

DAWN

Episode 2

by

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DAWN -- EPISODE 2

Note: All dialogue -- Neanderthal and Human will be in subtitles.

ACT ONE

DARKNESS --

-- the rhythmic, haunting sound of DRUMBEATS, in a discordant cadence, unsettling.

FADE IN --

EXT. ON THE RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

ON TWO EYES -- staring in horror.

REVERSE -

KAMAK - watches the distant, brutal ritual as --

-- the AKKANAKKI surround Kamak's hunter-brother, Varg. Varg is tied to a tree, bloodied, dazed.

KAMAK SEES --

-- the AKKANAKKI LEADER - step forward, cutting instrument in hand.

The Leader stares at Varg and then --

-- VARG SCREAMS as --

-- a slice of FLESH is torn from his stomach.

The strip of flesh is given to a human ELDER, who sniffs it once, then gobbles it down greedily.

Kamak watches as ANOTHER SLICE of flesh is stripped off, leaving a bright, bloody stripe on Varg's midsection.

As Varg SCREAMS in agony --

-- The drumbeats, chanting and howling of the WOMEN swirl into one deafening, haunting cacophony and we --

CUT TO:

EXT. NEANDERTHAL CAVE - MORNING

NEAR SILENCE.

The only sounds are those of the peaceful morning.

A BIRD chirps and --

The Neanderthal clan busily but unhurriedly go about their morning duties.

NATA, the very pregnant woman, supervises as --

ANIMAL SKINS -- are worked on, long elk bones shaped for the specific purpose of turning the hides into wearable clothing. It's a process that can take a week or more.

FRESH WATER - is brought from a nearby stream.

GAMLA and the women attend to the cooking FIRE.

PETA and others prepare and cook the morning meal.

CHILDREN who are old enough collect berries from nearby bushes. An adult is with them at all times -- watchful. The young ones are easy prey for animals, and the Neanderthals are ever vigilant.

MOVING:

WE FIND LAKAN -- who has been trying, with limited success, to create copies of the alien THROWING SPEAR that Ram brought into their world.

Lakan uses his razor sharp hand axe to make the finest piece of craftsmanship he's ever attempted. Before this, the Neanderthals made large spears, which didn't take a tremendous amount of skill.

This work is different.

ZAAD AND OTHERS - work on making copies as well.

They compare the prototype with their work.

THEY COPY -- the spear points, exactly, using animal sinew to tie them perfectly to the end of the spear.

LAKAN - compares the weight of his spear and that of the strange weapon. He makes an approving cluck in the back of his throat -- equal.

Lakan looks up, notices --

-- RAM running toward them.

Lakan grabs his HUNTING CLUB, as do the other hunters.

Ram arrives, trying to catch his breath, to tell them --

RAM
There are others.

They look at him, not sure what he means.

RAM (CONT'D)
Across river. Others -- like us.
But not as we.

He picks up his SPEAR prototype.

RAM (CONT'D)
She give to me. From across river.
A girl.

EXT. OPEN PLAIN - MORNING

LALASSU makes her way through the OPEN PLAIN, approaches...

...A human ENCAMPMENT.

Walks past two HUNTERS, spread apart by a wide distance, who guard the entrance to the camp.

BUZUR, a fierce and incongruously handsome young warrior, watches her as she...

...walks toward --

-- STRUCTURES which are only now being erected.

The Humans (men, women, some children) use mammoth bones, stone, animal hide to build --

-- DOMED DWELLINGS, five feet tall.

We get the sense -- from all of the frenetic activity -- that this clan has only just moved to this new spot.

DAMKIANNA (the domineering mother hen of the clan) is telling some of the older children what to do when she --

-- looks up to see Lalassu removing berries and small game from her pouch, dropping them dutifully in front of the other women.

She turns to leave when Damkianna intercepts her.

DAMKIANNA

You were gone two suns and two moons.

Lalassu gestures to the killed game.

LALASSU

I brought food.

Damkianna glances at Lalassu's quiver, strapped to her back. Almost a dozen spears there.

DAMKIANNA

You are missing a spear.

LALASSU

I lost one, by the river.

DAMKIANNA

The river is far.

LALASSU

Animals drink there.

Damkianna snatches up Lalassu's haul: three rabbit carcasses and a few game birds.

DAMKIANNA

But you capture only these. A child can catch these here.

LALASSU

My weapon wounded a deer.

DAMKIANNA

But you did not kill it.

LALASSU

No.

They stare each other down. With nothing further to discuss, Lalassu walks away.

Damkianna watches her suspiciously.

EXT. RIDGE / AKKANAKKI CAMP - DAY

Kamak draws closer to the AKKANAKKI CAMP, the howling of Varg's screams echoing throughout the valley.

As he gets a closer look, he sees --

-- the RETURN of a group of HUNTERS -- two dozen of them. If Kamak thought the other humans looked frightening, this new group is absolutely terrifying.

The LEADER, carrying a 150 pound DEER CARCASS over his shoulders, is WIKKANAK.

