the lovers return to the bank, put their clothes back on, begin to search for their friend.

AKIRA  
Morelia, where are you?

KAOLIN  
Maybe she went into the woods to pick wild berries?

AKIRA  
She could have at least told us.

They walk over to a thicket, where they find Morelia's clothes, torn and bloody, in the bushes.

KAOLIN  
Here are her clothes... but where is she?

AKIRA  
I don't know.

Akira reaches for them when the headless body of Morelia falls out of the trees. She screams as the Katogha rushes out towards them.

KAOLIN  
Look out!

AKIRA  
Help me!

Paralyzed from fear, Akira cannot move. With one swipe of it's razor- sharp claws, she falls dead at it's feet.

KAOLIN  
Nooooooooooooo!

Kaolin tries to fight off her attacker with his knife but he gets flung back into the water. The man resurfaces, swims for the other side of the river.

Disoriented, Kaolin runs into the forrest. He slips and falls and gets tangled in the underbrush. Briars cut him across his face and arms.

Finally, he spots a break in the tree line and a clearing on the other side of the woods. Out of breath, he dashes for the opening, finds a hiding spot amongst a pile of dead branches.

Shaking and breathing hard, Kaolin glances over his shoulder for any signs of the beast.

He closes his eyes, breathes a sigh of relief, leans back against the trunk of a tree.

Suddenly, he is grabbed by the leg and dragged through the underbrush. The Katogha clamps down upon his head, shakes him violently like a rag doll. Then, in a blur of motion and claws, the creature rips him open and eviscerates his body.

EXT. ALCOVE - NIGHT

The Katogha stands at the base of the alcove. The outline of several dark shapes are close behind it.

EXT. CELLAR - LATER

A WATCHER sits next to the entrance of the cellar. He sleeps peacefully, unaware of the grizzly that waits on top of the structure behind him.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Rock walks along the south wall. He stops and talks with a WATCHER, not far from the perimeter of their camp.

JA'SETH

What's wrong?

ROCK

I thought I heard something, like a whisper on the wind.

JA'SETH

I don't hear anything.

ROCK

Be careful. Stay alert.

JA'SETH

Yes. I will.

INT. NYSSTRA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Nysstra and Cynthuus are asleep. Suddenly a small rabbit appears at their door. Cautiously, it peers inside the cave at the child asleep next to its mother.

It hops over to where a piece of dried bread lies on a plate. The rabbit nibbles hungrily at the morsels of food.

Cynthuus wakes up, stares into the bunny's big, round eyes.

CYNTHUUS

Where did you come from?

Startled, the rabbit hops back out of the cave. Cynthuus throws back the covers, runs out of the cave after it.

EXT. GRASSY HILL - NIGHT

She climbs down the stairs into the alcove, past the courtyard and out into the valley floor. In the bright moonlight, the child searches for the rabbit. She finds it sitting in the middle of a grassy knoll.

CYNTHUUS

There you are. Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you.

She reaches down, picks up the bunny as a giant shadow appears in the woods behind her. The rabbit wiggles free, hops down to the ground.

Cynthuus turns and sees the beast as it charges at her. In a vise-like grip, the Katogha seizes her, leaves only a splatter of blood in the grass.

INT. NYSSTRA'S CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Nysstra awakens as if from a dream. She places her hand on the side of the bed where her child normally sleeps, feels nothing.

Frantic, she springs upright, glances about the room, looking for her child. She runs to the doorway and down the stairs into the alcove.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - NIGHT

Nysstra runs over to the knoll where Cynthuus was taken. She gasps from the horror of seeing her child being carried away by the creature.

NYSSTRA

Cynthuus!!! No!!!

In shock and stricken with fear, Nysstra turns and runs back towards the alcove.

NYSSTRA (CONT'D)

Rock! Heilos! My child! Someone, please... .help me!

EXT. SOUTH WALL - LATER

Rock continues along the path. He finds the headless body of Ja'Seth not far from the top of the stairs.

He picks up the horn that the Watcher carried, blows into it, sounds the alarm.

Suddenly Rock hears Nysstra's outcry. He rushes down into the alcove as several of the men emerge from their caves, spears in hand.

ROCK  
What happened?

NYSSTRA  
My child! You must save my child!

ROCK  
Is it the Katogha?

NYSSTRA  
Yes, Rock!

ROCK  
Go! I will find her!

She retreats up the stairs.

BEYLOR  
What is it, Rock?

ROCK  
The Katogha! It's here! It killed Ja'seth.

HEILOS  
Where?

ROCK  
In the alcove!

Suddenly, the Katogha appears at the outer edge of the alcove, along with THREE OTHER BEARS.

The beasts BELLOW and WAIL ferociously as they charge back into camp!

GARTH  
Look out! Here they come!

ROCK  
Don't let them get away!

The cave dwellers circle around the bears, with spears and clubs they drive the beasts back towards the woods.



GARTH  
 (to Kaw and Muck, Muck)  
 Bite them, kill them! Tear them  
 too pieces!

The two wolves attack! Their sharp teeth and claws slice through the bears' flesh like razors.

One of the bears pins Muck Muck on the ground. Garth attempts to help his pet, when the Katogha picks up the wolf and rips her in half.

GARTH  
 No! Damn beast!

Garth rushes the huge bear, drives his spear into the creature's hind quarters. Kaw leaps on the bear's back, sinks its teeth into its neck.

Baylor and Rock come to Garth's aide, with spears and torches they fight with the monster.

Thernar, Enchandra, and the other cave dwellers battle the remaining two bears close to the cooking spot.

One of the men tries to run from the hearth, across the Alcove, to the stairs. He gets snared by a bear and torn into pieces.

THERNAR  
 Behind me!

Some of the men rally behind Thernar as they all converge on the courtyard where Rock and his men have taken the battle.

LATER.

The fight is over. Lena and the other women descend from their caves to tend to the wounded and the dead.

Rock searches the woods and the perimeter around their village to make sure the bears are gone. He finds pieces of Cynthus' dress, gives them to Nysstra.

BEYLOR  
 It's over.

ROCK  
 Yes, but they may come back.

Garth approaches them now, he carries the body of Muck Muck in his arms. Kaw limps painfully at his side.

GARTH  
 (shakily, holds back  
 his tears)  
 She's dead, Rock. Look what they  
 did to her.

ROCK  
 I am sorry. I know how much she  
 meant to you.

THERNAR  
 (to Heilos)  
 What now, father? With torches  
 burning they still came back into  
 our village.

HEILOS  
 More Watchers must be placed around  
 the camp. If they come back, we  
 will be ready.

BEARDED MAN  
 Someone must take Ja'seth's place.

ROCK  
 I am not tired. I will stand watch.

HEILOS  
 It is done. The bodies of our kin  
 must be taken away for burial.

LENA  
 I will do.

The cave dwellers brace themselves for another attack as the  
 bodies of the slain cave dwellers are carried away for burial.

EXT. CELLAR - DAWN

Rock stands at the cellar with Heilos and several other cave  
 dwellers. The dismembered body of the Watcher who slept at  
 the cellar lies in pieces on the ground.

HEILOS  
 He must have fallen asleep.

ROCK  
 It does appear that way.

HEILOS  
 Five of our people were killed last  
 night... three are still missing.

Thernar paces nervously around the corpse, bloody footprints smear the ground.

THERNAR

Now will you listen, father?

