

PLANET OF THE APES

"TOMORROW'S TIDE"

Written by

Robert W. Lenski

SECOND REVISED FINAL
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CAST LIST

GALEN

PETE BURKE

ALAN VIRDON

GAHTO (HUMAN)

SOMA (HUMAN)

ROMAR (HUMAN)

HURTON (CHIMP)

HURTON'S AIDE (GORILLA)

BANDOR (APE)

ARMED GUARD (GORILLA)

APE DRAYMAN ONE

APE DRAYMAN TWO

Human Fishermen, Ape Patrol, Ape Guards

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

CAVE

EXTERIORS:

OCEAN BEACH

INLAND LAGOON - FISHING AREA

INLAND LAGOON - TEST AREA

WOODS

OCEAN FISHING POOL

VILLAGE

HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS

GAHTO'S HUT

CEREMONIAL SITE

CAVE AREA

"TOMORROW'S TIDE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

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

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN 1
RUNNING - DAY

The two Astronauts, VIRDON and BURKE, with their chimpanzee companion, GALEN, are running, apparently in flight, along the hardpacked sand of the beach... but on each incoming wave, Galen heads for the softer sand, leaving tracks.

CLOSE SHOT - THE TRIO 2

as Virdon glances back to see Galen, behind, plodding through the soft sand...and stops!...turns to Galen who also now stops. Burke halts also, appearing thankful for the breather, as:

VIRDON
(to Galen)
You're a big help!

Galen marches innocently up to him.

GALEN
Huh?

Virdon points back at the tracks.

VIRDON
We're trying not to leave tracks!
Stay closer to the water, get
your feet wet.

GALEN
(superior)
My tracks are not cause for
suspicion in this part of the
world. Besides, we are not
quite as fond of water as...
humans!

Burke glances in at the shore, inquisitively, paying no mind to the exchange...as Virdon sighs patiently at their friend, Galen.

Cont.

BURKE

Wonder if this is...Pismo Beach
...or Malibu...?

And he glances out to the water...noticing something,
pointing.

BURKE

Hey...look!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST THEM TO THE OPEN WATER 3

A sizeable, bulky object, six or seven feet long, flat,
floating in the water. As Virдон and Galen turn on
Burke's cue:

VIRDON

What is it?
(excited)
Come on...!

And he races into the water, Burke right behind him.
They dive into the surf, swimming toward the object.

ANGLE ON GALEN 4

as he watches them, with great curiosity. His expression X
changes to one of mild distaste...for the water.

GALEN

Ugh...getting all wet...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE SWIMMING 5

toward the object, which we can now see is a raft...only
two or three logs lashed together, but something atop it.

VIRDON

There it is...over there...

ANGLE ON THE RAFT 6

as Virдон and Burke swim up to it, and with great surprise,
see the prone form of old GAHTO, lashed to the raft with
leather thongs. They grasp hold of the raft, look at the
old man.

BURKE

Hey...it's an old man, Al...a
survivor...you all right, fella?

3

CLOSE SHOT - GAHTO

7

His eyes, swollen from being lashed facing the sun, only blink. But he says nothing.

BACK TO SCENE

8

as we see the dorsal fin of a SHARK cut the water not far behind Burke.

VIRDON

This guy isn't a survivor...

He's a victim...Come on...

(spotting

shark fin)

Hey...Pete...shark!

Burke turns, looks around at the warning, sees the shark fin, circling now.

BURKE

Let's get out of here.

And they start to swim and tug the raft toward shore.

SWIMMING SHOT - CLOSE ON THE RAFT

9

Virдон and Burke towing the raft closer to shore. In the near b.g., the shark fin appears once more, circles, dives, both Astronauts eyeing it cautiously.

VIRDON

Watch him...he's getting closer...

BURKE

What do you want me to do...

Tell him there's nobody home?

Swim!

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - PAST GALEN TO RAFT

10

Virдон and Burke have towed the raft to shallow water now...and begin hauling it onto the sand of the beach.

ANGLE ON THE RAFT

11

Virдон kneels with Burke near the raft as Galen walks up to them. Spotting the leather thongs with which Gahto is bound to the raft, Virдон looks up at Galen, his hand out.

VIRDON

Give me the knife...

Cont.

A beat of hesitation as Galen hands Virdon a type of hunting knife. Virdon quickly cuts the thongs but the old man does not stir, even when freed. As he hands the knife back to Galen:

VIRDON

At least he's still breathing.
Somebody must've put him on
the outgoing tide...

BURKE

Let's get him out of here.

They lift Gahto and move o.s.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - DAY

A-11

as our trio carries Gahto into cave.

INT. CAVE - DAY

B-11

Gahto is placed gently on the floor of the cave.

BURKE

(to Gahto)
Hey...who are you...eh?

No reaction from Gahto and Burke snaps his fingers in front of the old man's face...for a reaction.

BURKE

Hey...You understand?
(to Virdon)
In shock -- or deaf?

VIRDON

Maybe he just doesn't understand
us.

GAHTO

(weakly)
I...am...dead. Leave...me.

BURKE

He understands...I don't.

VIRDON

Old man...what is your name...
where do you come from...?

GAHTO

I...am...dead...

He closes his eyes.

GALEN

You heard him. Let's go.

BURKE

You've got to be kidding. You can't just leave him.

GALEN

Why not?

VIRDON

Who would do a thing like this...?

BURKE

Some early Indian tribes, Eskimos, a few ancient Chinese societies...

VIRDON

He doesn't qualify.

Galen is puzzled, concerned and a little annoyed.

GALEN

You ought to listen to him. You're just asking for trouble...

Virдон kneels by Gahto as latter opens his eyes, stares ahead.

VIRDON

Want to tell us your name, now? Huh?

GAHTO

I am dead. The gods have willed it.

Burke goes to join Virдон, by Gahto. A little impatient with the "story" Gahto is giving them, trying an angle.

BURKE

Look...you know you're dead... we know you're dead. All we want to know is...what was your name when you were still alive... right?

A long beat, just as Virдон is noticing the metal bracelet Gahto wears.

Cont.

GAHTO

Gahto...my name was...Gahto.

VIRDON

Gahto...well, that's a start.

(showing Burke
the bracelet)

Look, Pete...

OUT 12-
14

INSERT - THE BRACELET ON GAHTO'S ARM 15

A metal band, the figure of a fish stamped on it.

BURKE'S VOICE

(o.s.)
For identification, maybe?

X

BACK TO SCENE 16

as Virdon turns the bracelet slightly, seeing:

VIRDON

Yeah. This is fastened on
for life.

X

Galen stands, comes to them.

GALEN

It's the band of an enforced
labor community. He'll be
killed if he's found wandering
outside the permitted area.

BURKE

What's a permitted area?

GALEN

It varies. A mile or two from
the labor center. It's a method
to keep humans from straying away.

ANGLE ON GAHTO 17

as he looks up with some fear at the chimpanzee, Galen,
then curiosity at Virdon and Burke; the picture of
humans friendly with an ape too confusing for him.

GAHTO

I am dead...leave me...the
gods have willed it...

As Virdon and Burke stand, frustrated:

BURKE

Poor guy, somebody sure sold him a bill of goods -- What's the next move?

VIRDON

We're going to find whoever put him there...sort them out...and get him back home. Human beings just can't...do this!

GALEN

May I ask a question?

Virdon and Burke turn to him, waiting for it.

GALEN

If he wants to be dead...why can't he be dead?

On their look:

GALEN

I've known a lot of humans who would be better off...if...

He halts on their look.

BURKE

Is that your question?

GALEN

Well?

VIRDON

The answer is...you stay here and keep an eye on him. We'll scout the area and see if we can find who...Gahtó here...belongs to. Does that meet with your approval?

On Galen's rather put-down look, Virdon turns to Burke:

VIRDON

Let's move...

And Virdon walks toward the mouth of the cave, as Burke steps over, puts a reassuring hand on Galen's shoulder.

Cont.

