

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE LIBERATOR"

(formerly "The Conqueror")

Written by

Howard Dimsdale

FINAL
August 1, 1974

CAST LIST

PETE BURKE

ALAN VIRDON

GALEN (CHIMP)

BRUN (HUMAN)

TRUNG (HUMAN)

GORILLA LEADER

CLIM (HUMAN, STUNT)

TALIA (HUMAN)

VILLAGER (HUMAN)

SET LIST

INTERIORS

TEMPLE MAIN CHAMBER

TUNNEL-LIKE PASSAGE

TEMPLE LABORATORY

BRUN'S HUT

FORK IN PASSAGE

GALEN'S HUT

EXTERIORS

STREAM

SHRINE

CEREMONIAL GROUND

PATH INTO VALLEY ROCK FORMATION

LEVEL COUNTRYSIDE

FOREST AND ROAD

HILLTOP

VILLAGE

CULTIVATED FIELD

GALEN'S HUT

VILLAGE CAGES

MOUTH OF TUNNEL

"THE LIBERATOR"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

(NOTE TO DIRECTOR: PLEASE ALLOW 45 FEET OF SILENT FOOTAGE FOR TITLES.)

EXT. FOREST "ROAD" - DAY

1

The "road" is largely overgrown, an artifact still usable because it is used. Occasional travellers have produced an equilibrium between road and the encroaching forest. VIRDON, BURKE and GALEN are moving along the road with normal caution, anticipating no danger but alert for the threat which might arise at any moment. Galen halts, cocks his head and sniffs deeply. Virdon and Burke are instantly concerned.

VIRDON

Anything -- ?

GALEN

(softly)

Trees, fields and, I think,
running water...

He's breathing deeply of the scent, savoring a memory. Burke is relieved and shrugs, about to start off again.

BURKE

Nothing.

GALEN

Everything.

Virdon and Burke exchange looks, and wait.

GALEN

(homesick)

At home, first thing every morning...

He doesn't finish the sentence, but inhales deeply. Burke is impatient, but Virdon is understanding and speaks gently.

VIRDON

Your home in Central City is a
long way off.

BURKE

The farther the better.

Cont.

GALEN
(flaring)
For you!

Virdon interposes himself quickly, snaps at Burke.

VIRDON
If you've developed a vaccine
against homesickness, save a
dose for me.

BURKE
I've got a patented cure -- if
you blow one home, you find another --
somewhere among friendly natives,
preferably about so tall, and round
in the right places.

GALEN
Round natives!?

BURKE
Not you, Galen, you're a square.

Galen has suddenly tensed, listening. He bends to put his ear to the ground. Virdon and Burke watch and wait. Galen jumps up and signals for a quick departure. The three hurry off the road to lose themselves in the forest, Galen leading.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

2

The trio reaches some cover a short distance from the road. Galen raises a hand to signal a halt while he listens. Virdon gestures Burke to cover and follows. Galen points off in direction of road. Virdon and Burke listen, unable to see the road from this point. Over SOUNDTRACK, very faintly at first and then rising in volume, HORSES' HOOVES. The enemy. Virdon indicates a place from which the three can see the road while remaining concealed. All move to this spot. The HORSES' HOOVES sounding ever closer. Virdon, Burke and Galen wait tensely, watching.

EXT. FOREST "ROAD" - P.O.V. SHOT

3

Four mounted GORILLAS canter into view. They are troopers but they hold no formation, riding instead with careless arrogance born of absolute assurance. They don't bother to scan the sides of the road; nothing can or would threaten them. One rides slightly ahead of the others.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

watching from cover as SOUND OF HOOVES is now receding.
Virdon speaks sotto voce.

VIRDON

Think they're looking for us?

Galen considers in silence.

BURKE

I gotta tell you I'm not looking for them.

GALEN

If they were looking for us,
they'd be riding harder.

BURKE

Is a motion in order to put some distance between us and those creeps?

GALEN

Are you afraid?

BURKE

Permanently. It's what keeps me alive.

He prepares to start for the cover of the forest, but Galen stops him.

GALEN

We're never afraid.

BURKE

Stick with me and you'll learn the value of creative cowardice.

EXT. ROAD INTO VILLAGE - DAY

The Gorillas ride into the village.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The Gorillas rein in as the villagers hurry to form a semi-circle before the large hut. All villagers wear garments made of tanned skins. BRUN emerges from the large hut. He is a tall, very dignified man of about fifty. He wears no symbols of authority but is clearly accorded the respect due to an honored high commander. He carries no weapon; other villagers have swords, spears and clubs.

EXT. VILLAGE - ANOTHER ANGLE

The Gorillas dismount. Brun moves forward, inclining his head to the Gorillas.

BRUN

We have two wild men and three
of our own people.

1ST GORILLA

Just so they're young and healthy.

Brun turns to signal. From behind the blocking huts, two villagers armed with sword and club respectively, drag forth captives which are tightly bound and led by "leashes" attached to stiff leather choker-type collars. The captives are BARBARIANS -- humans with shaggy hair and beards, wearing loin cloths of fur. They are resisting to no avail, as they are pulled into position near Brun. A handsome young man of twenty-five, TRUNG, steps forward to stand beside Brun and takes the thongs which are leashes on the Barbarians. He holds them firmly. The First Gorilla examines the Barbarians.

BRUN

(calling)

Lorko -- Arma -- Clim...

(to Gorilla)

They will serve you well in the
mines.

A young man steps forward proudly. One of the villagers who had brought out the Barbarians immediately steps to the young man who extends his wrists. The villager ties the young man's wrists, attaches a "leash" and gives it to Trung. A beautiful girl takes a step forward. Before the second villager can bind her extended wrists, a MAN hurries to embrace her lovingly, agonizedly. They kiss and he steps back. She extends her wrists again and is bound. A man of about thirty, CLIM, has taken a half-step forward and is staring at Brun as though mesmerized. Clim seems to steel himself, and then takes one step in direction of Brun.

1ST GORILLA

They'll do.

The girl has been tied and "leashed." Trung is given her leash and now is holding ties on her, the bound villager and the two Barbarians. Suddenly, Clim breaks and runs madly, knocking aside a villager who happens to be in his way. He races o.s. The villagers are stunned. Brun is disturbed by Clim's action but maintains a dignified calm as he addresses First Gorilla.

Cont.

BRUN

I am sorry. He will be found
and punished.

1ST GORILLA

My men will hunt him down. It
will be good sport.

(to other Gorillas)

Don't bother to bring him back.

The other Gorillas mount and pound off on their horses
in pursuit of Clim, as Trung hands leashes on four
"captives" to First Gorilla.

1ST GORILLA

(to Brun)

Where is his replacement?

BRUN

We will draw lots at once and
give you one of our people in
place of Clim.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - ANGLE ON CLIM

8

running for his life, heading for a tree-covered area.

ANOTHER ANGLE

9

The mounted Gorillas riding hard in pursuit.

EXT. TREE-COVERED HILL

10

Virдон, Burke and Galen nearing the crest of the hill.
They HEAR the sound of pounding HOOVES and look o.s.

LONG P.O.V. SHOT - CLIM AND PURSUING GORILLAS

11

The path Clim is following will take him up the hill toward
Virдон, Burke and Galen. The pursuing Gorillas are closing
in but Clim will be able to reach some cover before they
are upon him.

ANGLE ON CLIM

12

running up the path toward the top of the hill, fighting
panic, shortness of breath and exhaustion. Trees and
brush on either side of the path.

ANGLE ON GORILLAS

13

They are sure of the kill and carry their rifles in their
hands as they pound in pursuit.

ANGLE ON THE PATH

14

It passes under the bough of a particularly leafy tree. Clim runs INTO FRAME, gasping, and forcing himself to continue. He reaches a point under the bough of the tree when hands reach down from concealment, grasping him under the arms and pull him up out of sight into the thick foliage. CAMERA HOLDS as the Gorillas gallop into view, continue on beyond the tree toward the crest of the hill.

ANGLE ON CREST OF HILL

15

The Gorillas ride up, rein in as they look around, finding no sign of their quarry.

2ND GORILLA

It's impossible! -- Spread out!

He signals and the Gorillas ride down the hill in spread formation.

EXT. TREE-COVERED HILL

16

Clim, Galen, Virdon and Burke drop from the tree limb where they were concealed and run off in the direction away from that taken by the Gorillas.

EXT. VILLAGE CLEARING - DAY

17

First Gorilla has mounted and is holding leashes on five captives. The villagers are still gathered and all are looking expectantly in the direction from which the SOUND OF HORSES' HOOVES can be heard. The three Gorillas ride INTO FRAME and halt.