HEILOS

Both of you were right. I'm sorry  
I ever doubted you.

Beylor and Garth emerge from inside the cellar. The expressions on their faces confirms the cave dwellers' worst fears.

BEYLOR

They raided our food supply again. .

HEILOS

How much do we have left?

ROCK

Almost all of the meat is gone, father.

HEILOS

What little there is left must be  
rationed. It is the only way we  
can survive until the spring.

ADLIBS:

You can't ration our food... who  
will eat first... what will we do  
after it runs out... you can't do  
this... we should leave this place!

THERNAR

The longer we stay here, the longer  
it will take for us to cross the  
Frozen Lands!

HEILOS

(loudly)

Silence! This is my decree! The  
head of each family within the  
tribe will gather at the cooking  
spot in the morning!

ROCK

I think, for once, Thernar may be  
right.

HEILOS

You agree with him, Rock?

ROCK

These are not ordinary bears. They have a taste for human flesh now. After they consume all of the meat in the cellar they will start hunting us next.

HEILOS

Do you have a plan?

ROCK

The Katogha is a nocturnal creature. If we can find it's den maybe we can kill it.

HEILOS

Such a beast will be difficult to find... even harder to kill.

ROCK

Either we make a stand now, or die of starvation when the snow falls.

HEILOS

(to Rock, adamantly)

Do you really believe you can slay this creature?

ROCK

I will track this creature to whatever lair or place it comes from. There I will kill it.

BEARDED MAN

(to Rock)

Suppose they come back? We don't stand a chance against this creature!

ROCK

At least we will die trying.

EXT. ALCOVE - DAWN

Nysstra stands next to the hearth. Lost in her own thoughts, she seems detached from the world around her.

LENA

I am sorry about Cynthus.

NYSSTRA

Thank you.

LENA  
 You must not blame yourself. It  
 wasn't your fault.

NYSSTRA  
 She needed me, Lena. I wasn't  
 there for her.

Heilos and Rock return from the cellar, along with the other  
 cave dwellers.

ANGRY WOMAN  
 Have you heard? Heilos is going to  
 ration our food!

LENA  
 How do you know this?

ANGRY WOMAN  
 He said so! Because of those bears  
 we may not survive the winter!

LENA  
 What other choice is there?

ANGRY WOMAN  
 Thernar is right! We should leave  
 this place!

LENA  
 We must have faith. In time, the  
 gods will tell us what to do.

ANGRY WOMAN  
 I'm tired of hearing about the gods!  
 The gods do not listen to us  
 anymore, they never have!

The woman walks away.

NYSSTRA  
 She's right.

LENA  
 You should not say that. It will  
 only make things worse.

NYSSTRA  
 My child is dead. How could it get  
 any worse than that?

Rock, Beylor and Garth stand next to the fire, preparing  
 their weapons for the hunt.

ROCK  
Where's Thernar?

GARTH  
He left this morning with Enchandra,  
along with two of his men.

ROCK  
I'm not going to wait for them. We  
must get moving.

BEYLOR  
He challenges you, Rock. He means  
you no good.

ROCK  
Thernar's heart has hardened. I  
can no longer reason with my brother.

Lena approaches them now.

LENA  
May I speak to you?

ROCK  
Yes, what is it?

LENA  
I was told you were leaving.

ROCK  
We are going after the Katogha.

LENA  
You did not tell me. Why?

ROCK  
You were busy.

LENA  
I am never too busy to talk to you.

ROCK  
You seem preoccupied. I did not  
wish to upset you.

LENA  
I am sorry if I hurt you. It  
doesn't mean that I don't care.

ROCK  
I, too, am sorry.

LENA  
Will you do something for me?

ROCK  
Yes.

She hands Rock a pouch, wrapped in leather and tied with string.

LENA  
If you see Peelar, give this to her.

ROCK  
What is it?

LENA  
She will understand.

LENA  
All right. I will give it to her.

LENA  
Come back to me.

LENA  
Never forget that I love you.

Suddenly they are approached by Ashgar's younger sister, KEARRA.

KEARRA  
Are you going after the Katogha?

ROCK  
That's still the plan.

KEARRA  
You're going to need help.

ROCK  
I have help.

KEARRA  
Let me go with you.

ROCK  
You do not belong to the pack.

KEARRA  
Let me join. My brother is dead,  
Whartok has been killed and you can  
no longer count on Enchandra. You  
need me.

ROCK  
How old are you?

KEARRA  
 (defensively)  
 Seventeen!

BEYLOR  
 Sixteen.

Rock doesn't answer, instead he waits for her to tell him the truth.

KEARRA  
 ...All right, I'm sixteen, but I have been practicing everyday with my bow. I'm almost as good as Enchandra.

BEYLOR  
 What's that thing on your hip?

She removes the V-shaped weapon (a boomerang) from her belt. It has blades on either both ends.

KEARRA  
 It's a throwing stick. Ashgar showed me how to make it.

ROCK  
 What does it do?

KEARRA  
 I haven't finished it yet. When you throw it, it's supposed to come back to you.

ROCK  
 Show me.

KEARRA  
 I told you, it's not finished yet.

ROCK  
 How good are you with your bow?

Kearra takes aim at the wooden effigy of a deer. She shoots an arrow, hits the deer dead center in its heart.

KEARRA  
 (beams with pride)  
 Well?

ROCK  
 No.



KEARRA

No? Why not?

ROCK

You are not old enough. There's more to it than shooting arrows at wooden targets.

KEARRA

I will join another pack. You cannot stop me.

ROCK

That would be a mistake.

Rock and the hunting pack pick up their weapons and supplies. They head out towards the forest.

LATER

The first day of food rationing begins. Dressed in fur raiments, the cave dwellers wait at the cooking spot for Heilos to return from the cellar.

BEARDED MAN

Thernar said three deer were killed last week, but only two went into the cellar. What happened to the third one?

FIRST CAVEDWELLER

I don't know. I didn't eat it. Did you?

LENA

The hunting pack left again this morning. Perhaps they will bring back a deer this time?

BEARDED MAN

Our food is being rationed but we are still hungry.

SECOND CAVE DWELLER

Maybe all of the meat does not go into the cellar?

NYSSTRA

Rock has no reason to lie. He doesn't want any of us to go hungry.

OLD WOMAN

She speaks the truth. Rock would not starve his own child.

LENA  
 We can still fish. There are  
 plenty of fish in the river.

SECOND CAVEDWELLER  
 What will we do after the river  
 freezes?

THERNAR  
 (O.S.)  
 We will starve.

Thernar and his MEN approaches them now. We meet for the first time the members of Thernar's own hunting pack, which includes:

Y'MOR, thirtyish, haggard looking but with a sturdy frame and a barrel-shaped chest.

CAUL, mid twenties, simple minded, with more brawn than brains.

Both men follow Thernar with dedication and a single purpose.

BEARDED MAN  
 (to Thernar)  
 Where is our food? You said three  
 deer were killed last week?

THERNAR  
 Three deer were killed by me.

BEARDED MAN  
 Only two went into the cellar.  
 What happened to the third one?

THERNAR  
 I don't know. Did you ask my father?

BEARDED MAN  
 His words do not have any meaning.  
 He said you have miscounted them.

CAUL  
 Three were killed...  
 (makes a smashing  
 motion with his club)  
 ...Not miscount them.

Heilos returns from the cellar along with several other cave dwellers. The meat they carried is laid on a table next to the hearth.