BURKE

Don't mind him...he just got up
on the wrong side of the cave...

And Burke follows Virdon out the entrance of the cave.
When they have left, Galen walks to Gahto, looks down
at him, testing.

GALEN

Gahto?

No response.

GALEN

Gahto!?

The old man just stares straight ahead. Galen gives up,
walks toward the mouth of the cave and stares out at the
increasing light of day, silhouetted against the opening.

CUT TO:

EXT. APPROACH TO BEACH - MOVING SHOT - VIRDON AND 18
BURKE - DAY

walking together. They look o.s.

OUT 19-
20

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN FISHING POOL - LONG P.O.V. SHOT - DAY 21

A sizeable cove, sheltered by rocks from the open sea, where
commercial spear fishing is done to supply raw material
for inland fertilizer factories. Several human spear
fishermen from this producing village are now engaged in
fishing. Armed Ape Guards stand by. We see a couple
emerge with fish on their spears and start for a half-filled
wooden wagon parked on the beach, horse-drawn and being
tended by two Ape Draymen. An Armed Ape Guard stands on
a rock overlooking the fishing pool.

ANGLE ON THE WATER 22

A flurry of excitement as TWO FISHERMEN, their heads just
out of water, let out sounds of alarm, and we see a
shark fin cut the water near them.

ANGLE ON THE ARMED APE GUARD 23

as he raises his gun and fires at the shark.

ANGLE ON THE FISHERMEN

24

as the rifle shot blips the water near the shark fin, and it disappears.

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM A SECLUDED SPOT ON SHORE TO
THE SCENE

25

Virдон and Burke are watching this activity with interest, bewilderment.

BURKE

Man, if this is Paradise Cove,
they've made some changes...

A beat, and Virдон points.

VIRDON

Pete...look...the bracelets...

And CAMERA ZOOMS IN on two Villager Fishermen standing at the wagon to unload their catch onto the pile of fish in the dray...the left arm of each of them bearing a bracelet identical to the one Gahto wears.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

26

as they exchange a look.

BURKE

What do you think?

VIRDON

I don't think we ought to
go in there...with all that
artillery around...

Their thoughts are cut short by a stern, loud COMMAND from behind them.

ARMED GUARD

You! What are you doing here!?

REVERSE ANGLE

27

as Virдон and Burke turn to see they're looking up the muzzle of a rifle held by a sinister Ape ARMED GUARD. The Guard cocks the rifle in a menacing metallic sound of readiness. Too startled to answer immediately, Virдон and Burke make a slight move.

ARMED GUARD

Stand! Slowly!

Cont.

Viridon and Burke stand. The Ape studies them, glancing at their wrists...no bracelet.

ARMED GUARD

Who are you!? Where do you come from!?

BURKE

We're just sort of travelling through. If we're not supposed to be here, we'll --

ARMED GUARD

(overriding)

Silence!

Holding the gun on them, gesturing:

ARMED GUARD

This way...!

And he starts to march them in a direction that will take them past the group near the fishing area, to the village. Some Fishermen follow hesitantly, apprehensively.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

28

Curiosity from inhabitants over these two strangers being led through by an Armed Guard. The humans murmur with AD-LIB curiosity as the Astronauts' captor marches them close by the other humans and orders them to:

ARMED GUARD

Stop! Stay!

While another Armed Guard trains his rifle on the pair, the Armed Guard in charge of Viridon and Burke steps away. Viridon and Burke scan the group inquisitively. Burke calls lowly to one of the male humans near him.

BURKE

You...do you know...Gahto?

The couple of Fishermen and a couple of others within earshot, turn their backs on Viridon and Burke.

VIRDON

Wait! Do you know if Gahto lives here?

As their captor is returning the few steps to them:

BURKE

Looks like old Gahto has a lot of acquaintances but no close friends...

CAMERA PANS to ROMAR, who turns his head from the group, watching the two strangers carrying Gahto's name, with some fear. His wife, SOMA, has nervously stepped out to join him, eyes wide in fear.

EXT. HURTON'S HUT - DAY 29

Armed Guard has entered Hurton's hut, the largest hut in the village.

OUT 30

INT. HURTON'S HUT - DAY 31

HURTON, a chimpanzee beset by irritations, is listening to the Armed Guard.

ARMED GUARD

Stray humans, sir. I found them
hiding near the fishing area.
Probably waiting to steal fish.

HURTON

All right! Don't just stand there.
(to himself)
More problems!

Armed Guard moves to door to signal out.

ARMED GUARD

Bring them in.

Hurton shuffles papers. Armed Guard steps away from door to permit entry of Virdon and Burke who, obviously, have been "urged" to enter Hurton's hut.

Hurton steps to them, angrily. He starts pacing around them.

HURTON

Hah! That's all I need! Three
wagonloads behind already this
period! The fertilizer factories
wanting more...more...more!

He steps in front of Burke, pokes his riding crop in Burke's stomach.

HURTON

(demanding)
And how many fish do you have
in your gullet...eh?

Cont.

Burke flinches from the jabbing of his middle.

VIRDON

We didn't steal any fish.

Hurton turns to him, now. He looks at Virdon's bare wrist, whacks it with his riding crop.

HURTON

Hah! You wear no band of a fisherman. How else would you get fish to eat except to steal them!

VIRDON

If you'll let me explain...

ARMED GUARD

Silence!

Hurton steps back, gives the pair a fast objective appraisal of a weary bureaucrat.

HURTON

(for the Guard)

If they're not fishermen, they're no use to me. Take them out and kill them...

And Hurton turns his back on them, starting back for his headquarters.

ARMED GUARD

Come!

BURKE

Hey, hold it! We're probably the best fishermen in this whole part of the world!

Hurton stops, turns with interest. As Virdon gives his pal a look, Hurton walks back to them, cautious, but interested.

HURTON

If you lie, you die.

BURKE

No lie...hey, on the level... nobody, but nobody brings in the fish like we do.

Cont.

Hurton points with his riding crop.

HURTON

Then how is it you do not wear
the armband of a fisherman?
Eh? Eh?

With a superior shrug, as though he is about to "dismiss" them again, until Virdon jumps in:

VIRDON

We were...farmers. We were...
released by one of the big farms
inland...

BURKE

Because all we wanted to do all
the time was...fish. We've been
practicing...

Hurton starts to pace around them again, considering. He whacks their leg muscles with his crop, pinches their arm muscles like he's examining livestock. In front of Burke again, he presses a fist to his middle.

HURTON

You have good wind? To fish
long underwater?

BURKE

Oh yes, sir...

A beat of hesitation by Hurton.

HURTON

Do you have your 'release papers?'

VIRDON

(quickly)
No, sir...we lost them.

BURKE

While we were fishing.

Another beat as Hurton considers this technicality, muttering somewhat to himself.

HURTON

I could use two more good producers...
have to discard the old ones...
takes forever to grow new ones...
(a decision,
to them)
We'll let the fire decide!

VIRDON

What?

Hurton, very matter-of-fact...doing them a favor.

HURTON

We'll test you tomorrow. If you can prove your swimming ability under the sheet of flame...

He grabs Virdon's arm and lifts it possessively.

HURTON

I'll band you myself. Two more producers in the prime... Bandor will be delighted...

BURKE

(doubtful)

Well, now...I'm just not too sure we're...ready...to go swimming under any...fire...

HURTON

(abruptly)

Then it's out of my hands, of course. You'll be killed immediately before the gods are offended...

(to Guard)

Guard them! And no food before the test. If we have to kill them...I don't want any fish ration wasted on them...

And he turns and stalks back to his headquarters, muttering.

HURTON

Quotas...quotas...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

32

as they exchange looks that say they're not exactly comfortable with this new, deadly dilemma.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - LONG SHOT - THE SCENE - 33
DAY

Viridon and Burke stand amid several curious Villagers who have gathered to see these two "strangers" without arm-bands pass the test of swimming under fire which will qualify them to become producing spear fishermen. The water in the lagoon is quiet now. Hurton is present.