2ND GORILLA

We could not find him.

1ST GORILLA

(angrily)

You're soft and lazy!

BRUN

Clim will be found and the Gods will punish him.

1ST GORILLA

(to Brun)

Have all five workers ready and waiting next time I come.

First Gorilla signals to his companions. They kick their horses into a trot and the captives are forced to run along behind the horses.

ANOTHER ANGLE

18

As the Gorillas ride out, Brun turns to Trung.

BRUN

Take your hunters, find Clim.

Trung inclines his head, signals to half a dozen armed males and they move out in the direction originally taken by Clim.

EXT. A SMALL CLEARING - DAY

19

Clim, Galen, Virdon and Burke trot into the clearing and stop. Virdon addresses Galen. Clim is nervous but trying to conceal this from his rescuers.

VIRDON

Hear anything?

Galen listens carefully. All are tense, then relief -- Galen shakes his head.

CLIM

I was sure I'd be caught. How can I thank you.

VIRDON

(gesturing away
thanks)

Why were they after you?

CLIM

(dissembling)

I don't know. The Patrol comes to our village each moon, collects the grain tax then leaves. Sometimes they chase a human for sport.

BURKE

I'd like this world better if Gorillas took up knitting as a hobby.

CLIM

(puzzled)

Knitting?

GALEN

(superior)

Ignore him.

Cont.

VIRDON
Will you be safe now?

CLIM
(pause)
Oh yes. The Gorillas are gone
and Borak, my village, is just
over that hill.

BURKE
Good luck.

Our trio prepares to head off but is stopped by Clim.

CLIM
You must come with me. Everyone
should know how you've saved me.
There'll be food --

GALEN
I would like some fresh fruit.

Clim nods.

BURKE
I don't suppose there's a
hamburger stand --

Viridon speaks before Clim can express his puzzlement.

VIRDON
We're hungry.

Clim starts off eagerly, and the others follow.

ANGLE ON COUNTRYSIDE - DAY 20

Trung and his hunters are moving silently through the
countryside searching for Clim.

ANGLE ON CLIM, GALEN, VIRDON AND BURKE 21

They are walking along a brush-lined path. Galen signals
for a stop as he hears something. The others halt.
Galen carefully pushes aside some brush to look o.s.
He turns back to Clim, speaking softly.

GALEN
Your people?

Clim moves to look where Galen indicates.

P.O.V. SHOT - TRUNG AND HIS HUNTERS

22

They are quite close.

BACK TO SCENE

23

Clim hesitates for just a moment, then shouts.

CLIM

Trung, here! It's Clim. I
have brought friends with me.

VIRDON

They should be relieved to see you.

CLIM

Oh yes --

Trung and his hunters run INTO FRAME, pushing their way through the brush. Two hunters move to each of the humans, holding them at spear or sword point. Our trio is astonished. Clim indicates Virdon and Burke.

CLIM

Tie them.

VIRDON

What's with you?! We saved you
from the Gorillas.

The hunters start to tie Virdon and Burke.

GALEN

These two humans are under my
protection.

TRUNG

(respectful but firm)
You are free to go if you wish,
sir.

GALEN

They go with me.

TRUNG

They cannot.
(turning)
Tie Clim as well as the strangers.

CLIM

(shocked)
Not me, just them!

Cont.

Trung ignores him. Virdon and Burke's wrists have been tied. Clim is being tied.

CLIM
(protesting)
Why tie me? I brought two
humans in my place.

Trung ignores him.

BURKE
(to Galen)
What's going on?

GALEN
(to Trung)
I order you to release my servants.

TRUNG
My orders are from Brun, the
Master of Borak.

GALEN
An ape?

TRUNG
A human.

He signals to Clim's guards and they begin to drag Clim away. Clim cries his protests.

CLIM
I've brought two. Don't turn me
over to the Gods -- !

He's dragged o.s.

VIRDON
(to Trung)
We've done you no harm.

TRUNG
Will you walk or be dragged?

GALEN
Where are you taking them?

TRUNG
To Borak, sir.

GALEN
(angrily)
Free them! You humans must obey
apes.

TRUNG

Yes, sir, within the law.

BURKE

You're not getting through to him.

VIRDON

Talk to the head man, Galen.

GALEN

Where is the man you call the
Master of Borak?

TRUNG

This way, sir.
(of Virdon and
Burke)
Take them to the village.

He leads Galen in the direction taken by Clim. Virdon and Burke are forced to walk off in another direction.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS - DAY

24

Rock shrine in f.g. with an "eternal" flame fueled by a wood fire and surrounded by massive ceremonial stones. Behind the shrine is a ruined temple, the entrance to which is still usable. What lies behind the entrance to the temple cannot be seen. The ground rises gently on one side of the temple, forming a small hill. Between this rise and the temple is a narrow path to unseen terrain beyond. Brun stands off apart from the many villagers. All are watching Clim struggling with his two captors. Clim is in a panic.

CLIM

You can't! No!

His eyes are glued to a ceremonial cart in front of the shrine which is a simple affair decorated with small, carved masks something like those currently to be found in East Africa. The masks represent -- apparently -- a half man, half ape. They are man-like save for an exaggerated snout or muzzle which gives them the ape-like appearance. The bed of the cart supports a wooden "X" to the end of which are attached rawhide thongs. A strange hush falls over the gathering. Brun raises his hands so his fingertips touch his forehead and his hands cover his face. He may be praying.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Trung leads Galen into FRAME. He looks in bewilderment.

CLIM
(crying out to Brun)
I brought two!

Brun ignores him. Clim subsides into hopeless, terrified whimpering. Galen turns to Trung, indicating Brun.

GALEN
Him?

TRUNG
(nods; awed)
Until Clim has been punished,
he can speak only to the Gods.

Brun lowers his hands. The two men lift Clim to the cart, binding his hands and feet to the ends of the "X". As they are completing this task, a WOMAN appears from nowhere and runs wildly into the center to throw herself upon Clim. She is protecting him from some unknown danger with her own body -- and sobbing bitterly. Brun steps forward and very gently draws her away from Clim. He embraces her in a supportive fashion, patting her as she continues to cry. She gains some control. Brun turns and strides into the temple.

CLOSE ON CART AND WOMAN

She cries silently, never taking her eyes from Clim. He looks at her.

CLIM
Malana --

She buries her face in her hands. He cries out hopelessly.

CLIM
No -- no...

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

The crowd silent, frozen. Clim struggling vainly against his bonds, knowing he can't free himself. Brun marches from the temple, now in a ceremonial robe which is a tanned skin painted with faces like the masks on the cart. Brun carries a full-size mask in his hand. He reaches the cart.

CLIM
No. Brun, no...

Cont.

BRUN

(to the heavens)

We come before you as our fathers and their fathers have done. The most sacred of your laws has been broken. Clim, son of Porto, was chosen by lot to serve the apes. He ran from his duty, leaving it for another. His punishment is in your hands.

Brun dons his mask. He is an impressive, forbidding figure. He pays no heed to Clim but moves to the front of the cart. Gripping the handle he begins to pull the cart in the direction of the path between temple and hill. Clim writhes and cries in absolute terror.

CLIM

No. No.

Woman cannot bear to watch. She turns away. Villagers, with Galen accompanying, edge towards the hill, careful to give the cart a wide berth. Galen watches every move in an effort to understand what is going on.

HIGH ANGLE

28

From the hill crest, the villagers and captives can be seen climbing while Brun draws the cart through the pass. All watch Brun and the cart in awed fascination. Clim is moaning. At no time is Clim out of view of the villagers or of Galen.

REVERSE ANGLE

29

As the crowd and captives reach the crest, CAMERA SHOOT PAST them to HOLD on Brun and the cart he's pulling. The character of the terrain through which he moves can now be seen. Nothing grows in this rough, rocky ground.

P.O.V. SHOT - BRUN AND CLIM

30

The barren, desolate land is marked by rock outcroppings. The bleached bones of men and animals strew the ground. A path winds through the obstacles toward a flat rock. This is evidently Brun's goal. Once he reaches the flat rock which has a ramp-like tilted rock leaning against it, he pulls the cart to the top of the rock.

CLOSE SHOT - BRUN

31

He reaches inside his robe and withdraws a dagger which he grips in both hands and raises high above his head.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND TRUNG

32

Galen watches Brun, o.s., in horror.

GALEN

Human sacrifice?!

Trung makes a gesture to Galen to be quiet. Absolute silence as all watch transfixed.