BEARDED MAN  
 (to Heilos, disappointed)  
 Is this all the meat you brought  
 back from the cellar?

HEILOS  
 Yes. It must be eaten sparingly.

BEARDED MAN  
 This will not feed all of us!

HEILOS  
 The head of each family within the  
 clan will get their share. Women  
 and children should eat first.  
 What's left will go to the men.

BEARDED MAN  
 We are tired of being hungry!  
 Three deer were killed, not two!

HEILOS  
 Thernar wishes to deceive you! He  
 does not speak the truth!

BEARDED MAN  
 This isn't right! You cannot treat  
 us like this!

OLD MAN  
 You complain too much. We are all  
 hungry.

HEILOS  
 (grabs Thernar by his  
 shoulders, shakes him roughly)  
 Enough! Your lies have caused  
 enough trouble!

SECOND CAVEDWELLER  
 What does it matter!? We're all  
 going to die anyway!

Soon Rock returns with Garth and Baylor, empty handed-handed.

BEARDED MAN  
 Did you not find any game?

ROCK  
 No.

OLD MAN  
 The gods have truly forsaken us.

ROCK

We must find other places to hunt.  
There still may be game, across the  
river.

More DISGRUNTLED voices SPEAK OUT. Y'mor picks up a stone,  
throws it and HITS Heilos on the back of the head.

Finally, the inevitable happens as a MELEE breaks out  
between Rock, the hunting pack, and Thernar and his followers.

Lena, Nysstra, and Kearra GATHERS the children, PUSHES them  
aside.

Rock goes after Y'mor, while Thernar and Caul FIGHT with  
Beylor and Garth.

HEILOS

(staggered, head bleeding)

Enough! Stop this fighting at once!

THERNAR

Do not believe what he tells you!  
Heilos doesn't want you to know the  
truth!

They continue to fight. Heilos steps in between the men,  
waves his scepter and calls down a lightning strike from the  
heavens. The force of which splits both factions apart.

HEILOS

There will be no more fighting!

BEARDED MAN

You cannot impose your will upon us  
any longer!

THERNAR

This valley is poison now! It is  
time for us to leave!

HEILOS

There is no place we can go! Our  
only chance for survival is if we  
all stay together!

THERNAR

There is a passage that leads  
across the mountains into The  
Frozen Lands! We can make it if we  
try!

BEARDED MAN

Thernar speaks the truth! What are you so afraid of?

ROCK

No, father! Thernar does not speak the truth! If we follow him we will all die!

THERNAR

Why are you against me? I am your brother! You should embrace me!

ROCK

I cannot follow you or go along with your plans! What you are attempting to do is suicide!

HEILOS

Listen to me! You are both my sons! I do not wish to see either one of you get hurt!

THERNAR

This creature will come back! It has a taste for human flesh now! Nothing can stop it!

ROCK

I still believe we can kill this beast, father. We saw more tracks that led into the swamp. I think it may be hiding in there.

HEILOS

You should rest before going back. I'm coming with you this time.

(to Thernar)

Will you help us track this beast? If we do not kill it, you are free to leave.

THERNAR

All right, father. I will. My men and I will be ready.

Thernar storms away, followed by several other clan members.

INT. THERNAR'S CAVE - NIGHT

Thernar and his confederates sit on the floor, around an open fire. Their raucous laughter fills the cave.

THERNAR

Heilos is a fool. I have listened to his mutterings long enough. It's time to take action.

BEARDED MAN

What are you going to do?

THERNAR

Get as far away from this valley as I can. If Heilos wants to stay here, then let him die.

ENCHANDRA

How?

THERNAR

By crossing the mountains into the Frozen Lands.

BEARDED MAN

I have been to the Northern Mountains. Never have I found a way to cross them.

THERNAR

There is a way... a passage that leads across the mountains. You must first reach the summit. The air is bitter cold and rock slides prevail. The passage is there, hidden among the peaks.

FIRST CAVEDWELLER

Only a fool would attempt such a thing.

THERNAR

Stay here, if you like. You will either starve to death or get eaten by the Katogha.

BEARDED MAN

No, of course not. Forgive me.

THERNAR

...But I need your help.

BEARDED MAN

What is it you want us to do?

THERNAR

I have a plan... first we need meat... all the meat we can carry from the cellar.

BEARDED MAN

These are your people. If you take all of the meat they will die.

THERNAR

They are already dead. If the Katogha doesn't finish them off, the sickness will.

Y'MOR

They die... so we may live.

FIRST CAVEDWELLER

Rock will not allow you to do this. He will stand in your way.

ENCHANDRA

(coily, stifling a smile)

I will help you, but there is something you must do for me first.?

THERNAR

What is it?

ENCHANDRA

I want you to make Rock pay for disrespecting me.

THERNAR

Is that all?

ENCHANDRA

After Rock loses everything that matters to him, that will be reward enough.

THERNAR

Done.

BEARDED MAN

When do you want to try this?

THERNAR

The pack leaves in the morning. I will go with them. As soon as my brother is out of the way, no one can stop us.

BEARDED MAN

You can count on me, Thernar.

THERNAR

What about the rest of you?

FIRST CAVEDWELLER  
 (stands, prepares to leave)  
 I want no part of this. Someone  
 should warn Heilos.

Caul stands up, removes his knife, positions himself behind  
 the cave dweller.

THERNAR  
 If you are not with me, then you  
 are my enemy....

Caul stabs the man in the back.

THERNAR (CONT'D)  
 ...And you must die.

EXT. RIVER - DAWN

At the edge of the river banks, Rock finds more bear tracks.

ROCK  
 (kneels, almost  
 sniffs the ground)  
 Bear tracks. They lead in that  
 direction.

HEILOS  
 How close?

ROCK  
 It's den cannot be far from here.  
 Those trees bear its mark.

Rock points to a birch tree. It's bark has been shaved  
 clean in two places.

HEILOS  
 I see what you mean.

BEYLOR  
 This beast towers above three men.  
 It will not be easy to kill.

THERNAR  
 If it bleeds we can kill it.

ENCHANDRA  
 We have to find it first.

BEYLOR  
 If it's here we will find it.



ROCK  
Come. Follow me.

The hunters climb through dense foliage, up a juniper-studded ridge, and plunge downhill into a deep gorge. Soon they come upon a narrow stream and find an oak tree struck by lightning.

On the ground, not far from where the tree had fallen, were the remains of a dead AUROCH. Huge claw marks covered its body. Scavenger birds feasted on the animal's rotting flesh.

In the muck were footprints of some strange, prehistoric beast.

GARTH  
By the Gods of Tubrock!

BEYLOR  
Could it have died from the fever?

ROCK  
No. It's neck is broken.

BEYLOR  
What could have killed it?

ROCK  
I don't know. Looks like it was clawed to death.

GARTH  
Something big came down here to drink. This Auroch must have gotten in its way.

ENCHANDRA  
What's that horrible smell?

BEYLOR  
It's piss. Something pissed on this animal after it died.

ROCK  
Predators use piss to warn their enemies to stay away.

GARTH  
It also marks their territory.

BEYLOR  
There are more tracks over here, Rock.

ROCK

Keep your wits about you. We are getting close. I can feel it.

The hunters press onward through the dense forest. Soon they come upon a steep creek bank with pine trees and sharply rising cliffs. Ahead of them was the outer boundary of the swamps.