ANGLE ON ARMED GUARD 34

With a lighted torch...as he tosses it toward the oil-covered water...PANNING WITH ITS ARC...as it lights in the water...and suddenly ignites the surface into a sheet of flame.

WIDE ANGLE 35

Amid cheers of encouragement, a YOUNG HUMAN approaches the edge of the flaming lagoon. He turns to raise a clenched fist proudly to the crowd watching, takes a spear, then plunges into the water. He's a magnificent specimen who swims strongly to a point near the flames, then submerges.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 36

reacting.

VIRDON

Think he's got a chance?

BURKE

Probably been in training. We go that route without even a test run!

WIDE ANGLE 37

Young Human appears at the far side of the flames, swims triumphantly to the shore as the crowd cheers.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 38

watching.

VIRDON

He made it. It is possible.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - ANGLE ON GALEN AND GAHTO - DAY

Galen is just walking into the mouth of the cave to see old Gahto, still "dying" in his sitting-leaning position. Galen munches on berries he has collected.

GALEN

Hah! Maybe you are not too
dead to eat a few berries...?

Galen kneels, extends his handful of berries.

ANGLE ON GAHTO

He looks straight ahead...as if in shock.

GAHTO

I have failed the gods...I am
dead.

GALEN

My friends have a saying...I think
it goes like this...'You are a pain
in the neck.'

Galen stands...worried about something else.

GALEN

And if anything's happened to
them...I will personally feed
you to the sharks...piece by
piece.

GAHTO

It is the will of the gods...

GALEN

Oh shut up! It is the will of
Galen...

(jabbing his
own chest)

...that you stay right here. My
friends have been gone a day.
I'm going to look for them. Do
you understand?

No response from Gahto. In frustration, Galen turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - DAY

Hurton is standing near Virdon and Burke, accompanied by his Armed Aide. Hurton is aloof and superior...but showing a certain anticipation. He views his new "specimens"... tapping out physical attributes with his riding crop...

HURTON

Look at that. Limbs as strong
as a young horse. Lungs like a
whale.

He whacks Virdon on the chest. And says for the Aide to
hear...one really does not talk to humans, as a rule.

HURTON

When the run of fish is good, they
should produce an extra two, three
hundred pounds a day!

Virdon and Burke exchange looks on this appraisal.

HURTON

Test them!

The Armed Aide steps forward, motioning with his gun.

ARMED AIDE

Come...

ANOTHER ANGLE - FROM THE WATER

42

We see the group of village men part and Virdon, Burke and
Hurton walk toward the water and a cluster of spears stuck
upright in the earth near the water. As they approach,
another Armed Guard plucks out one of the spears and hands
it to Virdon.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

43

as Virdon takes the spear.

BURKE

Good luck, buddy...you won the
toss...

WIDER ANGLE - ON SCENE

44

as Virdon walks to the water. Village men approach, holding
back with an uncertain curiosity. Virdon steps into the
clear water, looks beyond to the flaming barrier he must
swim under. A beat of hesitation...and the Guard raises
his gun and fires a SHOT into the water near Virdon.

ANGLE ON BURKE

45

flinching, from the no-foolishness of these Apes.

BURKE

(concern)

I think that's the starting gun --

ANGLE ON SCENE

46

Virдон, spear in hand, plunges into the water, disappears under the surface. Hurton steps forward, crosses his arms... waits. Burke, silently, his fists clenched like he's urging his "team" to the goal line...the Villagers exchanging looks...when Virдон seems long in appearing. An extra long beat...Virдон is still under the water.

ANGLE ON HURTON

47

A look of disappointment, some anger...has he been duped?

ANGLE ON BURKE

48

Concern for his friend growing...straining for a look.

BACK TO SCENE

49

As everyone is just stirring with bewilderment, concern... we see Virдон emerge from the water on the far side of the flames...spear in hand...raising it...and he has a fish on it!

A cheer goes up from the Village humans...this is not an expected part of the test...here is a real fisherman who will help ease the pressure on them to continually increase production. Hurton has a pleased look. The Armed Aide expresses surprise...and all now turn to Burke.

ANGLE ON BURKE

50

looking across to Virдон...a resigned look...shaking his head.

BURKE

You're a hard act to follow!

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - ANGLE AT THE EMPTY RAFT - DAY

51

A Mounted Patrol, his horse standing near, is leaning over and examining the raft from which Gahto was taken. He examines the knife-sliced thongs. An expression of "official anger"...someone has defied the gods! He quickly mounts up and rides off...galloping down the beach.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - AS BEFORE - DAY

52

Only Burke is now at water's edge with spear in hand. Virдон stands on the opposite side, another Guard in the b.g. As Burke steps into the water...takes a "whale's breath"... and dives in. Several long beats...not a ripple in the flaming water.

ANGLE ON HURTON

53

expectant...but concerned.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

54

looking back across the water, an anxious look when he doesn't see his friend emerge...

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST VIRDON TO THE SCENE OF THE LAGOON

55

The Village humans with Hurton on the far side. Another long beat...and Burke emerges from the water...gasping for breath...long held...and stands with his spear...containing a larger fish! And he walks toward Virdon with a big smile..

BURKE

As one big producer to another, I hope we graduated and don't have to take any more tests.

Virdon smiles at his friend, proudly, as the Guard reminds them where they are.

ARMED GUARD

Come! This way!

And he leads them off.

EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE LAGOON - ANGLE ON HURTON AND AIDE 56

We see the Armed Guard approaching with Burke and Virdon, coming toward the amazed and delighted group of Villagers who offer restrained nods...smiles at these men...except for Romar...who views them suspiciously.

Hurton walks to Virdon and Burke, examining them again in this new and unexpected light.

HURTON

Bandor will arrive tomorrow with new quotas, no doubt. He'll expect me to squirm and complain... he's always wanted to put his nephew in charge here. I think I will surprise Bandor with these new fishermen. I want to see his face.

(turning, deciding)

...bring them along!

Hurton strides off in the direction of the village, Virdon and Burke following under rifle guard...and the Village humans falling in behind.

EXT. THE VILLAGE - SHOOTING DOWN "STREET" - DAY 57

The procession is heading toward Hurton's headquarters. From first appearances, it would seem that Viridon and Burke are in serious trouble...guns pointed at them...in the custody of Apes as CAMERA PULLS BACK:

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST GALEN - TO THE SCENE 58

as he views it from a secluded hiding spot near the village, a look of concern as he turns toward CAMERA...and leaves hurriedly.

THE SCENE ON THE "STREET" - ANGLE NEAR ROMAR AND SOMA'S HUT 59

as the procession passes the hut belonging to Romar and Soma...Romar drops from the procession as Soma steps from the hut. Romar watches the others continue toward Hurton's headquarters.

ANGLE ON ROMAR AND SOMA 60

as she steps near her husband, a glance toward the departing Viridon and Burke.

SOMA

Did they say any more?

Romar does not look at his wife as he barks a firm denial.

ROMAR

They said nothing!

SOMA

I am sure they have seen my father.
Gahto is alive!

ROMAR

(sternly)

Silence! If the gods hear you say his name...they will punish us all!
The sea has taken him. It's the law. Be still!

A beat of obedience...but she walks away from him...to follow the others...and he joins her, somewhat fearfully.

THE SCENE IN FRONT OF HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS 61

as the procession, Hurton and his Aide leading, arrive... Hurton making up his mind about something as they halt there.

HURTON

They will occupy the hut of the old discarded fisherman.

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST VIRDON AND BURKE - TO HURTON 62

as they exchange a glance on this overheard remark. A couple of Village humans stand near them to hear.

VIRDON

Hear that?

BURKE

I think we're getting old Gahto's old apartment.

On the mention of the name Gahto...Viridon sees the two Humans clap a hand to their mouths...just expressing curiosity about this as they both hear a familiar voice.

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Aha! Here you are!

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST GROUP TO GALEN 63

approaching Hurton and the rest from behind the headquarters structure. Hurton turns in surprise as Galen marches forward with a stern determination.