Wikkanak THROWS the carcass down on the food pile with a grunt. Women and children gather around, commenting on the bounty as the other hunters toss down their kills.

WIKKANAK'S Mate -- OTTALAN -- rushes up to him, breathlessly:

OTTALAN
Did you find our girls?

WIKKANAK
No.

Wikkanak keeps moving, barely acknowledging her, his eyes on the strange sight of the creature tied to the tree.

OTTALAN
Where did you look?

WIKKANAK
(sharply)
To the sea and back.

He walks away from her, not noticing the emotion in her eyes.

A YOUNGER WARRIOR named UKKANAK walks over to her. He lays down rabbit, a pig, and other kills onto the pile of food.

UKKANAK
Every sun and every moon, for two
comings of the snow, we search. I
do not know if they live.

Ukkanak's mother puts a hand to his cheek.

OTTALAN
They live, my son. They live.

ON WIKKANAK -- we follow him.

He moves with a power and force that makes other people get out of his way.

Strides over toward the forty tribe members who are gathered at the tree.

VARG - is writhing in pain. There is a large, bleeding SLICE out of his lower abdomen. Blood pulses from the wound.

WIKKANAK - stares at Varg for a long time. There is a glimmer of something in Wikkanak's eyes -- not curiosity or wonder. It's something else. Something like -- recognition.

THE TRIBE - chants and dances. They are passing around Varg's liver and biting into it. Everyone has a bite, their lips bloodstained as they pass the prized liver around.

Wikkanak strides up to the man we saw before who seemed to be a Leader. Wikkanak looks from Varg to the man.

WIKKANAK

You do not wait for me.

AKKANAKKI LEADER

When you are gone, I am leader.

Wikkanak looks at the other tribe members, some watching the standoff.

Wikkanak turns to move away from the man.

Then -- without hesitation --

-- Wikkanak whirls and SLICES the man's throat. A swift backhanded cut with a hidden obsidian blade.

THE LEADER -- falls to his knees, eyes wide. Blood sprays between his fingers.

ON THE RIDGE --

Kamak watches, SHOCKED at what he just saw. The murder of one clan member by another.

And now, the chanting has ceased. The drumbeats silent.

The Leader is face down in the dirt, feet twitching.

Then...he's still.

Wikkanak surveys the entire tribe. They stare back at him, eyes wide, wary.

WIKKANAK

I am always leader.

Wikkanak strides over to HUTTA, one of his sons.

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)

Where did you find this beast?

HUTTA

Father -- on the mountain. With two others.

Hutta motions to the dead form of LACH, already a mess of slices and cuts -- the tribe has eaten much of his prized bits.

Wikkanak examines Varg's face, his hands. Varg's distant gaze snaps into focus on Wikkanak.

WIKKANAK

He is not from the "Takers." The Takers do not look as this one.

Wikkanak YANKS Varg's lolling head back. Looks into his mouth, examines his broad nose and larger forehead. Varg is very different from the Akkanakki.

Wikkanak moves to Lach -- dead on the ground. Examines him for a long time. Then:

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)

Where is the last one?

Hutta looks at him: they don't know.

Wikkanak turns, looks up at the MOUNTAIN.

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)

Find the other.

Hutta signals to three Hunters.

As they scoop up their spears and some satchels --

-- Wikkanak looks up and scans the MOUNTAIN...

EXT. ON THE RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Kamak senses what's happening and has to RUN.

EXT. THE AKKANAKKI CAMP - CONTINUOUS

WIKKANAK -- hears the whisper of a branch moving on the ridgeline, shouts to Hutta and the others:

WIKKANAK

He is near! GO!

THE HUNTERS -- run up the ridge, heading toward Kamak's previous position.

MOMENTS LATER --

Wikkanak stares at Varg as he chants some ritualistic words. They blend together into some kind of brutal-sounding song.

VARG -- looks back at Wikkanak, terrified.

THE WOMEN -- in the tribe are piling branches, logs, dry brush, anything flammable -- UNDER Varg.

Wikkanak takes the obsidian blade and walks up to Varg, whose eyes widen in terror and then --

WIKKANAK - slices into Varg's stomach.

VARG
OOOHHHHHAAAARRRGH!

Wikkanak shoves his HAND into Varg, rummaging around rudely, sloshing past intestines, stomach and finally YANKING out --

-- A KIDNEY. Pulsing with blood.

Varg screams in complete agony as Wikkanak CHEWS into the kidney.

Then CHANTS.

THE TRIBE -- chants along with Wikkanak --

THE CHANT -- builds in power; volume and intensity rising. Female voices keen and wail in unison, an ungodly sound, as --

WIKKANAK -- beckons for a lit torch and, with a few final words, the chant building --

-- lights the dry fuel under Varg on fire.

IN MOMENTS, the flames engulf Varg, burning him while still alive.

As Varg screams in agony, the flames taking him --

EXT. MOUNTAINS - SAME

-- Kamak runs, hearing the men coming. Kamak's breath comes in sharp rasps as he ducks through dense underbrush, hearing his friend's dying screams echo in the valley below him...