ROCK

(kneels, touches the ground)

More tracks.

(points, with his spear)

They lead in that direction.

ROCK

They lead towards the swamp.

THERNAR

We should split up. By separating we may be able to force this creature out into the open.

ROCK

That's not a good idea, Thernar. We could be walking into a trap.

THERNAR

We can cover more ground if we split up.

ROCK

I still don't like it. What if they double back on us?

THERNAR

If the Katogha was behind us we would have seen it by now.

ROCK

(considers, with reservations)

All right. If you find it's lair, give us a signal.

THERNAR

Stay away from the sink holes. The ground looks solid, but it's not.

The pack separates to cover more ground. Enchandra and Garth climb the creek banks, while Thernar, Beylor, and Heilos stay with Rock.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

They enter into the heart of this dark abode. Swirling gasses and mist rise from the ground into the air above.

Rock and his group follow the tracks for miles through the murky water and dark interior.

Soon they reach a sandy area surrounded by giant leaf ferns, spotted plants and tall saplings. Here they decide to rest.

THERNAR

This muck is only slowing us down.  
A tortoise could run faster.

ROCK

(notices Heilos' distress)  
Are you alright, father?

HEILOS

I only need to catch my breath.  
I'll be alright.

THERNAR

He should have stayed at the village.

ROCK

Do you wish to turn back?

HEILOS

No, you may need my help.

THERNAR

I will stay with him, Rock.

HEILOS

No, you must go. I don't want to  
slow you down.

ROCK

This swamp is filled with predators.  
You should not be left alone.

THERNAR

Go on, Rock. I will stay.

ROCK

Alright. Once we find the  
Katogha's lair I will come back for  
you.

HEILOS

As you wish.

Rock and Beylor continue on through the swamp.

LATER

THERNAR

How do you feel?

HEILOS

Better. I only needed to catch my breath.

THERNAR

There is something I must tell you, father.

HEILOS

What is it?

THERNAR

I have decided to leave the Family Clan.

HEILOS

Why?

THERNAR

I don't belong here. The only thing I ask from you now is your blessing.

HEILOS

There is so much I wanted to teach the both of you.

THERNAR

You taught me how to be a man. That is enough.

HEILOS

Would it be too much to ask if I might embrace you before you go?

THERNAR

No, father. Of course not.

Thernar embraces his father.

HEILOS

No matter our differences, I have always loved you...

THERNAR

...And I have always loved you.  
Please forgive me for what I am  
about to do.

Thernar reaches inside his tunic, pulls out the gold dagger  
he stole from Heilos' cave. He stabs the shaman in the abdomen.

THERNAR (CONT'D)

Now the circle is complete.

Heilos falls to the ground just as Thernar hears the sounds  
of footsteps approaching.

Thernar hides in the bushes when suddenly, Rock appears  
before him.

Rock spots the body of Heilos lying motionless on the ground.  
He rushes to his father's side.

ROCK

(picks up the bloody knife)  
Who did this to you, father? Tell  
me and I will avenge you.

HEILOS

(moans, weakly)  
It was... Thernar.

ROCK

Thernar? Why would he do this?

HEILOS

He's mad, Rock. He hates all of us.

ROCK

The coward.

HEILOS

I am... dying.

ROCK

No, you cannot die. I will not  
allow it.

Heilos dies as Thernar emerges from hiding.

THERNAR

What have you done, Rock?

ROCK

He's dead! You killed him!

THERNAR  
Why would I kill my own father?

ROCK  
To control the Family Clan!

THERNAR  
You are mistaken. It was you who  
killed our father.

ROCK  
You lie!

Rock and Thernar begin to fight. Suddenly they are joined  
by Beylor, Garth and Enchandra. They pull the two rivals apart.

GARTH  
What has happened here?

THERNAR  
Heilos has been slain.

BEYLOR  
What happened, Rock?

ROCK  
It was Thernar! He killed our father!

THERNAR  
Heilos was slain with a knife! The  
very knife Rock holds in his hands!

ENCHANDRA  
Murderer!

ROCK  
No! Thernar lies!

THERNAR  
He must face the Tribunal, for the  
death of Heilos!

GARTH  
Rock would not harm his own father.

THERNAR  
It is the law. Rock must be punished.

BEYLOR  
He lies! Rock would never do that!

ROCK  
 I will face the Tribunal.  
 (hands the dagger to Garth)  
 My innocence will be proven.

GARTH  
 We are sorry, Rock.

ROCK  
 It is the law. I have done nothing.

Rock is escorted back to the village.

EXT. CELLAR - DAY

Rock is held prisoner inside the structure as several of the cave dwellers gather to deliberate his fate.

BEARDED MAN  
 I knew he could not be trusted.

OLD WOMAN  
 Rock would not kill Heilos. He  
 loved his father.

BEARDED MAN  
 It happened as Thernar said it did.

OLD WOMAN  
 Thernar does not speak the truth.  
 You should not listen to him.

Lena and Kearra approach the cellar.

LENA  
 Is he all right?

GARTH  
 Yes.

LENA  
 May I see him?

GARTH  
 He is not permitted to speak to anyone.

LENA  
 If he needs anything, let me know.

GARTH  
 I will.

INT. CELLAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rock stands bound by the wrists in the darkness. He listens, as a tear rolls down his cheek.

EXT. SACRED MOUNTAIN - TRIBUNAL - NIGHT

The jagged peaks of an eerily shaped mountain.

EXT. MONOLITH - LATER

The monument and its circular setting of stones, the cave dwellers in the middle. Rock is led into the center by a procession of six men carrying torches.

BEYLOR

Are the others ready?

GARTH

Yes, my friend. May the gods have mercy on our souls.

Thernar steps forward, along with two other Elders.

FIRST ELDER

(to Rock)

You have been brought before this Tribunal for the death of your father. You have broken the law, for that you must be punished.

SECOND ELDER

Show us the weapon that was used to commit this atrocity.

Thernar faces the Tribunal, in his hand is the dagger Rock gave to Heilos for his birthday. He raises it high into the air for everyone to see.

THERNAR

Here is the weapon. A dagger, chiseled by Rock's own hands.

FIRST ELDER

Where was the dagger found?

THERNAR

Next to the lifeless body of our father.

BEYLOR

He lies! Thernar is the guilty one! Why would Rock slay his own father?



SECOND ELDER

Silence! It is not permitted to speak!

THERNAR

Heilos had decided to cross the Frozen Lands to save his people. In a fit of rage, Rock attacked our father, spilling his life's blood onto the ground.

SECOND ELDER

Does Thernar speak the truth, Rock?

ROCK

Which truth do you want to hear? The truth coming from Thernar's lying tongue, or the truth coming from my own heart?

SECOND ELDER

There can only be one truth...

ROCK

(interrupts)

A...and that truth has been twisted by my brother's own hatred.

FIRST ELDER

Enough. Prepare yourself for the judgment.

The wise men approach Rock and the other cave dwellers.

SECOND ELDER

What is the punishment for disobeying the law?

ROCK

Banishment or death.

SECOND ELDER

What say the law about taking the life of another?

ROCK

It is forbidden. This is for the good of the Family Clan.

FIRST ELDER

Which do you choose?

Rock clinches his teeth, stares into the eyes of his treacherous brother.

FIRST ELDER (CONT'D)  
 Speak! It is a simple question!

ROCK  
 (in a low voice)  
 Vengeance.

SECOND ELDER  
 Louder!