GALEN

(to Viridon, Burke)

I told you the next time you strayed off, you'd be punished severely. And I meant it. Now come along...!

Viridon and Burke, a brief glimpse of freedom, take a step but are stopped short by gunpoint prompted by an interjected command from the surprised and irritated Hurton.

HURTON

Wait! Stay!

(to Galen)

Who are you?

Galen takes a pose of innocent preoccupation. Even irritation.

GALEN

Permit me to speak to you...

He looks pointedly and in distaste at the gawking Humans. Hurton nods, leads Galen into his hut.

INT. HURTON'S HUT

A-63

as Galen and Hurton enter.

GALEN

My name is...Zooma. I am on an...
expedition from Central City.
You have found my two...rather
ignorant slaves. They have a
habit of wandering. I appreciate
it. I'll take them now.

Galen makes a gesture as though this settles any problems.

HURTON

Hold on! This is all...very
irregular.

He puzzles, glancing out the door.

HURTON

This is not the story they told me!

Galen improvises quickly again.

GALEN

Oh, they're such liars! They lie
all the time...about everything.
But they're good workers. I'll
take them off your hands...

HURTON

It is out of my hands.
(gesture to Virdon,
Burke)
Since they have lied...only the
gods of the sea can decide their
fate.

Galen is a little puzzled...but this may not be so bad.

GALEN

Well...that sounds reasonable.
What are the...gods of the sea?

OUT 64-
65
66

ANGLE ON HURTON

rather disappointed...he hates to see two sturdy producers
become shark bait...as he routinely announces:

HURTON

The sharks.

CLOSE ON GALEN

A-66

B-543

as he reacts.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN FISHING POOL - LONG SHOT - SCENE - 67
DAY

We see Virdon and Burke being led across the open sand toward the water's edge at gunpoint by two of the Armed Guards. Slightly behind, Hurton, his Aide and Galen... followed by a group of Villagers to see the "gods" get their vengeance.

MOVING SHOT - WITH GALEN AND HURTON 68

Galen is protesting...Hurton remains adamant, just getting himself out of a sticky situation.

GALEN

I object. I will not have my private property...fed to the sharks to satisfy some...backwoods custom!

They stop, near enough now, as Hurton eyes the doomed Astronauts with detachment.

HURTON

I'm sorry, my friend...It may not appeal to your...sophisticated Central City tastes...but in production areas like this...with minimum security...it is the law.
(shouts to Guards)
Send them out...

Galen shouts to the Guards:

GALEN

Wait!
(then to Hurton)
At least give me the satisfaction of giving those two troublemakers a final piece of my mind!

OUT 69-
71

WIDER ANGLE - THE SCENE 72

as Galen plods across the sand, past the Guards, toward Virdon and Burke. As he reaches them:

ANGLE ON GALEN, VIRDON, BURKE 73

Virdon and Burke look with some dissatisfaction at their young friend.

Cont.

VIRDON

Any way out of this?

Burke can tell differently from a look at Galen.

BURKE

No way...

Galen steps close to Virdon, slips the knife out, hands it to him.

GALEN

Here...take this...it may help.

BURKE

Remind me someday to tell you how grateful we are...liars, eh...
Zooma!

GALEN

It wasn't my idea to try and save that crazy old human.

And we hear Hurton's shouted voice:

HURTON'S VOICE

(o.s.)
Enough! Send them to the gods!

VIRDON

Watch it, Galen...I don't know if they're real particular who they shoot...

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST ARMED GUARDS - TO THE TRIO 74

We see the Guards raise their guns again. Galen steps to one side, Virdon and Burke turn to see the guns aimed at them. And they walk out into the water...the knife not visible.

LONG SHOT - THE SCENE 75

Drawn by curiosity now, Hurton and his Aide, followed by Villagers, edge toward the shore...the Armed Guards still aiming at Virdon and Burke who are now swimming.

CLOSE ON VIRDON AND BURKE, SWIMMING 76

Slow strokes, their eyes peeled on the water ahead.

VIRDON

If we could make it to those rocks, maybe...

But a shark fin SLICES the water almost within arm's reach...startling them.

BURKE

Forget it!

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE STRUGGLE

77

Viridon and Burke swim apart...the shark slices between them. There is a violent churning of water...the two alternately diving, emerging, going back under with AD-LIB instructions to each other: "Watch it"... "Draw him away"... "Here he comes"... "Decoy!... Decoy!"...

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - PAST HURTON, GALEN
ET AL

78

All watching now as it is clear the shark attack has begun. Low sounds of fear and awe from the Villagers...who are seeing the "gods" at work.

CLOSE SHOT - THE WATER

79

No sign of shark or men...

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - AS BEFORE

80

The spectators can see the water has stilled...the gods have had their say. Hurton, satisfied it's over, turns to his Aide.

HURTON

Well, that's that...get
production started...

But the Aide, still looking out to the water, points with excited disbelief...

AIDE

Look!

ANGLE SHOOTING TOWARD WATER

81

We see signs of life...then Viridon and Burke emerge, wading through the shallower water now...and lift the slain shark over their heads in triumph. A CHEER goes up from the Villagers...Hurton amazed.

REVERSE ANGLE

82

As Viridon and Burke dump their "prize" on the beach, Hurton and Galen there now...Villagers just behind...craning for a look at the slain "god" of the sea.

GALEN

82 Cont.

(to Hurton)

Well, I'd say that settles it.
Your law has been carried out...I'll
take my slaves and be on my way...

But Hurton's calculator mind is back at work...the
Astronauts' success is their own undoing...as he sees
quotas being filled by these two astounding "producers."

HURTON

I'm not too sure about that...

And we hear the thundering SOUND of an approaching horse!

ANOTHER ANGLE

83

The Mounted Patrol who discovered the empty raft rides up,
directly into their midst, dismounts, and comes to Hurton.

MOUNTED PATROL

The float...carrying old Gahto to
the gods. On the beach...the
lashings cut...someone has defied
the gods.

The Villagers draw back in fear as Hurton is enraged at
this.

HURTON

This is sacrilege...high treason!

CLOSE ON ROMAR AND SOMA

84

Standing among the Villagers, she turns excitedly to her
husband...in a low whisper...

SOMA

I knew it...he's alive.

ROMAR

Be still...he'll hear you.

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST THEM TO HURTON

85

who now demands of the Villagers in general:

HURTON

Do any of you know about this!?

No response from the mute Villagers. Hurton barks an order
to the Mounted Patrol who has just reported the discovery.

HURTON

The old man cannot be far. Find
him!

Then Hurton sees Romar and Soma...and strides straight through the other Villagers to them. Viridon and Burke follow, slightly behind...as Hurton now faces the couple.

HURTON

Do you know anything about this?

No response.

HURTON

Speak!

They only shake their heads. But Soma seems to be exchanging a glance with the Astronauts behind Hurton. Hurton wheels on them...a questioning look for a tense beat. Then...looking at Viridon and Burke but directing his statement to Galen who stands with them:

HURTON

I don't think they will leave here just now. This is a matter for Bandor to decide! If Gahto lives... someone must die!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CAVE - DAY

A-85

Galen moving quickly but cautiously, hurries toward the cave. He's nervous, fearful of being followed. He rushes into the cave...

INT. CAVE - DAY

B-85

as Galen ENTERS, looks around, seeing no one. He's angry and worried.

GALEN

Gahto? -- Gahto!

No response. Galen hurries out.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

C-85

Galen exiting, looking around desperately. He calls out, but softly, not wanting to attract attention of any enemies who might be within earshot.

GALEN

Gahto -- ?

No response. Galen hurries off through the brush.

EXT. SECLUDED BEACH - DAY

D-85

A narrow beach bordered by brush or rocks. Gahto is a spindly figure slowly making his way to the sea. He is about to walk into the water and continue walking until he drowns...He reaches the water's edge, takes a step or two into the water. Galen bursts out of the brush, sees him.