CLOSE SHOT - BRUN AND CLIM

33

Still on the flat rock, the dagger still raised in some kind of supplication to the gods. Brun, of course, is wearing his mask. He now holds haft of the dagger between two fingers and takes the dagger tip between the fingers of his other hand. The weapon is held horizontally a foot or so above the unmoving body of Clim. Brun slowly moves the dagger, always a foot above Clim, from a point above Clim's head to a point above Clim's feet. He has not touched Clim. Turning his back on the prone figure, Brun replaces the weapon inside his robe. He now grasps the cart handle again and pulls it off the rock.

ANGLE ON THE VILLAGERS AND GALEN

34

All watching Brun, o.s.

ANGLE ON BRUN AND CART

35

He is retracing his steps. Clim is an absolutely still figure.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

36

The Woman is alone, borne down by insupportable grief, beyond even tears.

HIGH ANGLE

37

From the crest of the hill, Brun can be seen drawing the cart into the pass between the hill and the temple. The villagers and Galen are moving down the hill. As throughout, Brun is in full view of all.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUND

38

Brun pulls the cart to its original position before the shrine as the villagers crowd around. Woman does not look, does not move. BUZZ of AWED, SUBDUED CONVERSATION from villagers now that the ceremony is evidently concluded. Galen is pushing forward for a closer look at Clim.

Cont.

The villagers make way for him. He bends to listen to Clim's chest, then turns to Trung.

GALEN

He's dead. Nobody, nothing touched him.

TRUNG

The Gods.

Galen is horrified and shocked at Clim's death. He looks toward Brun, but the latter is disappearing into the temple. A LOW MOAN is heard from the crowd. Galen looks back at the still figure of Clim.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

39

Galen is hurrying into the village with a sense of great urgency and concern. He looks off and stops momentarily.

P.O.V. SHOT - AT VILLAGE CAGES - DAY

40

This is in the section of the village blocked from view earlier. CAMERA PANS ACROSS a couple of empty, very solid cages to come to a halt on one cage occupied by Virдон and Burke, wearing choker leather collars which are "leashed" to the bars, limiting movement to a couple of feet. One villager patrols nearby but is unconcerned since the captives clearly cannot escape.

WIDER ANGLE

41

Virдон and Burke look off as Galen hurries toward them. Virдон speaks even before Galen reaches the cage.

VIRDON

Did you talk to the head man?

GALEN

(gripping the bars)

No. That man, Clim. He's dead!

VIRDON

How?

GALEN

I don't know. He was put on a cart, Brun prayed over him, wheeled the cart into a valley and back, and he was dead.

Virдон and Burke exchange looks. They're slightly puzzled, but essentially unconcerned about Clim.

BURKE

His troubles are over. Ours are just starting.

GALEN

What if they do the same thing to you they did to him?

BURKE

Right now, I'd settle for a cart ride. I don't know what these characters have got planned for us, but we're not here to be guests of honor at a class picnic.

GALEN

That man wasn't even touched.
The gods killed him.

VIRDON

Look, Galen, the power of suggestion can kill -- if you believe in it. In our time, there was a thing called Voodoo.

BURKE

Mumbo-jumbo won't hurt us. I can think of other things that might. Gorillas, for instance.

GALEN

(not letting go)
If you'd seen what I saw --

VIRDON

(very firm)
Forget it, Galen. Concentrate on convincing the head man that we're your property, so they'll let us go.

GALEN

I'll try, but he strikes me as being very strong-willed -- for a human.

ANGLE ON ENTRANCE TO CAGE

42

The patrolling villager is opening the door to the cage to admit TALIA. She is a beautiful young woman of about nineteen, and is carrying clay vessels of food. She is friendly, outgoing but incapable of examining the superstitious basis of her beliefs. CAMERA PANS her near Virдон and Burke as Galen moves off.

BURKE

I think we get room service.

TALIA

Hello, I'm Talia.

She puts the food on the ground, out of reach of the Astronauts and then carefully pushes it forward with the tips of her fingers so the Astronauts can just reach it, but not reach her. She pushes Virдон's food first.

VIRDON

Thanks, Talia.

Cont.

She smiles and shoves Burke's food. He grins at her.

BURKE

Where I come from, mothers used to warn their daughters about me, but you've raised caution to new heights.

TALIA

(puzzled)

I don't know what that means.

BURKE

I could give you a demonstration but I'm handicapped.

He indicates his collar. He's about to continue but notes that she is not listening. She's looking past him, her eyes shining.

TALIA

Trung!

ANOTHER ANGLE

43

As Virdon and Burke watch, Talia runs out of the cage and into the arms of Trung who has just approached. He holds her but no joy is evident. His distress is not because of Talia of whom he is obviously deeply fond.

TRUNG

One.

(miserably)

Talia, only one wild man was captured for the apes.

TALIA

It's all right. There is time.

TRUNG

Ando was killed.

TALIA

I'm sorry.

TRUNG

It is my fault. I should have hunted myself and there'd be more than one.

A couple of villagers march in dragging a BARBARIAN. As they push him into the cage next to the Astronauts, Trung watches.

Cont.

TRUNG

A week's hunt!

Barbarian is put into a collar and his hands left bound. Talia and Trung move away. Virdon and Burke have watched them as well as the caging of the Barbarian who is now left alone.

EXT. VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

44

We see that one hut is larger and slightly more impressive looking than the others. This is Brun's hut.

INT. BRUN'S HUT - DAY

45

Sparse furnishings, except for a large, almost throne-like wooden armchair, which is covered in furs. Brun is facing an indignant Galen.

GALEN

By what right do you hold my servants?

Brun is correct, respectful, but reserved and confident.

BRUN

The Apes gave us that right. Any alien human in our territory may be captured and delivered to them in place of one of our own people for work in the mines. It is the law.

GALEN

I know of no such law.

BRUN

A very long time ago. Before my father's father's father, the Apes raided for slaves and men fought back. Many men were killed. Wasted in a fight they were sure to lose. The Apes lost too. Slaves. There was a meeting, and the Apes wisely let us give them five slaves from among any healthy humans, twice each moon.

GALEN

I refuse to recognize that law.

Cont.

BRUN

You may seek an exception from the Ape Commander. None has ever been granted before. Would you wish a guide to take you to the Garrison?

GALEN

(a beat)

Perhaps later. If you must deliver humans to the Apes, why do you waste them? That human at the ceremony -- the one you killed...

BRUN

I did not kill him. Any human who defies the gods is punished by the gods.

GALEN

I'm not sure I like your gods.

Brun inclines his head and indicates the door.

BRUN

I will show you to your hut, sir. You will be treated as an honored guest.

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - DAY

46

Trung leads several villagers toward the cages in which the astronauts are imprisoned as before. Barbarian in the next cage, also as before. Virdon and Burke watch as the armed villagers slow near their cage door. Trung indicates Barbarian's cage and issues an order.

TRUNG

Him first.

Villagers proceed to Barbarian's cage and enter. Trung supervises as his men grapple with the struggling Barbarian who is unleashed from the bars and dragged from the cage.

TRUNG

Don't let him hurt himself or the Gorillas won't accept him.

He glances toward Virdon and Burke.

BURKE

I don't know what's happening. But I don't think I'm going to like it.

Barbarian is pulled away. Trung turns his attention to the Astronauts. He opens and enters their cage. A few of his men are at hand as Trung addresses Virdon and Burke.

TRUNG

Will you come without fighting?

VIRDON

Where?

TRUNG

You must be ready for the Apes.

BURKE

Not me, buddy! No way!

TRUNG

It will do you no good to resist.

VIRDON

We'll fight and you can fight with us. Men don't have to take orders from Apes.

BURKE

If you're afraid to take on the Gorillas, just cut us loose and --

TRUNG

(interrupting)

You are not being given to the Gorillas for some days.

VIRDON

Then why -- ?

TRUNG

You must work to stay strong. The Gorillas will not take the weak.

BURKE

(exploding)

That's like asking the turkey to sharpen the axe before Thanksgiving!

Trung is mystified but brushes aside the comment, calls his men.

Cont.

TRUNG

Take them.

The villagers approach warily, ready to overpower the Astronauts.

VIRDON

Call it off. We'll work...

A beat, while Trung studies Virdon and then nods agreement.

EXT. CULTIVATED FIELD - DAY

47

A number of villagers are working, a number are serving as Guards over Virdon and Burke who also work in the field. A couple of villagers hold the "leash" on the Barbarian who is working under the implicit threat of a whip held by one of his captors and a prod held by the other. Trung is supervising from a short distance away from the Astronauts. Talia approaches with a clay pot and a dipper, bringing refreshment. Trung awaits her lovingly. She gives him a dipper of water which he drinks. They speak, making no effort to keep their words private. Virdon and Burke are well within earshot.