ROCK  
 I seek revenge against those who  
 falsely accuse me...

SECOND ELDER  
 Revenge is not an option!

ROCK  
 Neither is this!

Rock breaks free of his restraints. He grabs one of the torch bearers, lifts him high over his head, tosses him like a rag doll into the others.

BEYLOR  
 Now!

From the crowd of onlookers, Garth, Beylor and Kearra begin to fight with Thernar and his men.

GARTH  
 (to Rock)  
 Run! We will keep them busy for you!

Garth swings with his heavy stone ax, catches Talsec below the ear with it.

Enchandra stands with her bow, takes aim at Rock as he flees.

Suddenly, a loud swishing sound can be heard as Kearra's throwing stick flies through the air.

Incredulously, it knocks the bow out of her hand and returns to its owner as designed.

Garth swings his ax again, decapitates a cave dweller trying to attack him.

Thernar picks up a club and strikes Garth in the back of the head, renders him unconscious.

Rock flees down the winding mountain trail that leads back to their village. Behind him he could hear the voices of his pursuers behind him..

EXT. SACRED MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

The fight is over. Thernar regains control, as Baylor, Garth, and Kearra are lashed and tied together for helping Rock to escape.

THERNAR  
It is so ordered. Rock is banished,  
never to return again.

ENCHANDRA  
What about Lena?

THERNAR  
(signals to his men)  
I have something special planned  
for her.

Y'mor and Caul hold Lena by the arms. They push her down to her knees at Thernar's feet.

THERNAR (CONT'D)  
He will not get far. We will find  
him, and when we do, we will kill him.

LENA  
Never! He's more of a man than you  
ever will be!

THERNAR  
We shall see, but right now you and  
I have some unfinished business.  
(to Y'mor)  
Tie her hands, bring her to me  
tonight, unharmed.  
(to Caul)  
Confine the others to the cellar.  
We will deal with them in the morning.

EXT. MONTAGE: - THERNAR AND HIS MEN BEGIN THEIR REIGN OF TERROR

-- They raid the cellar and gorge themselves on the meat that was left.

-- They drag the women out into the alcove, beat them and rape them.

-- Now that they have outlasted their usefulness, the Elders are put to death.

-- The cave dwellers that who are allowed to live, mostly women and children, are held captive in the dark confines of the cellar.

-- While Thernar's men are preoccupied, Beylor manages to slip away into the forest.

INT. THERNAR'S CAVE - NIGHT

Lena lies unclothed on Thernar's bed. He is on top of her, thrusts his manhood repeatedly between her legs. She fights back the tears until mercifully she falls unconscious.

EXT. VALLEY - DAWN

It is winter. The clouds are gray and foreboding. A light rain falls from the sky.

EXT. FOREST - WATERING HOLE - DAWN

A wounded EUOPLOCEPHALUS and her babies wander down to the pool for a drink.

Rock lies asleep inside the hollow trunk of a birch tree. He is awakened by the small ones' GRUNTS and CHATTERING sounds.

Suddenly, Rock hears another NOISE, like the sound of grass being TRAMPLED. The baby Euoplocephalus are aware of the sounds as well, and move closer to their mother.

Three SABER-TOOTH'S emerge from the mist. They smell the mother's blood, circle around their prey. One goes after the babies as the other two RIP into the adult.

One of her babies gets away, runs towards the tree where Rock is hiding. He tries to shoo it away with his foot, but the reptile is determined to get inside.

The third cat spots Rock and LUNGES for the tree. Seeing the animal as it advances, Rock climbs farther up into the tree until he finds an opening that takes him out onto one of the branches.

Below him, Rock could see the cat GNAWING and SLASHING at the tree as if trying to make him fall.

Suddenly, an arrow ZINGS past him, strikes the saber-tooth in the crown of its head. Rock looks up and sees PEELAR, or better yet a new and improved version, hiding behind a log.

This is not the same timid little girl who was exiled into the forest. She wears face paint, her hair is cut short, and her fighting skills are that of a warrior!

PEELAR

Are you hurt?

ROCK  
No! Are you?

PEELAR  
Make a run for it!

Rock drops down from the tree. The saber-tooth looks up when his feet hits the ground.

PEELAR (CONT'D)  
I think they see you!

The predators slowly advance up the hill, searches for him among the bushes and trees.

With all the strength she can muster, Peelar gets behind the log and rolls it down the slope. It strikes a second, and then a third log, which gives Rock time enough to run for cover.

Peelar fires a second arrow, strikes the closet saber-tooth in his thigh. The big cat screeches from pain, claws at the arrow with his other foot.

Rock runs from tree to tree over to Peelar's vantage point, tired and exhausted.

PEELAR (CONT'D)  
Let me guess. You didn't choose death?

ROCK  
I did not choose.

PEELAR  
You must have done something?

ROCK  
I have done nothing. Thernar has taken over the Family Clan.

PEELAR  
What happened?

BEYLOR  
Heilos is dead. I was banished for his death.

PEELAR  
That is bad. I guess you'll be needing my help?

BEYLOR  
Give me your spear. There's two more left.

PEELAR  
 (hands him her spear)  
 Don't get killed.

Rock stands, moves back down the hill. Peelar advances to the left of the predators.

The saber-tooth that was wounded has removed the arrow from its leg. They continue to search for Rock, when a second arrow fired from Peelar's bow finds its mark. The cat howls and falls to the ground, dead.

The last remaining cat runs towards them. Rock springs forward, impales the cat in its chest.

ROCK  
 We did it.

PEELAR  
 Yes. That was fun.

ROCK  
 How did you survive for so long?

PEELAR  
 By hiding among the trees. The rest just came kind of natural-like.

ROCK  
 (inhales deeply,  
 jerks his spear from  
 the animal's carcass)  
 We've got work to do. Are you up to it?

PEELAR  
 Sure. Let's go.

INT. CELLAR - DAWN

The captives are awakened by the sound of Thernar's men as they enter the cellar. They rouse the cave dwellers for a yet unknown purpose.

EXT. ALCOVE - LATER

Thernar waits for them in the courtyard. He is joined by Enchandra.

THERNAR  
 We've waited long enough. I don't want to be here when those bears come back.

ENCHANDRA

This valley of yours, how far away  
is it?

THERNAR

A three... maybe four months'  
journey from here. We can make it  
if the weather holds out.

ENCHANDRA

...And the others?

THERNAR

What happens to them now is not my  
concern.

ENCHANDRA

We need help to carry the meat from  
the cellar.

THERNAR

I have all ready thought about that.  
Gather all of the healthy ones...  
men and women both... they will  
carry the meat for us.

ENCHANDRA

We are taking the women?

THERNAR

They will help to rebuild our  
bloodlines.

ENCHANDRA

When do you want to do this?

THERNAR

As soon as my men return from the  
cellar.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Baylor walks along the riverbank. He appears to be sick and  
asthmatic. There are dark circles underneath his eyes and  
he coughs repeatedly.

Baylor trembles as he kneels at the river's edge to fill an  
Auroch bladder with water. Suddenly, he stumbles and falls  
in. Too weak to swim back to dry land, he gets swept down  
stream by the current.

Baylor finds himself wedged between a tree and a hollow log,  
when suddenly a hand reaches out and grabs him by the arm.  
He looks up and sees Rock standing in the water beside him.

ROCK

This time, it's my turn to save you.