GALEN

Gahto!

No reaction from Gahto who continues into water. Galen races dangerously close to water's edge, grabs Gahto and pulls him back. Very annoyed, he starts Gahto back toward cave. Gahto does not resist.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - DAY

E-85

Galen leads Gahto in.

INT. CAVE - DAY

F-85

Gahto slumps to the floor to Galen's disgust.

Cont.

GAHTO
Why stop me? Gahto is dead.

GALEN
Some of us would be better off
if you were, but you're not! Now,
you're going to stay out of sight!

GAHTO
I am dead.

GALEN
I am tempted, I am tempted!
Gahto, listen to me. Unless you
stay out of sight, others will be
killed. I'm sure you don't want
that to happen.

GAHTO
It does not matter.

GALEN
Not to you, perhaps, but most
humans don't share your enthusiasm
for dying. I promise you, sooner
or later you will be able to die.
In the meantime, stay in the cave!

Galen EXITS.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - LONG SHOT - DAY 86

We see several of the Village Human Males heading for work
at the fishing pool. CAMERA MOVES IN on Gahto's hut.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY 87

Viridon rubs a stiff neck, Burke stretching a kink out of
his back. They spent an uncomfortable night. Galen joins
them, conversation in low tones.

VIRDON
Did you find him?

GALEN
(nodding)
He was out on the beach.

VIRDON
Gahto?!

GALEN
Don't mention his name. Someone
might hear you.

BURKE

I wish I'd never heard it,
believe me!

GALEN

I got him back in the cave. To
stay, I hope.

BURKE

We forgot to thank you for rushing
in and calling us liars like that...
it was a big help.

GALEN

It was the only thing I could
think of. Besides...if I hadn't
found you...you would have been
banded as fishermen for the rest
of your lives.

BURKE

We've got to get out of here.
Some big wheel is due here tomorrow...

GALEN

That will be Bandor. He's in
charge of many producing communities.
He presides over the ceremony for
the banding of new fishermen...

BURKE

Yeah...well look, friend, we
aren't going to hang around to
become life members of a spear
fishing union...

VIRDON

You're on speaking terms with
Hurton. Can't you get us out of
here?

GALEN

At the moment, I'm more concerned
about Hurton's Patrols finding
Gahto. If he points you out...
you will be killed instantly.

A beat. Burke and Virdon turn to each other.

BURKE

Have a happy day...

ANOTHER ANGLE - ARMED GUARD

88

shoving his head in the door.

ARMED GUARD

Move along! Today you spear
fish! Move on!

A glance at the rifle he carries and Virdon and Burke rise to exit.

OUT 89-
91

EXT. BEACH AT THE FISHING POOL - CLOSE ON WAGON - 92
DAY

nearly full of freshly caught fish. A couple of beats as we see another fish, and another, being dumped into the wagon.

WIDER ANGLE

93

Two Village Fishermen who have just emptied their spears onto the horse-drawn wagon are heading back to the water of the pool where several others are now swimming, diving, spearing. This is obviously a slow, primitive process. Two Apes, Draymen from the factory, idle by the wagon. On a high rock near the pool, an Armed Guard stands with his rifle, to ward off sharks which might "damage" the fish catching "machines" now at work in the pool.

CLOSE SHOT - WATER AND FISHERMAN

94

He surfaces with his empty spear, glances around, catching his breath, and a SHARK FIN passes by. We hear a SHOT and see the water BLIP near the fin, as it disappears. The fisherman looks up towards the rocks, CAMERA PANNING to the Armed Guard, gun aimed, who has just performed his duty, much like keeping the fox out of the chicken yard: interesting, but very routine.

ANOTHER SHOT - FROM SHORE - SHOOTING TOWARD
VIRDON AND BURKE

95

just wading in, each with a fish on his spear, glancing up at the source of the shot. They wade through the water TOWARD CAMERA, and we see that Burke's fish is much smaller than Virdon's.

BURKE

(glancing up)

Where was he when we needed him
yesterday?

APE'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Come on you two!

32

REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD WAGON

96

We see one of the Ape Draymen motioning for them to come with their fish. Virдон and Burke walk to the wagon.

ANGLE AT WAGON

97

As Virдон and Burke unload their catches onto the full wagon, the Two Ape Draymen (plainclothes) start spreading what looks like a heavy rope cargo net over the load. Burke starts back toward the water but Virдон pauses a beat... his attention on what the Draymen are doing.

HIS P.O.V. - THE NET OVER THE WAGON

98

The big woven squares of rope, about a foot in size, being tightened over the load.

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON

99

A thought forming. Interrupted by the harsh voice of an Armed Guard:

ARMED GUARD'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Back in the water, you!

WIDER ANGLE

100

The Armed Guard waves for Virдон to move back into the fishing pool, then calling o.s.:

ARMED GUARD

Bring up the other wagon!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

101

ready to reenter the water.

BURKE

This is a great way to make a living.

VIRDON

That's exactly why you're doing it...to continue living.

BURKE

Go to school...study hard...wind up fishing for raw material... for a fertilizer factory!

CUT TO:

INT. HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS OFFICE - ANGLE ON
GALEN AND HURTON - DAY

102

Hurton is waving a sheaf of crude papers, emoting on the demands made on him as head of a producing village.

HURTON

Year after year...they raise my quotas!

(beat)

The law requires that I...discard... worn-out producers like Gahto who can no longer pass the test...even before new offspring can be raised to take their place!

GALEN

I can...appreciate your problem. But the two slaves are mine.

HURTON

I'm not too sure the law of possession holds...out here.

(beat, musing)

They came to me...asking to be fishermen...

GALEN

They're liars...I told you that.

HURTON

Aha...but the gods of the seas said differently. You saw for yourself. The dead shark says they spoke the truth.

GALEN

Maybe it only proves that they could be dangerous to have around.

Hurton looks at his sheets.

HURTON

An extra two, three hundred pounds a day. I can use the increase in production.

GALEN

They will try to escape. I'm sure of it.

HURTON

I am having them closely watched. If they try to leave, they will be shot.

Galen throws his hands up in frustration.

GALEN

Then you will have gained
nothing...and I will be out
two good slaves!

A beat. Hurton tosses the papers on his "desk"...not used to having his word questioned by strangers...not wanting to make the final decision himself, anyway...He moves over to look out a window.

HURTON

I told you...it is out of my
hands. When Bandor comes for the
ceremony of the bracelets...he
will make the decision.

GALEN

And since...Bandor...is just as
interested in production quotas
as you are...you expect him to
decide in your favor?

HURTON

(irritated)
Are you questioning the...
ethics of Bandor!? He has high
connections at Central City.

Galen gets a slightly worried look at the mention of
Central City.

GALEN

Oh?

Hurton throws this next piece of "name dropping" out to
impress, not knowing Galen's exact predicament with the
Ape government.

HURTON

He knows Urko himself!

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN

103

repeating, with an even more concerned look:

GALEN

Urko himself...

CUT TO:

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY

A-103

An Armed Guard patrolling nearby.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - CLOSE ON GALEN - DAY

104

as he is relaying the information to his friends, both tired after a long day in the water.

GALEN

That's what he said.

WIDER ANGLE

105

Burke is turning a single fish on a spit over a small fire.

VIRDON

That's just great. Bandor knows Urko...and Urko knows us... all the more reason to split before the big man gets here. Right?

Burke glances o.s.

BURKE

I agree...only it looks like old Hurton has his...anti-split devices sitting all around the place.

OUT 106 X

ANGLE ON THE THREE

107

as Galen glances out also.

X

GALEN

All this over old Gahto, who nobody wanted at all...

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST THEM TO SOMA

108

just stepping in to hear Galen give Virdon a cautionary:

GALEN

Shhhhh...

And they turn to see her, somewhat surprised. A beat as Virdon and Burke exchange looks. Then Virdon turns to her

VIRDON

Hello...

Cont.