TRUNG

The hunt starts tonight.

TALIA

I know.

TRUNG

I will bring back two, three,
four -- the biggest, the strongest!

This, in effect, is an oath he takes. Talia has supreme confidence in him.

TALIA

Yes.

BURKE

(sotto voce)

Too bad people don't have antlers.
He could collect trophies.

TRUNG

Believe me, Talia.

TALIA

(simply)

I love you. I believe you.

Cont.

Barbarian suddenly begins to struggle. His captors tighten their hold on the leash and one raises the whip. Trung hurries over, preventing the whipping.

TRUNG

No! The prod is enough.

He takes the prod and forces Barbarian back to work without hurting the man. Talia has moved to Viridon and Burke with the water. They drink deeply and gratefully. Guards are close at hand insuring that the Astronauts attempt no escape and don't try to grab Talia.

ANGLE ON TALIA AND ASTRONAUTS

48

Burke returns the dipper as both men smile thanks.

BURKE

I've got a hunch I know the answer,
but what is Trung going to hunt?

TALIA

The wild men...

BURKE

Wild or not, they're men.

VIRDON

You're no better than the Apes.
Capturing humans to give them into
slavery is wrong, no matter who
does it.

TALIA

You don't understand. Anyone
taken by the Gorillas to work
the mines, won't live more than
a few moons. It's better that
the wild men go.

She smiles and moves off, leaving the Astronauts to their frustration and indignation.

ANOTHER ANGLE

49

Viridon and Burke are about to return to their work when Viridon looks off and reacts.

VIRDON

Trouble.

HIS P.O.V. - MOUNTED FIRST GORILLA

50

He's riding into the field at a leisurely pace, surveying the villagers and the captives. He is approaching Trung.

WIDER ANGLE

51

Viridon and Burke become very industrious, working hard so they can keep their heads down. They prefer that First Gorilla not see their faces in the case he might recognize them as fugitives.

FIRST GORILLA

(looking to captives)

Three?

TRUNG

There will be more.

FIRST GORILLA

(moving toward
Astronauts)

They look strong. Where did you get them?

Viridon and Burke become even more industrious. Trung has moved along with First Gorilla.

TRUNG

Captured near the village.

First Gorilla reaches down and pulls Viridon around to examine him as one might a prize steer.

FIRST GORILLA

Maybe I should take these two now and collect the other three later. We could use their output.

TRUNG

We follow your rules. Delivery twice each moon.

FIRST GORILLA

(shrugging)

All right. You look strong, too. I've been waiting for you to draw the lot and be chosen to work for us...

TRUNG

As Brun's son, I do not draw. I will learn from my father to lead my people and take his place when the time comes...

Cont.

FIRST GORILLA

Maybe we'll change that...

TRUNG

(submissive)

I will do what you and my father
tell me is right...

Gorilla turns his horse and canters off. Trung moves away. Talia hurries to him worriedly, but he smiles reassurance. Burke shakes his head disgustedly.

BURKE

Yes sir, no sir, whatever you
say, sir. They don't just turn
the other cheek -- they turn both
cheeks and then bend down for a
boot in the bottom!

He and Viridon resume work.

INT. GALEN'S HUT - NIGHT

52

The door is closed and an animal skin "drape" is drawn across the window to insure privacy. Galen is biting the fur robe from his bed to make narrow strips. Several of these have been completed and are, in effect, thongs. As Galen completes the final fur thong, he stuffs them inside his shirt for concealment. He moves to the window, edging back the drape to peer out stealthily. He takes the precaution of blowing out the oil lamp which provides the only illumination.

P.O.V. SHOT - GALEN'S GUARD

53

leaning against a hut opposite and very alert.

INT. GALEN'S HUT - NIGHT

54

Galen allows the drape to fall back into place. He checks to be sure the thongs aren't a giveaway lump under his shirt, then marches to the door and EXITS.

EXT. VILLAGE HUT SECTION - NIGHT

55

Galen's Guard watches Galen exit the hut. Galen appears to be out for an evening stroll; the Guard appears to take no notice. Both are putting on an act. Galen passes near Guard and continues on.

ANOTHER ANGLE

56

Galen's back is to Guard as he continues strolling. He reaches a cluster of huts and turns to pass between two of them. In so doing, he disappears from view. Guard sets out

after Galen. As Guard reaches a fairly open area before reaching the point where Galen disappeared, he raises his hand with one finger pointing up.

REVERSE ANGLE

57

taking in Galen's hut and a hut beyond. A SECOND GUARD is on the roof of this hut. He had been concealed, lying flat on the far side, but has now arisen in response to Guard's signal.

ANGLE ON PASSAGE BETWEEN HUTS

58

Galen's Guard moves cautiously along, expecting no danger but merely determined to keep an eye on Galen who is nowhere to be seen. Guard quickens his pace to reach the end of the passage. There is a flash of motion and Guard is jerked behind the nearest hut.

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN AND GUARD

59

Now revealed is the fact that Galen has looped a thong around Guard's throat, pulling him to cover. The man is struggling for breath, clawing at the garrote. Galen holds it tighter and hisses...

GALEN

I'll loosen this but if you
make one sound -- !

Guard in panic, manages to force himself to stop clawing at the thong and extend his hands in surrender. Galen loosens the garrote but holds it ready to apply pressure.

GALEN

(softly)

Down on your knees. Slow. Then
face down on the ground. Hands
behind your back.

Guard begins compliance. Galen takes Guard's knife.

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - NIGHT

60

Virton and Burke lying on the ground but very awake and very alert. In the next cage, Barbarian is asleep. No villagers in sight.

ANGLE ON SECOND GUARD

61

lowering himself from the roof and cautiously moving o.s.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND GUARD

62

Galen has trussed Guard and gagged the man with a piece of his shirt. Galen starts out.

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - NIGHT

63

as before. Astronauts trying to see into the surrounding gloom.

Galen runs into SCENE. Astronauts are on their feet instantly. Galen passes Guard's knife. All speak in very hushed tones.

GALEN

Guards?

Viridon and Burke shake their heads. Viridon begins sawing at the hard, thick leash with the knife as Galen moves to the cage door. It is fastened by a hasp-type arrangement. Galen opens it and enters the cage to hurry to Viridon and Burke. The former will undoubtedly be some time in cutting through his leash. Galen takes Burke's leash and starts gnawing it, using his powerful incisors to do as effective a job as the knife. CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE TO HOLD THEM AS THEY WORK SILENTLY. Burke is watching Galen's effort, Viridon is totally absorbed in what he's doing. Burke glances up and off. His face tightens.

BURKE

Psst...

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - NIGHT

64

A dozen villagers, armed with swords and spears have crept into SCENE. They are surrounding Galen and the Astronauts.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. GALEN'S HUT - DAY

65

The Guard is on duty and now makes no pretense of being a bystander. CAMERA MOVES TO take note of the window to which heavy wooden bars are being affixed by another man. Galen appears at the window, looking out with irritation.

INT. GALEN'S HUT - DAY

66

Galen at the window. Brun standing near the door, watching him. Galen turns back with annoyance.

GALEN

The Gorillas will kill everyone in this village when they learn you imprisoned an ape.

BRUN

I'll tell them you were freeing the slaves. They know I don't lie.

(opens the door,
glances back at Galen)
You'll stay here under guard
until the Gorillas do come.

He EXITS. Galen stands there for a moment, then crosses quickly to the door, tries it. The door is locked. He stands there, frustrated.

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - DAY

67

Second Guard is on duty and is opening the Astronauts' cage to admit Talia who is carrying food. Virdon and Burke are lashed to the bars, able to move only their heads. Burke is flexing his left hand to keep the circulation going. The two men watch Talia's approach; she is looking at them with compassion and regret for their predicament. Burke is angry and disgusted.

BURKE

Florence Nightingale!

Talia looks to Virdon for an explanation. He attempts none.

VIRDON

Hello, Talia.

She begins to feed him since he can't feed himself. She indicates the bonds...

Cont.

TALIA

I'm sorry.

BURKE

What good is 'sorry?' Sympathy, plus a poke in the belly with a hunk of timber, still adds up to a gut ache.

Talia doesn't understand, but feels no less compassion. She notes his continued flexing of his hand.

TALIA

Is your hand all right?

BURKE

(angrily)
No it's not. Does that come as a large surprise?

TALIA

(shrinking)
I'm sorry.

VIRDON

Back off, Pete. She's not to blame.

BURKE

(a beat)
You're right.
(smiling at Talia)
Scratch everything I said, Talia. Still friends?

She nods gladly.

BURKE

Mind if I don't shake hands?