Together they make it back to the river bank. Beylor touches Rock on the shoulder and falls unconscious.

INT. PEELAR'S HUT - DAY

Beylor awakens to find himself inside of a mud and grass hut. Rock and Peelar are there, at his side.

ROCK (CONT'D)

How do you feel?

BEYLOR

Better. How long was I asleep?

ROCK

Two days. You were sick from the fever. Peelar mixed a potion to bring your fever down.

BEYLOR

(to Peelar)

I thought you were dead.

PEELAR

I thought I was too.

BEYLOR

I am grateful.

(to Rock)

We must return to village. Thernar has confined everyone to the cellar.

ROCK

What about Lena?

BEYLOR

She is in great danger, Rock. It may already be too late.

He attempts to get up.

ROCK (CONT'D)

Lie still. You still need to rest.

BEYLOR

There is no time. We must help them.

ROCK

Come. Follow me.



EXT. ALCOVE - DAY

The last surviving men, women, and children are paraded into the alcove.

THERNAR  
Where is Beylor?

BEARDED MAN  
He must have escaped.

ENCHANDRA  
He will tell Rock.

THERNAR  
It doesn't matter. If he comes back he's a fool.

ENCHANDRA  
Then you don't know your brother very well. He will stop at nothing to save Lena.

THERNAR  
He can have her... after I'm finished.

Thernar separates the clan into smaller groups. Men from women... husbands from wives... children from adults... healthy from sick.

NYSSTRA  
What are they going to do with us?

KEARRA  
I don't know. Stay calm. Don't let them see you are afraid.

Thernar walks among the herd of human flesh, instructs his men about which ones to remove for breeding.

Naullah stands next to her mother, her arms wrapped tightly around her leg.

Thernar appears in front of the toddler, his shadow blocks the sunlight like a giant oak tree. He looks down at the child, intrigued by her flaming red hair.

THERNAR  
(points)  
Her.

Naullah's mother begs for him not to take the child with him. Thernar calmly slits the woman's throat instead.

NYSSTRA  
 What kind of animal are you?

Y'mor slaps her, she falls to the ground. Kearra rushes to her side.

Y'MOR  
 Silence! Whore!

Thernar walks over, points to them.

THERNAR  
 Both!

Kearra and the woman are dragged away from the group, along with Naullah and three other children.

GARTH  
 You will pay for this.

THERNAR  
 Unfortunately, you won't live long enough to do anything about it.  
 (to Y'mor)  
 Take him away.

EXT. VILLAGE - ALCOVE - DAY

Rock, Peelar and Beylor return to the village. They find the slaughtered remains of the cave dwellers on the alcove floor.

ROCK  
 My brother did this?

BEYLOR  
 He's mad, Rock. I heard one of his men say they were leaving.

PEELAR  
 Where could they have gone?

ROCK  
 Only one place.

BEYLOR  
 The tundra?

ROCK  
 Yes.

BEYLOR  
 The bodies of our women folk are not here.

PEELAR

Thernar must have taken them with him.

ROCK

That means they are still alive.

BEYLOR

How will we catch him? He has a two- day head start?

ROCK

We will find my brother. Gather whatever weapons and supplies you can carry. We are going after them.

SUPER: Northern mountain range. Not far from the arctic circle.

EXT. NORTHERN MOUNTAINS - DAY

The majestic peaks of a snow-covered mountain.

EXT. NORTHERN MOUNTAINS - PASSAGE - LATER

Along a rocky precipice, Thernar and his caravan of hostages trudge up the mountain side. The adults carry packs full of meat on their backs.

NAULLAH

Where are we going, Lena?

LENA

To another valley. On the far side of these cliffs.

NAULLAH

It's so cold. I don't like it here.

LENA

I know, little one. Stay out of the wind, close to me.

NAULLAH

Why can't we go back?

LENA

We can never go back, I'm afraid. They will only hurt us if we try.

MEKKO

Are we their prisoners?

LENA

Yes.

Y'mor and Caul follow close behind, urging them onward if they fail to keep up the pace.

CAUL  
Don't talk! Keep moving!

He shoves Lena from behind.

LENA  
These children need to rest.

CAUL  
No rest! Keep walking!

KEARRA  
Think anyone knows where we are?

NYSSTRA  
How could they? Everyone is dead.

GARTH  
Do not worry. Rock will find us.

SUPER: Arctic Tundra.

EXT. BOUNDARY - NORTHERN MOUNTAINS - DAY

Rock, Beylor and Peelar prepare to cross the immense desolation of the tundra. They look out towards the meadow land, to the mountains that rise before them. On bent knee, Rock examines the permafrost for more footprints.

ROCK  
Bear tracks. The Katogha follows them.

BEYLOR  
Are we getting close?

ROCK  
Yes.

PEELAR  
Have they made it to the pass?

ROCK  
They should be there, soon.

PEELAR  
How will we stop them, Rock?

ROCK  
Let's hope the gods are with us.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Thernar and his hostages continue up the slope towards a lateral ridge.

Suddenly, there comes a deep rumble from within the mountain. It begins to shake. A portion of the ledge they stand upon crumbles and gives way.

THERNAR

Hold on!

Thernar and his men hunker down against the jagged rock face. They laugh crazily as huge boulders cascade down around them.

CAUL

(laughs)

The gods fart at us!

Y'MOR

Let's hope it passes soon!

A section where Enchandra, Naullah, and Nysstra stand suddenly buckles and breaks into pieces. Nysstra screams as she tumbles helplessly over the edge and disappears.

Naullah falls and slides to the edge, but her dress gets snagged on a spur. She hangs suspended in mid air, high above the primordial wilderness below.

LENA

Naullah!

Garth leaps for her as the small sliver of stone cracks from under her weight.

GARTH

Give me your hand, child!

NAULLAH

I can't!

GARTH

You must!

The frightened girl reaches up as far and as high as her little arm can go.

Garth stretches the entire length of his seven-foot frame and grabs her before she tumbles into oblivion. Kearra takes the child and quickly ducks for cover.

After the landslide is over and the dust settles, Thernar makes a startling discovery.

The rest of the way is blocked by giant boulders.

CAUL  
The ground shakes. These rocks fall.

KEARRA  
(whispers, to Lena)  
This may be our chance.

LENA  
No. It's too risky.

ENCHANDRA  
(to Thernar)  
Now what?

Thernar scans the mountainside for another route around the obstruction. He spots an opening in the nearby rock formations.

THERNAR  
We go that way.

ENCHANDRA  
That way takes us nowhere. The mountain tricks us again.

THERNAR  
We go down... then up.

Y'MOR  
We will become lost.

THERNAR  
No, I have explored these tunnels.  
They are easy to follow.

Y'MOR  
We will lose much time.

THERNAR  
Can you remove these stones?

He concedes to Thernar's verbal sparring.

Y'MOR  
(looks at the boulders)  
You are right. We will follow you.

Naullah and the other children become frightened, terrified of the darkness and what may lurk inside.

NAULLAH  
I don't want to go in there! I can see a red eyes looking at me!

LENA  
 You must not be afraid. The  
 darkness cannot hurt you.

MEKKO  
 (bravely)  
 I'm not afraid, Lena.

LENA  
 Good. I don't know how much  
 farther we have to go.

THERNAR  
 Silence! We go this way... now!

KEARRA  
 Is its possible?

GARTH  
 These tunnels run through the mountain.

THERNAR  
 We go now!