No response. Then suddenly, she slumps quietly to her knees between Virdon and Burke, tears swelling in her eyes, as she forces out a low, choking:

SOMA

Gahto...is...my father.

She turns her face slowly toward Galen now, expecting the gods to strike her dead.

VIRDON

Don't worry about him. He's a friend...

BURKE

(lowly)

How could you let them do a thing like that to your father?

VIRDON

(looking out door)

Keep your voice low.

OUT 109

CLOSE SHOT - SOMA

110

as she stares tearfully.

SOMA

It is the law...

WIDER ANGLE

111

Galen is now crouched near the fire with Virdon and Burke.

VIRDON

That's why Hurton walked up to you after the rider came in with the news.

SOMA

Romar...my husband...is afraid we will both die...that we'll all be punished...

VIRDON

We saved your father...against his wishes. We took him to a hiding place...but he could die there if we don't find some way to help him.

Cont.

SOMA

Take me to him.

VIRDON

Nothing we'd like more.
But we're guarded night and
day.

X

GALEN

I can help.

They look to Galen with surprise, Soma with disbelief.
Help from an Ape?

GALEN

You're prisoners here. But
remember, I can come and go as
I please...

BURKE

Yeah...

GALEN

If she's with me...we can just...
casually walk out of the village...
no one will stop us.

SOMA

Please take me to him. Please?

VIRDON

All right...leave like you're
just taking a walk...

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY

112

We see Galen and Soma casually walk away from the
hut. The Armed Guard pays little attention; she's with
an Ape.

X

INT. GAHTO'S HUT

113

as Burke raises the stick spit off the fire and looks at the
fish with displeasure.

BURKE

Ready for din-din?

As Virdon gives him a look:

OUT 114

CUT TO:

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - NIGHT

A-114

Romar hurries to hut, past Guard.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE -
NIGHT

115

relaxing when Romar strides in, angrily.

ROMAR

Soma?

They turn to him, and his accusing stare.

VIRDON

Hey, settle down...
(glances in direction
Galen and Soma went)
Your wife is all right.

ROMAR

Where is Soma!?

BURKE

Quiet, will you? You'll wake
the gods' head rifleman back there...

VIRDON

Our friend has taken her to
see her father...now just take it
easy...

Romar is frightened for his wife, senses a trick.

ROMAR

It's a trick! The gods are
trying to trap her...And he runs from the fire to the blackness of the surrounding
area, calling:

ROMAR

Soma...Soma...come back...
it's a trick!Virдон and Burke spring to their feet but are unable to
stop him.OUT 116-
117

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - CLOSE ON ROMAR - NIGHT 118

running, looking into the blackness ahead of him, frantic.

ROMAR

Soma!? Soma...come back!

CLOSE SHOT - ARMED GUARD 119

Hearing Romar's voice close ahead, he steps out from behind a tree. He stops, raises his rifle, fires a SHOT!

ANGLE ON ROMAR 120

as he falls, stunned by the shot which has hit him in the arm. As he's scrambling to his feet...to resume running, we hear:

ARMED GUARD'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Stop!

Romar turns.

ANGLE ON ROMAR AND HIS P.O.V. 121

as he stares up at the Armed Guard, only a few feet away and advancing. Romar's head slumps in defeat.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROMAR'S HUT - LONG SHOT - NIGHT 122

We see Romar unceremoniously being led to his hut by the Armed Guard. Romar is clutching his arm, and CAMERA ZOOMS IN on Romar as he slumps to a helpless sitting position near his fire to hear the Armed Guard say:

ARMED GUARD

Stay here!

ANGLE AT FIRE 123

as the Armed Guard marches up to it to see the burned fish, kicks it from the coals.

ARMED GUARD

So! You'll get no ration at all tomorrow!

And he strides off, having performed his duty.

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST ROMAR 124

clutching his arm in pain as Virdon and Burke come from behind his hut and hurry to his side.

CLOSE ON THE THREE

125

Virдон sees that Romar has been hurt, taking his hand gingerly from his wounded arm:

VIRDON

What happened...?

(seeing)

Oh, oh...

(to Burke)

He stopped one...

Burke, seeing, is already tearing a strip of cloth from his shirt, hands it to Virдон.

BURKE

Here...

As Virдон starts to fold and wrap it around the wound:

ROMAR

(in pain)

I can't...move it.

VIRDON

Went clean through...It'll heal...

ROMAR

I won't be able to...pass the test...for Bandor!

VIRDON

What?

ROMAR

I knew it...I knew it! Now I will be given to the sea gods... just like Gahto.

(a hateful look
at them)

I knew it was death to mention his name...You did this...
you did this...

Virдон and Burke exchange a look of concerned frustration that their presence has brought this added grief to these humans.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - DAY 126

We see the horse-drawn fish wagon, nearly full. Fishermen are emptying their catch into it.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - NEAR THE WAGON 127

DRAYMAN ONE looks under the wagon for the cargo net covering, sees that it's gone, yells to his co-worker:

DRAYMAN ONE

Hey...the wagon ropes are gone!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 128

as they exchange a look.

ANOTHER ANGLE 129

as DRAYMAN TWO expresses annoyance.

DRAYMAN TWO

Those workmen at the factory are getting worse and worse...not sending the wagon ropes back... get some from the storehouse!

Also annoyed, Drayman One starts toward the village, mumbling.

DRAYMAN ONE

You should have checked...

DRAYMAN TWO

I should have checked...how about you?

On this mild disagreement, Virdon and Burke, spears in hand, head back for the pool.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 130

Burke smiles, says lowly to Virdon:

BURKE

One of them should have checked.

Cont.

Viridon smiles back.

VIRIDON

Check.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - SHOOTING PAST HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS - DAY 131

A flurry of excitement as BANDOR, an orangutan, riding a proud, well-groomed horse and followed by a uniformed armed Chimp Valet, rides importantly down the main "street" of the village. Village women and a couple of their children come out of their huts, standing back in awe and fear as the horse clomps by. Bandor is an important ape politically and in charge of many producing communities.

ANGLE IN FRONT OF HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS 132

We see Hurton come out of his headquarters to greet Bandor. An Armed Guard rushes up to take the reins of Bandor's horse as Bandor dismounts. Bandor's Armed Valet dismounts and takes charge of his own horse. Bandor displays a certain superior aloofness. Hurton, politicking, greets him with effusive gusto, raising his hands in a gesture:

HURTON

Welcome...welcome, Bandor.
Did you have a good trip?

Bandor stretches.

BANDOR

Tiring.
(looking straight
at Hurton)
Whenever you greet me with
such big smiles...I have the
feeling you are holding some
bad news behind your back...

Hurton laughs nervously.

HURTON

Haha! Not so.
(a little smug)
In fact, I have a special
surprise for you.

Cont.

Bandor calls to the Armed Guard who is taking his horse:

BANDOR

Take care he gets fresh grain.
None with this seashore mold!
(to Hurton)
Surprise? The only surprise you
could please me with is to tell
me you have exceeded your quota.

Hurton hedges on this.

HURTON

Well...not yet. But we will...
we will.

Hurton's Armed Aide comes from the headquarters now with an earthen cup of refreshment for Bandor...walks to him with it. As he's handing it to him:

BANDOR

I'm not interested in...
projections. I'm interested
in production.

(takes a sip,
smiles)

My nephew said that. Very
clever, eh?

A stab at Hurton...an old threat hanging over his head.

HURTON

Yes. Very clever. Unfortunately,
we cannot catch fish with...words.

BANDOR

Or promises! What is this great
news? You have three young ones
for me to band to replace the
old one you discarded?

HURTON

Only one has been raised to age
and size. But two full grown
fishermen have joined us...like
they were sent by the gods!

Bandor looks at Hurton with some suspicion at this.

BANDOR

Ha! Now Hurton is claiming
partnership with the gods.

Bandor laughs with some derision. Hurton calls o.s. to an
Armed Guard:

HURTON
You'll see. Two excellent recruits. They not only spear fish while swimming under the test of fire...they kill sharks with their bare hands! Two full-grown fishermen for you to band!