Burke is still flexing his hand. Brun is passing near the cages. Talia sees him and calls:

TALIA

Brun...

He changes direction, moves to the cage door which is opened for him by Second Guard. Brun approaches the Astronauts and Second Guard accompanies him, weapon ready should Brun be endangered in any unforeseen way. Talia indicates Burke's hand. Brun checks the bonds and turns to Second Guard.

Cont.

BRUN

Too tight.

Second Guard puts aside his weapon to begin loosening the leather thongs. Brun is about to exit but is stopped by Burke's comment. Talia is continuing to feed Virdon.

BURKE

Afraid I won't be in good enough shape for the apes?

BRUN

I would like to spare you pain.

Virdon is studying Brun's face as he speaks. He sees dignity, honesty and a hint of compassion and is suddenly aware that this man is not a mindless fanatic.

VIRDON

I think you mean that.

BRUN

I want no men hurt.

BURKE

What do you think apes do to their slaves?

BRUN

They are cruel. I'm sorry.

VIRDON

(to Brun)
But you'll turn us over.

BRUN

I wish it was not so.

Talia looks o.s. and her face lights. Trung and several villagers have just entered the area. The villagers are dragging Second Barbarian. Talia drops the food to the ground and rushes out to greet Trung. She runs into his arms. Second Guard has loosened Burke's bonds and follows Brun out of the cage.

ANOTHER ANGLE - FEATURING TRUNG, TALIA AND BRUN 68

Trung is downcast, holding Talia lovingly, saying nothing. He inclines his head to Brun as the other villagers move out toward second cage with their new captive.

Cont.

TRUNG
(self-condemnatory)
You should have sent a better
hunter.

TALIA
No one is better than you.

BRUN
(with sympathy)
I prayed for a good hunt.

Trung, bitter, hating himself, pulls free of Talia's arms.

TRUNG
Next time, pray for a son who
isn't a failure.

He turns and stalks off in direction of Barbarian cage. Brun
looks after him, hurting, and addresses Talia.

BRUN
You know he did all he could?

TALIA
Yes.

ANGLE AT BARBARIAN CAGE

69

The door is open and a couple of villagers are trying to
force Second Barbarian in to join Barbarian. Trung moves
into SCENE, to supervise. He spots a weakening in the
Second Barbarian's bonds.

TRUNG
Careful! His hands!

He rushes to grab Second Barbarian but is a moment too late.
Second Barbarian breaks his bonds, pulls free and grabs a
sword from one of his captors. He swings it wildly. Both
villagers duck but one slips and falls. He is about to be
impaled by Second Barbarian. Trung leaps at Second Barbarian
and succeeds in clutching his sword arm but not before he is
stabbed in the arm himself.

WIDER ANGLE

70

Brun, Talia and several villagers rush in. The villagers
quickly overpower Second Barbarian, dragging him into the
cage. Trung is clutching his arm. Blood is forcing its way
from under his hand. He's gritting his teeth in pain,
empathetically felt by Talia. Brun looks quickly at the
bleeding.

BRUN

It is bad.

TALIA

(touching his cheek)

Trung...

BRUN

Come to the shrine. I will pray.

Trung nods and with Talia, follows Brun.

ANGLE AT ASTRONAUTS' CAGE

71

Brun, Talia and Trung opposite Virdon and Burke who have seen all that happened.

VIRDON

An artery's cut. Do you know what a tourniquet is?

Trung stops, wondering. He leans against the cage.

TRUNG

No.

Brun is concerned about the bleeding.

BRUN

I must pray. Come, Trung.

BURKE

While you pray, he'll bleed to death!

BRUN

(fighting doubts)

Not if the gods wish him to live.

VIRDON

How often do your gods save a man's life when he's bleeding that way?

Trung is growing faint and sags against the cage. Talia is very distressed. To the Astronauts:

TALIA

Can you save him?

VIRDON

I think so...

She turns a look of pleading to Brun who hesitates, then decides. He signals Second Guard to open the cage.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS' CAGE - DAY

72

Viridon and Burke have been untied but are still in their collars. They kneel beside Trung who is lying on the ground, his head in Talia's lap, submitting to their ministrations. A tourniquet made of thong has stopped the bleeding. Brun and Talia watch. Second Guard and a couple of villagers are close enough to rush in with weapons should Viridon or Burke attempt some trick.

TALIA

The bleeding has stopped.

Great sadness on Brun's face. He addresses Viridon...

BRUN

You tried to help...

BURKE

I don't expect a brass band,
but we did save his life!

BRUN

(shaking head)
Long ago men learned a tight cord
stops bleeding in an arm or a leg.
It is better to bleed. In a day,
the arm grows big, fever comes.
Men die, crying out in pain.

VIRDON

(to Brun)
You're right about what can happen
if the cord isn't loosened in a
short time.

TRUNG

Then it will bleed again...

VIRDON

Maybe. If so, we'll stitch the wound.
Meanwhile, you lie still.

BRUN

I will pray that you are right.

He turns and moves o.s. Talia strokes Trung's forehead, but she's studying the faces of Viridon and Burke to try and discern truth.

ANGLE ON TALIA, TRUNG, VIRDON AND BURKE IN THE CAGE - NIGHT

73

Some time has passed. The Astronauts are still restrained only by their collars, Trung has a bandage around his arm, and the arm is in a sling. He sits on the ground facing

Viridon and Burke. Talia sits very close, pressing near to him. Viridon has just adjusted sling and bandage.

VIRDON

Keep the bandage on for a couple of days.

TALIA

He is all right?

BURKE

Thanks to the miracle of ancient medicine.

TALIA

(deeply grateful)
Thanks to you.

TRUNG

Yes. And to the gods. My father prayed.

BURKE

See how the gods do next time without an assist.

TRUNG

They have great power. It was shown again by what happened to Clim.

BURKE

Clim?

TRUNG

He tried to run when he was chosen to go to the apes. The gods stopped him.

BURKE

Oh, him! The guy who blew the whistle on us after we saved him.

Viridon is very interested in Trung's beliefs. He signals Burke to be quiet.

VIRDON

Don't other men try to avoid being made slaves?

TRUNG

A few. Like Clim. They are caught and taken to the Valley of Stillness where the gods punish them.

TALIA

Only the Leader can walk in the
Valley and live.

(proudly)

Some day, Trung will be leader.

TRUNG

No!

She puts her hand gently over his lips to silence him.

TALIA

Brun will take his son into the
temple but Trung will not be struck
dead as you would or I would, walking
into the temple. Brun will protect
him while he teaches him the magic
the gods have given to the Leader...

Trung pushes away her hand.

TRUNG

Someone else. Not me. The Leader
must have a mate. I won't have one.

TALIA

Yes. In time...

TRUNG

(violently)

I tell you, no!

TALIA

(gently -- to Virdon)

When the Gorillas come, they will
take you two --

(indicating Barbarians,
o.s.)

-- and them. That's four.

This moon, I was chosen. I am
the fifth.

TRUNG

Because I failed.

Virdon and Burke exchange looks. They have something to work
on.

BURKE

Feeling sorry for yourself
doesn't help her a lot.

TRUNG

(angrily)

What can I do?

VIRDON

(indicating Barbarians,
o.s.)

What would you do if one of them
grabbed Talia and tried to run off?

TRUNG

Kill him.

(in torment)

A man does not fight apes.

BURKE

The apes won't treat Talia
better than those guys would.

TRUNG

(rising)

What you ask is wrong! You
know that, Talia.

TALIA

(standing beside him)

Yes.

TRUNG

The gods made the apes rulers
over men.

VIRDON

How do you know?

TRUNG

Everyone knows. You're trying to put
lies in my mouth, telling me to
question what has always been, what
was meant to be by gods and apes.

He turns and stalks o.s.

WIDER ANGLE

74

Second Guard opens cage door to allow Trung to exit. Talia,
Virdon and Burke watch his departure.

BURKE

(disgusted)

You can't get anywhere with these
people! They just roll over and
play dead!

INT. BRUN'S HUT - DAY

75

Similar to Galen's, but no bars on the window, roomier, with
a large, almost throne-like wooden armchair which is covered
in furs. Other furnishings the same as Galen's. Early

morning. Brun has just been awakened, and is focusing on Trung who is impassioned, demanding.

TRUNG

How soon?

BRUN

I can't be sure. The Gorillas could come anytime -- perhaps even tonight...

TRUNG

(after a long hesitation)

I want to go in Talia's place.

Brun hurts for Trung, is understanding, loving, gentle.

BRUN

You know the law...

TRUNG

Village law, not made by the gods or the apes.