They enter the tunnels.

INT. EASTERN TUNNELS - DAY

The interior of the tunnel carries them along a seemingly endless stretch of honeycombed passageways. Using an uncanny sense of direction, Thernar leads them all deep into the mountain.

THERNAR  
 We should reach the ice fields by  
 morning. From there, we will cross  
 the tundra into the Frozen Lands.

Y'MOR  
 How long?

THERNAR  
 Three months... one month before  
 the spring... after that, we will  
 be home.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASSAGE - DAY

Rock, Beylor and Peelar stand on the ledge near the entrance to the tunnel.

BEYLOR  
 The mountain tests them.

ROCK  
Not them... us.

PEELAR  
Is this a sign, Rock?

ROCK  
Yes. The gods are still with us.

BEYLOR  
I believe you are right.

ROCK  
Come. We must not disappoint them.

INT. NORTHERN TUNNEL - DAY

Thernar and the others continue down the maze of corridors. As they proceed through the gloomy darkness, the narrow tunnels suddenly give way to even narrower passages.

KEARRA  
This is far enough. We can't let them take us any further.

GARTH  
She's right. It's better to die like men than live like slaves.

LENA  
What must we do?

GARTH  
They must sleep sometimes. When that time comes we must be ready.

INT. CAVERN - DAY

The traveller's emerge into a natural cave, illuminated by a strange, artificial light. Several tunnels extend on the opposite side, into the mountain.

ENCHANDRA  
What is this place?

THERNAR  
The mountain's heart.  
(points)  
That is the direction we seek.

BEARDED MAN  
I'm tired. Can't we rest for a little while?



THERNAR  
 All right. We will rest here.  
 (to Lena)  
 Come here.

Y'mor brings Lena closer.

THERNAR (CONT'D)  
 My men are tired. They serve me  
 well. Do not try to escape,  
 understand?.

LENA  
 Yes.

THERNAR  
 (to Y'mor and Caul)  
 Watch her. If she moves... beat her.

They all lie down close to a bubbling pool. Naullah is fascinated by the black water and attempts to wade in it. Garth quickly discourages her steps.

GARTH  
 No! You must not!

He grabs the child, pulls her back, away from the pool.

NAULLAH  
 I wasn't going to drink it.

GARTH  
 Behold.

He picks up a rock, throws it into the water. It foams into a geyser of heat and steam.

GARTH (CONT'D)  
 You would have been cooked to the  
 bones.

The travelers lie down and fall asleep - Lena, Garth and Kearra with the children. Enchandra snuggles next to Thernar.

Caul and Y'mor stand watch. Lulled by the solitude of the cave, even they cannot stay awake.

LATER

A mighty beast has arrived....

KEARRA  
 (stirs, quietly)  
 What's that smell?

LENA

I don't know.

KEARRA

I think it's... piss.

Y'mor sleeps upright against an outcropping of stones. Suddenly, a steady stream of warm liquid hits him in the face. It soaks his furs and skin.

He wipes the water from his face and eyes, looks up and sees the Katogha standing over him.

Y'MOR

Thernar! The beast!

The bear flinches slightly, snarls and charges at him.

THERNAR

(rises to his feet)

Grab your spears!

Y'mor swings around and takes a defensive position against the creature.

CAUL

Behind you!

Suddenly, two more grizzlies appear behind Y'mor. They circle around him, as Thernar and Enchandra come to his aide.

GARTH

Now is our chance! Take the children... run while you can!

LENA

What are you going to do?

GARTH

I will remain here! If anyone tries to follow, I will stop them!

KEARRA

No! Come with us!

GARTH

Go! Quickly! While there's still time!

NAULLAH

Come on, Lena!

GARTH

You must hurry!

LENA

Goodbye.

Garth smiles at them. Lena, Kearra and the children flee from the cavern.

ENCHANDRA

They are getting away!

THERNAR

A mistake they will soon regret!

Y'mor lunges with his spear as two of the bears walk towards him, snarling and growling.

Y'MOR

Beasts from hell! Feel my wrath!

He lunges again. Y'mor spears one of the grizzlies in the side. The animal swats the spear out of his hand, grabs him in a bear hug, the force of which crushes his spine.

CAUL

Y'mor! Nooooooooo!

Garth picks up Y'mor's spear and thrusts it into the Creature's underbelly. Angered, the bear swipes him across the chest - killing him instantly.

THERNAR

(to Enchandra)

Go after them! Kill them all!

Enchandra races for the tunnel that Lena and the others took out of the cavern.

INT. NORTHERN TUNNEL - DAY

Lena runs along the tunnel. Suddenly, she feels the first contraction in her belly. The severity of which causes her to double over in pain. She braces herself against the wall, feels a moistness run down her legs.

MEKKO

What's wrong? We've got to get out of here!

KEARRA

By the gods! Is it the baby!

LENA

(gasps)

Yes!

MEKKO  
Come on, Lena! Come on!

KEARRA  
It's her time!

NAULLAH  
Now?

KEARRA  
Yes.

MIRRAH  
Can't it wait?

KEARRA  
I'm afraid not.

MEKKO  
What should we do?

LENA  
Keep moving. I'll be all right.

KEARRA  
Let me help you.

Kearra places an arm around Lena's waist, attempts to balance her, when an arrow fired from Enchandra's bow strikes her between the shoulder blades.

LENA  
Kearra!

She lays the girl down on the ground.

KEARRA  
Go. Save yourselves.

LENA  
No! Kearra!

MEKKO  
She's coming!

KEARRA  
You have too! She will kill you!

LENA  
(to the children)  
Run!

INT. CAVERN - DAY

Thernar and Caul SLAY two of the grizzlies, which leaves only the Katogha. The beast has them cornered, when Thernar turns and RUNS for the exist.

BEARDED MAN

Wait, Thernar! Come back!

CAUL

We die now!

Suddenly, Rock, Beylor and Peelar enter into the cavern.

All three of them surround the beast and attack. With spears and axes they fight the creature, but because of its immense bulk the creature merely easily fights them off.

Caul attempts to run, but the Katogha is too fast for him. The bear catches him from behind, throws him down and decapitates his head from his shoulders.

ROCK

(to Peelar)

Use your bow! Aim for its eyes!

Peelar places an arrow in its sling, takes careful aim and fires. The arrow strikes the bear in its right eye, blood stains the thick fur under its neck.

BEARDED MAN

I don't want to die!

The frightened man drops his spear. Defenseless, the Katogha grabs the man in a bear hug and squeezes him too death.

A second arrow fired from Peelar's bow blows the creature's left eye out of its socket. Now blinded, the Katogha stumbles and roars throughout the cavern.

Rock quickly charges the creature and shoves it backwards into the boiling water, where it instantly dies.

Checks on his fallen comrade.

ROCK (CONT'D)

Is there anything we can do, my friend?

GARTH

No. This is my day to die.

ROCK

Where are the others?

GARTH  
In the tunnels. Thernar pursues them.

ROCK  
Rest here. We will come back for you.

GARTH  
No. It's time... for me... to see  
my father.

He dies.

ROCK  
(authoritatively)  
Come. Now we end this.

INT. NORTHERN TUNNEL - INTERSECTION - DAY

Rock, Beylor and Peelar come to an intersection. They pause,  
not sure which direction to take.

BEYLOR  
Which way?

ROCK  
Peelar, you go that way. We will  
go this way.

The trio split up.