Bandor expresses surprise at this.

BANDOR
Sent...by the gods...you say?

HURTON
Well...actually...they are two runaway slaves...it seems. Once owned by a rather... irresponsible chimpanzee...Zooma...

BANDOR
I was afraid...some catch to it...

HURTON
I dispute his claim to them...

BANDOR
He's here? To claim them? Does he have papers...?

Hurton turns to his Armed Aide:

HURTON
I thought I asked you to summon Zooma...

The Aide steps forward, nervously.

ARMED AIDE
I...I only discovered...moments ago...

HURTON
Discovered what!?

ARMED AIDE
Zooma is missing. He left last night with Soma...mate of the wounded Romar...

Cont.

Bandor is irritated by words like "missing"... "wounded"...

BANDOR

What is this!? Production quotas lagging...and now I hear about... wounded producers...missing mates. The only surprise here is no surprise at all! You lack organization, Hurton...

But Hurton improvises quickly:

HURTON

I thought so...that Zooma was not to be trusted...

ANOTHER ANGLE - VIRDON AND BURKE

133

being led to the front of the headquarters by the Armed Guard.

HURTON

He has stolen a female slave in an effort to get back his own!

Bandor turns to see the two strange humans led to him.

EXT. FRONT OF HEADQUARTERS

134

as Virdon and Burke are ordered to stand for "inspection" in front of the powerful ape, Bandor. Hurton steps to them like proud possessions.

HURTON

Here...you see? Strong...many prime years of production in them.

Bandor walks to Virdon and Burke..."inspecting" them up and down.

BANDOR

You say this...Zooma...has no papers?

HURTON

None! Or why would he have stolen one of our female slaves?

Bandor pinches the skin on Virdon's arm.

BANDOR

Hmmmmmm. These skins have not been long in the water.

Cont.

HURTON
But they kill sharks...with
their bare hands...

As Bandor is now giving Burke the once-over...veiling his real satisfaction with these two unusual producers with an officious air:

BANDOR
I would say this...Zooma...has
made an unwise move.

Viridon and Burke give each other an uneasy look.

BANDOR
We will just let him...keep
his worthless female...

Bandor grabs the strong arm of Burke and holds it up.

BANDOR
Tomorrow...at the ceremony
I will band
these two myself!

Hurton rubs his hands in satisfaction.

HURTON
I knew you would decide
quickly and fairly...

ANOTHER ANGLE - PAST VIRDON AND BURKE TO HURTON 135
AND BANDOR

as Bandor starts toward the headquarters, Hurton at his heels.

BANDOR
Someone has to keep these
producing villages going...

As Viridon and Burke watch the apes leave...their own fate sealed if they can't think of something fast:

CUT TO:

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - CLOSE SHOT - FIRE - NIGHT 136

A fish burning, unattended, over the fire as we WIDEN ON SCENE to see that neither Viridon or Burke are there. But we can hear...from inside the hut:

Cont.

VIRDON'S VOICE

(o.s.)
The fish is burning.

BURKE'S VOICE

(o.s.)
I don't care if I see another
fish the rest of my life!

CUT TO:

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - CLOSE SHOT - BURKE - NIGHT 137

A small bowl with an oil wick flickers for light. As we see Burke unraveling a length of rope from a section of the cargo net which lies on his lap.

BURKE

I'm not looking forward to spearing fish and ducking sharks the rest of my life. This had better work, Al.

WIDE ANGLE - TO INCLUDE VIRDON 138

sitting to one side, busy on some kind of project, the nature of which we cannot quite see.

CLOSE ON VIRDON 139

as he holds up the thin strand from the rope, looks at it.

VIRDON

It will, or we get fitted for handcuffs!

CUT TO:

EXT. "CEREMONIAL SITE" NEAR VILLAGE - CLOSE ON 140
BANDING - DAY

The young Villager who successfully passed the test of fire to the cheers of his friends earlier...is now being "awarded" the bracelet of a fisherman. An Armed Guard places the youth's wrist on a rock now; it has already been fitted with a band, through the flange of which has been placed the lifetime metal "rivet" which will seal the band forever.

WIDE ANGLE 141

And we see the Villagers gathered for the ceremony which is, for them, a rather festive occasion...a brief respite

Cont.

from work...a change of routine. With some ritual...another ARMED GUARD walks to the kneeling youth, carrying a long metal rod, to be used for sealing the rivet...and a heavy, crude sledge. They are preparing for Bandor to perform the actual ceremony of the banding. The Armed Guard readies the metal rod...and sledge...and waits...turning to the "officials"...who are taking their time, self-important.

ANGLE ON HURTON AND BANDOR

142

standing to one side for the moment.

BANDOR

You've already had to discard the old Gahto...

HURTON

I have to discuss that with you later...it seems that...

BANDOR

(unheeding)

And now you will probably have to discard the wounded... what's his name...

HURTON

Romar. Of course, these things happen. Discipline must come first.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - ANGLE ON GALEN, SOMA AND GAHTO - DAY

143

They are returning to the village under the orders of Galen. Soma is apprehensive.

SOMA

Please...don't make us return... They will kill us...if you are a friend...please...

GALEN

I told you...not to worry. Everything has been...settled. You and your father have nothing to worry about...

As they plod on, Gahto puffing...CAMERA ZOOMS IN to CLOSE SHOT on Galen's hand...and we see him cross his fingers!

CUT TO:

EXT. "CEREMONIAL SITE" - CLOSE ON BANDOR - DAY 144

With ceremonial flourish...he raises the sledge...and brings it down with a ringing bang! And the young fisherman has been banded. ANGLE WIDENS...and we see the villagers raise their arms in cheers and approval...as the young man stands and proudly raises his banded arm for all to see...

ANGLE ON BANDOR 145

as he hands the sledge to an Armed Guard and steps to Hurton, standing nearby...continuing their discussion... this is business to them...not noticing as the young man now mingles with his fellow villagers, showing his band.

BANDOR

New areas are being opened for crops. More fertilizer is needed...which means more fish.

Hurton appears frustrated by this report.

HURTON

There must be a limit. We cannot just keep increasing production...

Bandor turns toward the villagers now, a smug smile of the bureaucrat.

BANDOR

Now, now...if you keep getting these...god-sent producers...

He looks out over the assembled humans, awaiting the signal for the ceremony to resume...a puzzled expression as he does not see Virdon and Burke.

BANDOR

Where are they?

Hurton now looks in the same direction.

HURTON

What?

BANDOR

I don't see your two new... surprises...who kill sharks with their bare hands...

Hurton is troubled...shouts to an Armed Guard:

HURTON

Guard! Where are the two new producers?

ANGLE ON GUARD

146

as he glances quickly at his sheet...then to the assembly of Humans.

ARMED GUARD

Sir! They're missing! They aren't here!

ANGLE ON BANDOR AND HURTON

147

as Bandor looks immediately displeased.

BANDOR

Your...surprises are getting tiresome, Hurton...

ANOTHER ANGLE

148

Hurton charges toward the assembly, his arms flailing an order to the guards as he commands:

HURTON

(shouting)
Send a guard! Sound the alarm!

And suddenly we hear a deep, loud, o.s. GONG...GONG...as everyone turns in the direction of the village...the command being carried out the instant it was issued coming as a bewildering surprise.

HURTON

Guards...!

And Hurton, summoning the Guards, takes the lead with Bandor as the whole assembly moves in a surge toward the village, the Humans trailing obediently behind their superiors who stride with determination toward the sound of the continuing GONG...GONG.

CUT TO:

EXT. FISHING LAGOON - CLOSE ON BURKE AT ALARM - 149
DAY

Burke, holding a large mallet, stands near a large suspended alarm disk of metal...banging it with some amount of fun. Wincing every time it goes GONG...glancing off.

ANOTHER ANGLE - BURKE'S P.O.V. - INLAND

150

As we suddenly see the approaching crowd, led by Hurton and Bandor. Burke gives the gong one last, vehement slam...as

Cont.

though to break it...throws the mallet aside.