BRUN

Everyone chosen to go with the Gorillas has a mate, a brother, -- or a father. Many would change places if they could.

TRUNG

I'm not asking anyone to suffer for me.

BRUN

I would suffer but that doesn't matter. You would tear down the law, there would be no order.

TRUNG

You can change the law.

BRUN

What reason would I give?

TRUNG

Any, none.

BRUN

(rising)

When I die, you will hold the laws, the life of the village, the magic of the gods --

Cont.

TRUNG
 (interrupting)
 I'll never take a mate. Teach
 the secrets to someone else.

Brun is forgiving of Trung's anger. He puts his hands on
 the younger man's shoulders.

BRUN
 In time you'll change.

TRUNG
 (pulling away)
 Is that a new law?

BRUN
 An old one. A son shall honor
 his father.

TRUNG
 I did honor my father.

BRUN
 I have not stopped loving my son.

Trung turns and walks out.

EXT. VILLAGE CAGES - DAY

76

Virdon and Burke asleep. The streets are deserted.
 Second Guard is on duty as Trung appears and strides to him.
 Trung's arm is out of the sling.

TRUNG
 I will stay until Lurt comes.
 You can rest.

Second Guard nods and EXITS. Astronauts awaken at the
 conversation and are alert as Trung opens and enters the
 cage once Second Guard is out of sight. Trung moves to them,
 speaks softly.

TRUNG
 The Gorillas may come anytime.
 If I free you now, will you take
 Talia away with you?

BURKE
 Sure.

VIRDON
 Wait. Galen, too?

TRUNG
 The ape?

Viridon nods, Trung hesitates, then nods his assent. He produces a cutting tool with which to remove the collars.

BURKE
(to Trung)
How come you don't just take her
yourself?

TRUNG
(flaring)
That has nothing to do with you.

BURKE
Okay, okay.

TRUNG
She will think I am going with you.
Say nothing.

BURKE
Okay.

The Astronauts are freed from their collars and with Trung, slip out of the cages.

EXT. GALEN'S HUT - DAY

77

Guard is on duty. He stiffens as he hears a FOOTSTEP but relaxes when Trung appears at the side of the hut. Trung looks around and appears dissatisfied. He signals for Guard to join him. Unsuspecting, Guard moves to the corner of the hut. Viridon leaps out to clap a hand over Guard's mouth. Burke assists and the two wrestle Guard to the ground, disarming him. Trung runs off the instant Viridon and Burke grab the Guard who is held down, quickly gagged and tied. Viridon and Burke pull the trussed Guard out of sight in the shadows at the side of the hut. They hurry out to release the hasp lock on the door, throw it open. Galen steps out. A silent signal from Viridon, and Galen joins Burke in noiselessly hurrying off. Viridon looks around to insure no pursuit and then follows.

EXT. EDGE OF VILLAGE - DAY

78

Forest, or thin brush beyond the clearing which defines the perimeter of the village. The one hut which can be seen is quiet. From beyond it, Talia and Trung run hand in hand through the clearing to cover.

ANGLE IN FOREST - DAY

79

as Talia and Trung breathlessly come to a stop.

TALIA
I'm afraid.

TRUNG

You'll be safe.

TALIA

I'm only afraid that some magic
is making me think this is real.

She knows it's real. Her eyes are shining. He is tensely
looking o.s., waiting.

TALIA

I love you.

He draws her into his arms, kisses her. She doesn't know his
pain and abandons herself to the joy of his embrace. The
Astronauts and Galen move into SCENE. All dialogue in hushed
whispers.

VIRDON

Which way?

TRUNG

(pointing)

Near the shrine, a trail leads up.
It passes far enough from the
Valley of Stillness.

VIRDON

Right.

TRUNG

Be sure you are beyond the Valley
before you start down. Talia will
show you.

Talia reacts. All five would be going together...

TALIA

I -- ?

Trung nods to Burke who takes Talia's arm in a firm grip.
She tries to pull away but can't. A monstrous suspicion is
becoming reality in her mind.

TALIA

Trung -- I

TRUNG

If you love me --
(to Virdon)
Go.

Burke tries to draw her away. She resists with all her
strength. Trung turns to leave. Burke, being stronger,

pulls her along a few paces. She doesn't stop struggling and then she cries out:

TALIA

Trung. No. I won't go!

Her cry is piercing, so loud it must alarm the village. Momentarily, all are frozen into immobility.

TRUNG

(barking to Virdon)

Go!

Virdon grabs Talia's other arm, and he assists Burke in pulling the girl off. Galen runs along. Trung runs in direction of the village but has only taken a couple of steps when he comes face to face with a VILLAGER who has run out to determine the cause of the shouts. Villager spots the fugitives as they are disappearing into brush.

VILLAGER

(shouting)

The slaves! Help!

Trung grabs the man to try and silence him. Trung can only use one arm and is shoved aside.

VILLAGER

The slaves! Stop them!

ANGLE ON THE VILLAGE - DAY

80

as men pour out of huts with weapons in hand.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUND - DAY

81

The Astronauts, Galen and Talia run from cover, intent upon crossing the ceremonial ground to reach the path beyond the temple. Galen raises a hand to stop them all. He has heard something. The four take cover behind the shrine. A group of armed villagers swarm into view, cutting off the escapees from their intended path.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS, GALEN AND TALIA

82

behind the shrine. Crouching, Talia is crying quietly, hopelessly. Galen looks back and indicates he sees something. The Astronauts look.

P.O.V. SHOT - APPROACHES TO CEREMONIAL GROUND

83

The route along which the foursome has come is now filled with villagers rushing forward. The squeeze is on.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS, GALEN AND TALIA

aware of almost certain capture, but not yet spotted.

VIRDON
(sotto voce)
The Valley.

Viridon suddenly thinks of a possible danger. He puts his hand over Talia's mouth.

VIRDON
I know you're afraid of the Valley.
Nothing will happen to you.
Believe me. If you promise not
to cry out --

He lets the sentence hand. She nods her head to the extent she can. Cautiously, Viridon removes his hand.

TALIA
I will go into the Valley.

VIRDON
Good girl.

TALIA
I want to die.

Her conviction that she will die in the Valley is not reassuring to Galen and the Astronauts who exchange looks of concern.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUND - DAY

85

No time lapse. Villagers are moving in and out, searching. The one area they ignore, for obvious reasons, is the path leading down to the Valley. At a propitious moment, four figures dart from behind the shrine and reach the head of that path.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS, GALEN AND TALIA

86

as they succeed in crossing the open area where they might be spotted. They disappear down the path.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUND - DAY

87

The search is spreading in every direction but the right one.

EXT. PATH INTO VALLEY - DAY

88

The escapees are traversing the same route taken by Brun when he pulled Clim to his death. They pause briefly in the shadow of a large rock to look back in the direction from which they have come. Their expressions communicate the fact that they are safe -- save for Talia who is prepared to die, is fearful but determined.

BURKE

(exultant)

Got it made!

Exuding confidence, he starts into the Valley, bounding along. The others follow but are some feet behind.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE

89

moving at a rapid, pleasurable walk which will soon take him to the flat rock upon which Brun performed the ceremony over Clim. Unaccountably, he slackens his pace, his head wobbles slightly. He seems unaware that he is moving more slowly. CAMERA GRINDS IN SLOW MOTION, dreamlike. Burke continues his progress but even more slowly, weaving, swaying.

WIDER ANGLE

90

Viridon, Galen and Talia are some slight distance behind Burke. CAMERA AT NORMAL SPEED. Galen inhales deeply and shakes his head as if to clear it. He presses forward with the other two. Talia is stumbling, dazed. Viridon grasps his head as if to hold it down, forcing himself to think clearly. To Talia and Galen...

VIRDON

Go back!

They obey, stumblingly. Virdon claps his hand over his nose and mouth, holding his breath. He runs forward to Burke who is about to collapse.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - AT "GAS SOURCE"

91

Virdon reaches Burke near the flat rock. Just beyond, not visible from the hilltop where villagers are spectators at any of Brun's ceremonies, is a kind of bubbling tar pit, a natural source of hydrocarbons and gas of undeterminable character. Virdon sees the pit but wastes no time speculating. He grabs Burke and pulls him back -- not from the pit specifically since Burke was in no danger of falling in, but away from the source of the lethal fumes.

ANGLE ON TALIA AND GALEN - AT ROCK FORMATION

92

They are leaning against a rock formation they had passed earlier. They suck in deep draughts of air. CAMERA PULLS BACK as Virdon assists Burke to this rock. Burke can barely stand, Virdon is less affected. Both draw in pure air.

VIRDON

Gas. Poison. No smell.