INT. NORTHERN TUNNEL - DAY

Lena stumbles through the darkness. The labor pains in her  
stomach a reminder of the coming of birth.

NAULLAH  
Another one?

LENA  
Yes. I can't go any further. You  
must leave me.

MEKKO  
No! We're not leaving you here!

LENA  
You don't understand. Soon I will  
have a little one, like you.

NAULLAH  
(matter-of-factly)  
You're having a baby. We know all  
about it...

LENA  
 ...Then you should know why I can't  
 protect you.

Suddenly they hear footsteps and a voice behind them. Lena looks around and see's Enchandra as she prepares to string another arrow in her bow.

LENA  
 (CONT'D)  
 Go now!

NAULLAH  
 We can't just leave you here!

LENA  
 Yes! You can!

The children race ahead down the tunnel, when Mirrah finds a break in the tunnel wall.

MIRRAH  
 Over here, Lena! Come on! You can  
 make it!

Lena struggles to move. She holds onto the wall and inches her way to where the children call for her.

NAULLAH  
 She will never make it!

MIRRAH  
 Someone should go back and help her!

MEKKO  
 I will help her.

Naullah and Mekko run back to help Lena. They grab her arms on either side to help steady her, then return back to where Mirrah awaits for them.

MIRRAH  
 Through here! Hurry!

One by one, they inch their way through the crevice and emerge into....

INT. CAVERN - DAY

...A high- ceilinged chamber with overhanging ledges and a deep pit off- center of it. The same diffused light fills the room.

Rotting corpses litter the floor, some of which appear to be human. Bones, teeth, hair and grass were used to make bedding for some prehistoric animal.

LENA  
I can't go any further.

MIRRAH  
What do we do now?

LENA  
You must help me deliver my child.

NAULLAH  
No, we can't.

LENA  
(calls the children  
to her side)  
Come here. All of you.

They kneel down at her side.

LENA (CONT'D)  
This is what I want you to do....

INT. NORTHERN TUNNEL - DAY

Rock and Beylor race down the tunnels. They see someone limping along at end of the corridor.

ROCK  
Kearra!

BEYLOR  
She's badly hurt.

KEARRA  
Rock.

ROCK  
Where's Thernar?

KEARRA  
Down there. He's after them.

BEYLOR  
I will stay here with her! Go find  
Lena!

INT. CAVERN - DAY

Lena lies motionless on the bedding when they hear Enchandra's voice.



ENCHANDRA (O.S.)  
I'm tired of chasing you, Lena.

LENA  
She's coming!

MIRRAH  
Hide!

She finds her way in.

ENCHANDRA  
(to Lena)  
Is this your new home?

LENA  
Do what you want to me. Just let  
these children and my baby live,  
please. I beg of you.

ENCHANDRA  
I can't do that, Lena. I want you  
to die.

LENA  
Rock will never love you.

ENCHANDRA  
Yes, he will. Your death will  
bring him back to me.

LENA  
Burn in hell.

ENCHANDRA  
Goodbye, Lena.

Enchandra pulls back on her bow string, takes aim at Lena, when she notices children standing in the corner.

They are holding Lena's baby.

Surprised, Enchandra turns just as Lena gets up off the bedding and kicks her in the vagina. Enchandra grimaces from pain and falls to the floor.

LENA  
Get up! I have waited nine months  
for this! You want to fight...  
let's do it!

Like a woman possessed, Lena reaches down, picks up Enchandra and runs her head into the cave wall.

LENA (CONT'D)  
 Is that all you got? I'm just  
 getting started!

Lena throws Enchandra back down onto the cave floor, stands  
 over her as the woman reaches for her bow.

LENA (CONT'D)  
 Here, let me help you.  
 (stomps on her hand,  
 breaks her knuckles)  
 Did that hurt? I hope it did!

Enchandra gathers her strength, grabs Lena by both legs,  
 flips her backwards onto the floor and kicks her in the side!

ENCHANDRA  
 (rubs her hand)  
 Yes, that did hurt, Lena... but not  
 as much as this!  
 (kicks her again)  
 The next time Rock wants somebody  
 to fuck it will be my name he calls!

LENA  
 Go to hell!

Lena picks up a broken stalagmite, stabs Enchandra in the  
 leg with it, which causes her to fall on the floor.

Before she can get up again, Lena drives it into her heart.

The children rush over to Lena, overjoyed.

NAULLAH  
 I knew you could do it!

LENA  
 (reaches for her baby)  
 Give him to me.

Suddenly, Peelar walks in. She smiles when she sees Lena's  
 baby.

MEKKO  
 Peelar!

LENA  
 You're alive! Thank the gods!

PEELAR  
 (looks at Enchandra  
 dead body)  
 I have never liked her.

Now Thernar comes in. He slowly gazes about the room.

THERNAR

Here you are.

LENA

(backs up away from him)

I am not afraid of you. Not any more.

THERNAR

Too bad Rock isn't here to watch  
you die.

Peelar attempts to spear him. He knocks her unconscious with one blow from his powerful fist.

LENA

Leave her alone!

THERNAR

Is it a boy?

LENA

(hesitates)

Yes.

THERNAR

Give him to me and I might let you  
live.

LENA

No.

Rock enters into the chamber. Thernar turns as he punches him in the face. The combatants square off against each other. Rock punches his brother again, and he goes down onto the floor. He places his hands around Thernar's neck and begins to squeeze.

THERNAR

Is this how it ends, little brother?

ROCK

No, big brother. This is how it  
ends... for you!

Thernar powers his way out of Rock's death-grip, monkey-flips him onto his back.

Rock leaps to his feet, both men circle each other, trying to gain the upper hand.

Thernar lunges, grasps Rock around the waist. He pummels his brother in the back of the head, drives him down to one knee.

Staggered from the blows, Thernar tries to stand up, when Rock kicks him in the face. With a groan he collapses onto the cavern floor.

Rock turns his attention to Lena and the children now. They breathe a sigh of relief when Thernar submits.

Suddenly, Thernar is up again. He jumps Rock from behind, spins him around, tosses him into the pit.

Thernar approaches Lena as Rock's fingers appear at the edge of the pit, followed by his hands. He pulls himself up from the abyss, back onto the cavern floor.

THERNAR (CONT'D)

Time to die, Lena! You and your  
child...

Thernar's words comes to an abrupt end; a spear in the back, thrown by Rock, takes away his life.

He walks over to Lena, holds his son for the very first time. Beylor and Kearra enter into the chamber. They smile happily at the sight.

EXT. ALCOVE - GRAVEYARD - DAY

A light dusting of snow covers the ground. Rock and the others bury their dead. He kneels next to an open grave that contains the body of Heilos.

LENA

(to Rock, holds her baby)

Is this the last one?

ROCK

Yes. We can go now.

BEYLOR

Where to?

ROCK

West. We should find other valleys  
and caves there.

LENA

What will we do if we don't find them?

ROCK

Survive.

He fills the grave with the last amount of dirt, picks up his father's scepter, and blesses the earth.

SUPER: Tundra. Three months later.

EXT. TUNDRA - OUTER BOUNDARY - EVENING

A heavy snow is falling. In the dim light of the arctic sun, Rock, Lena, Peelar, Baylor, Kearra, and the children head out across the frozen landscape.

SUPER: "The winter snow came. Rock and the last remaining survivors seek a new life where they can live, love and grow."

FADE OUT