BURKE

Okay...Al...let's go fishing!

And he runs toward the direction of the ocean and the fishing pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - THE AREA OF THE FISHING POOL - CLOSE 151
ON BURKE - DAY

as he tears across the beach and runs splashing into the water to join Virdon...who is already out in the water...waving Burke urgently to join him.

ANOTHER ANGLE - UP BEACH TOWARD APPROACHING CROWD 152

We see an angry Hurton and a pompous Bandor striding along the beach. Hurton points to the water...motions to an Armed Guard to take a position to fire...as they keep coming.

PANNING SHOT - WITH THE CROWD 153

Hurton, Bandor and their Armed Aides in the lead, followed by the crowd of barefoot Villagers, heading toward the beach.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - SHOOTING FROM BEACH 154
TO OPEN WATER

wading toward shore, about twenty feet apart, tugging something between them (the net) which seems to be heavy.

ANGLE ON BANDOR AND HURTON - AT THE BEACH 155

as they reach the beach now...spotting the two "missing" Humans. Hurton raises his arm in a direction to an Armed Guard...incensed.

HURTON

There they are...shoot them!

But Bandor can now see flapping in the water as Virdon and Burke have reached the shallows. He raises his hand in countermand.

BANDOR

Wait!

ANGLE BEHIND ROCK AT BEACH - DAY

A-155

Galen, Soma and Gahto crouching, watching the activity on the beach, o.s.

GALEN

All right, Gahto. Here's where you stop being a dead discard and become a live hero. Go.

Gahto looks at Galen nervously, doesn't move.

GALEN

If you want your daughter to live, GO!

Gahto finally rises.

WIDE ANGLE

B-155

Gahto hurries toward the edge of the sea where Virdon and Burke are just about to make shore. He is unnoticed at first.

GAHTO

(calling instructions to Burke)

That's good. Bring it in. Easy.

HURTON

Gahto!

An Armed Guard raises his rifle to shoot Gahto. Hurton waves him off, wanting to see what Gahto and the Astronauts are up to.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

156

Virdon and Burke slish through the shallow water to shore now, with a sight magical for those on shore to behold: a whole net of fish! They haul it up onto the sand and drop it. Hurton and Bandor approach with a mixture of disbelieving delight and awe.

GAHTO

Very good...

BACK TO SCENE

157

The Humans, unrestrained now, rush to the net, fall to their knees at this "miracle"...touching the net, holding up the fish, examining the "magic mesh" which has trapped so many fish...Bandor viewing the sight with unabashed amazement.

BANDOR
 What is this? Fish by the
 hundreds from some...

Viridon steps quickly forward with Burke to explain:

VIRDON
 From a net...mighty Bandor!
 It can trap more fish...in a
 few hours...than all these men
 can spear in a year's time!

Hurton wastes no time in claiming credit. Still surprised
 by the sight before his eyes, he blurts out:

HURTON
 Just another of the...surprises
 I promised you...

Viridon and Burke give each other a look on this, but as
 Bandor walks to the net, they join him, elaborating.

VIRDON
 Even old men...and females...
 can catch fish this way. You'll
 have all the fish you need...
 and the gods will be pleased to
 let the old...the injured...live
 peacefully on here in their
 village!

ANGLE ON ROMAR 158

Standing near enough to hear this, looks for a reaction
 from Bandor.

ANGLE ON BANDOR 159

BANDOR
 Hmmm...that is so. That is
 certainly so.

HURTON
 All part of my plan. The
 producers will have all they
 want to eat...security problems
 will be...almost eliminated.

OUT 160

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST THE ASSEMBLY DOWN
THE BEACH

161

We see Soma and Galen walking to area.

ROMAR
(rushing to her)
Soma...Soma!

He clutches her to him. Bandor is suspicious.

BANDOR
What has this discard to
do with your plan, Hurton?

Burke hastens to "explain."

BURKE
Aha, mighty Bandor...this is
Hurton's biggest surprise of
all...

Hurton appears completely baffled as Bandor turns to him.

BURKE
Tell 'em...Zooma!

He points to Galen who takes his cue and steps to old
Gahto, puts a hand on his shoulder.

GALEN
This...magic webbing...that
brings in fish...is old Gahto's
idea! Hurton has saved Gahto
to teach the others how to make
and mend the webbing...

ANGLE ON GAHTO

162

as he kneels, fingers the netting.

GAHTO
Easy...

ANGLE ON BANDOR AND HURTON

163

as Bandor, finally forced to give a compliment, claps
a hand on Hurton's back.

BANDOR
Hurton...I knew you could to it!
This is why I have kept you on
here...despite all efforts of those
higher up to replace you with my
nephew...

Cont.

HURTON

I appreciate it. I've done
my best...as you can see.

(to the crowd)

Extra rations for all...from
now on! A celebration! First let
us begin the banding ceremony.

BACK TO SCENE

164

The crowd of humans exchange vocal expressions of pleasure
at this.

ANOTHER ANGLE

165

Burke edges over to a pile of seaweed at the water's edge.
Galen moves with him. Burke pulls the seaweed off to
reveal a raft, complete with paddles and a large roll
of cord on a makeshift wooden reel. The cord will be
seen to have loops tied in it. Virdon steps to Bandor.

VIRDON

Will mighty Bandor give us the
honor of helping in the greatest
catch of all?

BANDOR

What's that?

VIRDON

Right this way...

He leads Bandor, Hurton, et al, to the raft.

VIRDON

It is not fitting for a mere
human to take the greatest
bounty from the sea.

He bows and hands the end of the cord to Bandor.

VIRDON

Zooma will hold the revolving rod.

BANDOR

I don't understand.

GALEN

The largest fish can break the
net but this cord entangles
them in its loops. Hold tight...

Cont.

Galen steps on the raft, holding the reel, standing proudly erect. Bandor waits at the edge of the sea, clutching the cord.

GALEN

(to Virdon and Burke)

Start! Don't keep Bandor waiting.

The raft is pushed off. Virdon and Burke paddle hard and the raft moves out to sea, angling slightly for a protective point. Bandor holds the cord tightly, expectantly.

ANGLE ON RAFT

166

Virdon and Burke are paddling like mad, Galen holding the reel as the cord spins off.

GALEN

End of the line.

The line has run out. Galen still stands on the raft.

BURKE

Grab a paddle!

GALEN

Me?

BURKE

Would you rather swim?

Galen tosses the reel away, ducks down and grabs paddle.

ANGLE ON BEACH

167

Bandor is holding the cord, beginning to get suspicious.

HIS P.O.V. - THE RAFT

168

Disappearing around a promontory.

ANGLE ON BEACH

169

Bandor realizes he's been had. He jerks the cord, and there's no tension of course. He drops it, shouting:

BANDOR

Shoot! Shoot!

Cont.

As Guards raise rifles:

HURTON

At what?

P.O.V. SHOT - THE SEA

A-169

Barren. The raft has disappeared.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

170

stepping off the raft, out of breath. A beat. They are free, pleased with themselves. Galen gives his friends a look, teasing.

GALEN

I said you were liars...I didn't know you were so good at it.

VIRDON

Soon as we get clear of this country...I want to talk to you about that...

BURKE

...and I'd like to...discuss this owner-slave business with you...eh!?

Galen notes the feisty tone, smiles at them both.

GALEN

Let's get going. I don't want to have to get you two out of another scrape right away...

Burke reaches for him but Galen is already running.

BURKE

Why you...!

LONG SHOT - TOWARD THE BEACH

171

as Galen takes off toward the beach again, Virдон and Burke on his heels now in good-natured pursuit, feigned anger, their voices covering SHOT as they run.

Cont.

BURKE

Bury him in the sand...

VIRDON

Throw him in the ocean...

And we can only hear Galen's playful cries of flight as he is being pursued by his friends down the beach, a picture of relief and freedom as they enjoy their their reunion.

FADE OUT

THE END