GALEN

Faint, but I could smell it.
I didn't know what it was.
Bitter.

VIRDON

You okay, Pete?

BURKE

Got a head like I tied on
a real one.

VIRDON

(to Galen)

Now you know what happened
to that man on the cart.

GALEN

How did Brun live? He walked
through here.

TALIA

The Gods protect the leader.

Cont.

BURKE

We can't cross the Valley and
we've got a welcoming committee
waiting back there.

VIRDON

Some gases are absorbed by
crushed charcoal...

BURKE

Charcoal in a soaked cloth as
a filter?

VIRDON

Might work...there's charcoal
by the fire at the shrine.

GALEN

I saw a stream beyond the temple.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS - DAY

93

A number of villagers are moving about, crossing the ceremonial grounds as they head in various directions to continue the search. Singly, or in small groups, they appear and disappear into surrounding brush, but while the ceremonial grounds are not the area of a search, they are vacant only briefly. During such a brief moment, the Astronauts, Galen and Talia appear at the head of the path and dash for the cover of the shrine.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

94

The four are crouching behind the ceremonial stones. Virdon tears pieces from his shirttail while Burke uses a handy piece of wood to "fish" chunks of charcoal from the fire. Virdon hands the cloth to Galen who nods, peers out from behind the shrine and then darts away.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

95

as Galen, running low, manages to reach some brush beyond the temple. Before he can dive into the cover, a couple of villagers appear nearby. Galen freezes and is little more than another shadow to anyone who does not peer too closely. The villagers pass dangerously near but do not spot Galen. He moves into the brush.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

96

Virdon and Burke use small stones to crush the hunks of charcoal into powder.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

97

Galen appears on the banks of a narrow stream. He looks around and sees no one. Hurrying, he bends to dip the cloth into the water. As he does, Second Guard steps from the brush on the far side of the stream. He is as surprised to see Galen as the latter is to be seen.

SECOND GUARD

(shouting)

He's here!

Galen is off and running. Second Guard leaps the stream and runs in pursuit. Galen is lost in the brush.

SECOND GUARD

(shouting)

Stop him!

Several villagers appear and join in pursuit as Second Guard dives into the brush after Galen.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

98

Viridon and Burke are grinding charcoal, Talia huddling disconsolately.

SECOND GUARD'S VOICE

(o.s., distantly)

The shrine!

Viridon and Burke react, look o.s.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS - P.O.V. SHOT

99

Galen bursts into view, running for his life.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

100

The Astronauts look in opposite direction.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS - LONG SHOT

101

Villagers are pouring into the ceremonial grounds from all sides. Galen's pursuers now are close to him.

ANGLE AT SHRINE

102

Viridon, Burke and Talia have not been discovered but soon must be.

BURKE

The Valley?

Cont.

VIRDON

Galen'll never make it.

He scoops up charcoal in his hands, indicating that Burke is to do likewise. He stands up in full view, shouting...

VIRDON

Galen! The temple!

TALIA

You'll die.

BURKE

Probably full of gas.

VIRDON

Hold your breath as long as you can.

Viridon runs off, followed by Burke and Talia.

EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS - DAY

103

Galen has changed direction in response to Viridon's shout. He is now heading for the temple as are Viridon, Burke and Talia from the opposite direction. Close pursuit. The four reach the temple, with Galen a step back and the pursuers almost within grabbing distance. The four dash into the darkness of the temple. All villagers stop, staring, horrified.

INT. TEMPLE MAIN CHAMBER - DAY

104

It is partly filled with fallen masonry. Sunlight pours in through a high opening which once was a stained glass window. Some remains of the stained glass can still be seen. Viridon, Burke and Talia are holding their breath as they move away from the entrance and are thus no longer visible from outside. Galen follows but is panting.

VIRDON

Hold your breath, Galen.

He grabs the wet cloth from Galen and begins to make up charcoal filters.

GALEN

(panting)
Can't...

Cont.

VIRDON

You've got to. Just till I
get one of these ready.

Galen shakes his head indicating the impossibility of the
request. He cocks his head as he draws in air.

GALEN

No smell...

Viridon, Burke and Talia watch closely as Galen sniffs
deeply, drawing in needed air and testing for odor of
gas at the same time. Viridon has not slowed in his making
of the masks.

GALEN

No. I'm sure.

With great relief, the other three begin breathing deeply.
Viridon is now assisted by Burke in packing wet cloths
with charcoal. Each of the four gets one.

VIRDON

Just in case.

(to Talia and Galen)

At any sign of gas, hold it over
your nose and mouth. Breathe
through it.

TALIA

This won't stop the Gods.

BURKE

(grinning at her)

Maybe it'll confuse them.

VIRDON

We'd better start looking for
another way out of here.

BURKE

I'm with you!

He takes Talia's arm and moves to explore one section
of the main chamber. Talia accompanies him, offering
no resistance. Burke and Galen spread out to search
other areas.

ANGLE ON BURKE

105

as he moves beyond a large hunk of masonry and stops, looking down. He reaches o.s., to lift the ceremonial garments worn by Brun, including the mask. The garments are of slight interest so he drops them and examines the mask curiously. As he turns it in his hand, his eyes widen.

BURKE

Hey!

WIDER ANGLE

106

as Virdon, Talia and Galen run to join him. Burke reaches into the snout of the mask and pulls out the filter section of a twentieth century gas mask. Remnants of the headband and eye protection are still attached so identification is obvious.

BURKE

An old gas mask. This is what they worship.

Talia and Galen are confused.

VIRDON

A long time ago, somebody must have discovered it had a kind of magic. It could keep a man alive in that Valley.

Burke replaces filter in the mask, and holds it up, shaking his head.

BURKE

Their god wears a gas mask.

VIRDON

Their god is a gas mask.

As Burke replaces the mask...

GALEN

I found a passage.

He leads the other three o.s.

ANGLE ON ENTRANCE TO PASSAGE

107

It is partially blocked by fallen masonry but can be seen to wind off into darkness. The four arrive and pause.

VIRDON

Still no smell of gas?

Cont.

Galen shakes his head. Viridon turns to Talia.

VIRDON

Have you ever known anyone who
was struck dead for entering here?

TALIA

No one would come in. Only
Brun.

VIRDON

Keep your fingers crossed.

He starts into the passageway, the others follow.

SERIES OF SHOTS IN PASSAGE

108

as the four move through the passage which is tunnel-like,
tortuous, partially blocked in places and looking very
dicey in others. A loud cough might bring the walls down.

ANGLE AT FORK IN PASSAGE

109

A very short leg of the fork is blocked by a hanging
animal skin curtain. The other leg is evidently the main
part of the passage and the end cannot be seen. Galen
sniffs the air of the longer fork.

GALEN

A taste of the wind, fresh,
not far.

Burke and Talia are ready to take that route, as is Galen.
Viridon is peering at the skin curtain.

VIRDON

There's light showing...

He indicates the bottom of the curtain. Where it does not
hang to the floor, a crack of light can be seen. Viridon
steps forward to push the curtain aside so he can look in.
Light diffuses to reveal shock on Viridon's face. He moves
past the curtain without a word, silenced by his unwilling-
ness to believe what he has seen. The other three, puzzled,
follow.

INT. TEMPLE LABORATORY - DAY

110

A small, dead-end chamber which has been converted into
a primitive laboratory. A large pot contains tar from the
Valley. A hot fire (which was the source of the light) is
in a brazier below the pot, driving off gas which is
collected via a leather hood over the pot. The hood has a

Cont.

narrow aperture at the top and this, in turn, is attached by a simple pipe or hose to a clay jar. Numbers of sealed clay jars are stacked on wooden racks in the laboratory. Viridon shows Burke the tar in the pot.

VIRDON

That's the stuff from the Valley.
The gas is driven off and collected.

BURKE

A do-it-yourself kit for making
poison gas bombs.

Talia and Galen don't understand.

GALEN

What are bombs?

VIRDON

(ignoring him)

Talia, when -- how are these
jars used?

TALIA

I've never seen them before.

GALEN

What are bombs?

BURKE

A bomb is a device used by higher
civilizations, Galen. Instead of
just killing one at a time, you
can wipe out a whole batch.

Galen is not satisfied with the explanation and is about to ask further questions. Any words are aborted by the sudden appearance of an awesome figure. Brun stalks in, pushing aside the curtain. He is in a towering rage, holding his Godhead mask high in his left hand, and a sword in his right.

BRUN

You defy the Gods!

Burke moves to the fore, sweeping up a piece of firewood, ready, as the only available weapon with which to parry Brun's sword, should he strike.

VIRDON

Wait. If the Gods are angry,
why are we still alive?

Cont.

Brun is momentarily slowed. He would have expected intruders to be struck dead. However, the power of belief surges...

BRUN

Only the wearer of the mask
can enter. I will purify the
temple.

He is about to begin swinging his sword. Virdon thrusts out his hand holding the charcoal and cloth filter.

VIRDON

This isn't a God-given mask.

Brun stops, not knowing what Virdon is driving at. He watches as Virdon puts the cloth over his nose and mouth, shoves his head between the bubbling pot and the hood so that he must breathe the fumes. Burke stiffens, surreptitiously crossing his fingers. Galen watches fascinated, Talia horrified. Brun waits for Virdon to fall dead. Virdon, unharmed, steps back, removing the filter from his face. Brun brushes past Burke to face Virdon with confusion and doubt showing in his expression.

BRUN

How -- ? You are just men.

VIRDON

Like you...

BRUN

No. I hold the mask, given to
me by my father, given by his
father, and back to the time
when the Gods walked the earth.

Tentatively, he extends his hand to take Virdon's cloth filter. Virdon doesn't stop him. Brun opens the fold of cloth to see the charcoal.

BRUN

This? You could walk in the
Valley?

VIRDON

Just as you can with your mask.

BRUN

(his head whirling)
My mask...it came from the Gods...

Cont.

BURKE

No. It was made by men...when they destroyed other men with gas like this.

BRUN

You are lying!

VIRDON

(of the bombs)
What are these for?

BRUN

To free my people. When I have enough, I will go to the Ape village. My mask will protect me, but the Apes will be killed.

BURKE

You can't use this gas! It's the beginning of mass murder again!

BRUN

(overriding)
All my life I obeyed, crawled, begged, gave up those I loved because the Apes were strong.
(indicating bombs)
Now the Gods have made me strong!

VIRDON

Not this way. You can't win freedom by destroying the world!

BRUN

(ignoring that;
excited by a new thought)
The masks. Your masks. We can free all men.
(exultant)
I will teach my people to make masks like yours. We can find the apes wherever they are. The gas will kill them, and the masks will keep us alive.

GALEN

He's crazy!

BRUN

An end to all apes, and men will be free!

VIRDON

Listen to me. Please listen.
We've been there. We've been
through poison gas, atomic bombs,
everything...and it solves nothing.

BRUN

(challenging him)

Nothing?! Peace?! No more fear?!
No sons taken into slavery?! That
is nothing?!

BURKE

It brought us this world...the
way it is now! And we can't let
anybody take that first step
again!

BRUN

(in disbelief; not
understanding at all)

Do you side with apes?

BURKE

That's not the point. Fight to
stop slavery...all slavery...but
not with this weapon. Poison gas
kills everything...animals, women,
children...

BRUN

(persisting)

It won't kill my people!
Nothing else matters.

He turns, ready to run out of the chamber to start on his
great project. Galen grabs the piece of wood from Burke's
hand -- Burke wasn't expecting such an action. A quick
swing and Galen slugs Brun who goes down, unconscious.

GALEN

He won't kill my people, either.

VIRDON

(angrily)

That won't stop anything!

He bends over Brun to see how severely injured he is.
Talía is staring at Galen in horror.

Cont.

TALIA
No one must hurt Brun.

BURKE
(to Galen)
You picked a classic way to settle
an argument! Do you think he'll
be fonder of apes when he comes
around?

GALEN
I won't wait to ask.

He kicks over the brazier. Fire spreads rapidly, licking
at the wooden racks.

VIRDON
Run, Talia. The back way.
You, too, Galen.
(to Burke)
Give me a hand.

Talia runs out, Galen waits to hold open the curtain for
Viridon and Burke who are dragging Brun out. Galen is
defiant.

GALEN
I don't care how civilized
bombs are, I don't like them.

ANGLE AT FORK IN PASSAGE - DAY 111

Talia runs down the long leg, Galen is holding the curtain
and allows Viridon and Burke to carry Brun out before he,
too, runs in direction taken by Talia. Viridon and Burke
are burdened by Brun; they follow more slowly.

SERIES OF SHOTS IN LONG FORK 112

detailing progress of all through the long fork which
changes in character from a masonry passageway to a tunnel
excavated through earth.

ANGLE ON MOUTH OF TUNNEL - DAY 113

Talia emerges from the mouth of the tunnel which is largely
concealed by brush. She waits and is joined by Galen who
looks off to orient himself.

P.O.V. SHOT - VALLEY OF STILLNESS 114

The tunnel has debouched at the head of the Valley, some
distance from the lethal tar pit.

ANGLE ON MOUTH OF TUNNEL

115

Galen sniffs carefully and discerns no odor.

GALEN

No gas reaches here.

Talia had been ready to press her mask to her face. The two are joined by Virдон and Burke, carrying Brun and puffing. Smoke is beginning to pour from the mouth of the tunnel so Brun is carried a little distance away where the air will be fresher. Talia and Galen move with the others as CAMERA PULLS BACK. Virдон and Burke deposit Brun on the ground. Virдон looks o.s. as Galen had done.

VIRDON

Let's go.

He's ready to lead the way across the Valley. Galen does not move, pointing to Brun.

GALEN

What about him?

VIRDON

He'll be all right.

Brun is beginning to regain consciousness.

GALEN

He knows how to make the bombs.
He'll start over.

Brun starts to rise and sees the smoke in the tunnel. He's stunned.

BRUN

I worked so long to make what
is in there.

Virдон is helping Brun to his feet. Burke addresses Galen.

BURKE

I know what you're thinking,
Galen, but the only way you can
get rid of what a man knows is
to kill him. And you can't
do that.

Brun pulls away from Virдон in fury, seeming to intend an attack upon Galen. As the Astronauts interpose themselves between Brun and Galen, the former wheels and runs for the tunnel.

Cont.

BRUN
(shouting as he runs)
I'll save them. They are freedom!

GALEN
(starting pursuit)
He's not going to get those bombs!

VIRDON
(grabbing Galen)
Galen, no! You can't murder.

GALEN
What will he do to my people?

He struggles with Virdon. OMINOUS RUMBLE OVER SOUNDTRACK.

BURKE
Get down!

Virdon shoves Galen to the ground, dives down himself as Burke and Talia hit the earth, holding arms protectively over their heads.

ANGLE ON TUNNEL MOUTH AREA - REAR OF TEMPLE 116
IN B.G.

Smoke belches out, the world seems to shake, and then an enormous explosion sends debris flying in all directions.

ANGLE ON TALIA, GALEN AND ASTRONAUTS 117

Bits of debris land on them but they are not hurt. Slowly, they rise and look at the destruction.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AREA OF TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY 118

The smoke no longer exudes from the tunnel mouth. Virdon emerges, the improvised gas mask over his face, as he carries the dead body of Brun.

ANOTHER ANGLE 119

Galen, Burke, Talia and Trung waiting. Trung has his arm around Talia. Virdon comes up to them now, slowly and sadly lowers Brun's body to the ground, then removes the mask from his face. Trung bends down beside his father's body, rests there for a moment, reaches out and gently touches his face.

Cont.

VIRDON

You must always be proud of
your father. He died trying to
find a way to end slavery.

TRUNG

(hopelessly)

He could not, nor his father,
nor will I...

BURKE

Don't give up! You haven't tried.

VIRDON

Free the wild men. Together
you can resist the apes.

TRUNG

(with distaste)

Fight side by side with wild men?

BURKE

Would you rather hand Talia over
to the Gorillas?

VIRDON

And after Talia, more of your
people every moon. Your
people. You are the Leader now.

Trung hesitates, torn, still miserable over Brun's death,
not able to choose a direction for his life...

BURKE

Fight, Trung. Join with the
wild men. For her, for all your
people.

VIRDON

For your son -- so he can be a
leader of free men. And we will
help you.

Trung looks past the Astronauts to Talia. She nods
slowly with pride and love. Trung comes to a decision.

TRUNG

(shakes his head "no")

It is my battle. Mine and my
people...and the wild men. May
the Gods be with you on your journey.

Cont.

He embraces Burke and Virdon in turn, wordlessly. He is about to bow his head in obedience to Galen from habit, but stops himself. He extends his hand out, palm up. Galen places his palm on Trung's. They are equals. Trung bends down, picks up Brun's body, and together with Talia, moves in the direction of the village.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS AND GALEN

120

watching Trung and Talia depart.

VIRDON
(almost to himself)
God bless...

BURKE
Amen...

GALEN
I wish them well...I think...

The three turn to start off in opposite direction.

LONG SHOT

121

as the trio moves away, receding in the distance.

FADE OUT

THE END