EXT. NEANDERTHAL CAVE - DAY

Gamla and Peta continue their women's work, but we can see traces of concern in their eyes.

Gamla flashes a look to --

RAM, who -- watches from afar as --

Lakan, Zaad, an elderly GRANDFATHER with one mangled hand, and two other Neanderthal Hunters discuss what to do.

ZAAD

(with concern)

Where there is one there must be more.

LAKAN

We go to river. Where he saw her.

(holds up throwing spears)

Hunt with these.

(re: others)

Look for more like her.

Lakan looks to Ram, nods to him: "we go."

Satisfied that he is being listened to, Ram leads the way.

As the men head out, we FIND

PETA -- Lakan's mother and the eldest of the tribe -- watching them warily, almost haunted. The look in her eyes tells us she might know something more about these Humans than she is saying.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

Lalassu moves through a bunch of younger women and girls to find her younger sister, TIAMAT, skinning a rabbit with a KNIFE.

Tiamat is pre-pubescent -- ethereal and thin, without her older sister's defiance. Still a child on the cusp of womanhood.

Lalassu pretends to help with the skinning as she speaks in hushed tones...

Note: the language they speak is different than Damkianna's. It is the language of the Akkanakki.

LALASSU

No father.

TIAMAT
 (looking at the people in
 the tribe)
 We live with them now.

LALASSU
 Father will look always. He will
 find us.

Tiamat is not convinced.

LALASSU (CONT'D)
 I saw a boy. Across the river.
 There are others like him.

Tiamat sees some of the other Women watching them. Looks at her sister again, wanting to end this --

TIAMAT
 (strong)
 We live with them now.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Kamak scrambles up, over boulders, heading higher on the mountainside as he steals a quick glance DOWN to see --

-- HUTTA and the Akkanakki Warriors closing in.

HUTTA -- makes eye contact with Kamak from a distance. Hutta seems to smile -- "I've got you. There's no escape."

Kamak, already exhausted from the ordeal of losing his two friends, somehow keeps moving, ducking underbrush, leaping over rocks.

But the human warriors, with their longer limbs, seem to be swifter.

And they are gaining...

MOMENTS LATER -- Hutta sees his prey, too far to hit with spears, climbing above them, headed for a natural PLATEAU.

Hutta makes a quick sound through his teeth -- gets the attention of the other three warriors. Points to another part of the mountain, then to two men. They understand and --

-- move off in a different direction.

We understand what's happening. Hutta is sending his men to cut off Kamak's escape route, and then Hutta will follow Kamak.

Boxing him in.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

The women and children watch with fascination as --

The Neanderthals emulate the craftsmanship of the spear that Ram was given.

CLOSE -- they compare the new spear tips to the original.

LAKAN -- makes a few adjustments.

ZAAD -- handles the woodworking. He's never made a spear this fine before. Sometimes the spear simply breaks in half as he's carving. He moves onto the next attempt.

HOURS PASS -- frustration setting in. This is much more advanced work than they've ever attempted. But, finally --

-- Lakan sets down the first acceptable spear.

The Neanderthals look at the spear. They sit there in silence for a long moment.

LATER -- two more spears join the first.

THEN A FOURTH. Fifth.

FINALLY, Lakan picks up the first spear and gives it to his youngest son.

RAM -- takes the spear. Lakan's eyes seem to say: "Show us."

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ram throws his SPEAR -- a beautiful, clean throw. His spear sails through the air.

It lands safely in a mound of MUD.

This is a demonstration. Training.

Lakan is next. Tries to throw his spear. It flails and plummets like a wounded bird.

Zaad seems to smirk. Tries his luck.

THE SPEAR -- tumbles end over end.

Lakan smirks at Zaad.

EXT. THE MOUNTAINS - DAY

Kamak climbs upward, near a PLATEAU, when he sees --

-- TWO AKKANAKKI HUNTERS, coming toward the plateau from a different route. They haven't spotted Kamak yet.

Kamak realizes -- his escape is cut off. He peeks over a ridge, looking down to see --

HUTTA and the other warrior, closing in.

Kamak, trapped, can do nothing. He holds his heavy club in one hand, eyes desperate for escape.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEANDERTHAL FOREST - DAY

THROW AFTER THROW -- results in more discouragement. More disappointment.

RAM -- only gets better while --

Lakan grows more frustrated.

HE YANKS the spear out of Ram's hand. Maybe it's the spear itself? He takes a running start and LAUNCHES IT.

It falls after six feet.

LAKAN

We cannot hunt with these.

Ram crosses to his father's throwing spear.

He looks back at his elders and --

-- throws it like a javelin. Just as far as his first throw.

Zaad and the elders react. Impressed.

Ram looks at his father.

RAM

You must try, many times.

Lakan beckons for one of the other Hunters to hand him another spear. Determined to learn how to throw it.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Hutta and his warrior make it to the plateau just as --

-- the other two Akkanakki appear from the other side of the CLEARING.

They look at Hutta -- communicating with their eyes -- "We don't have him."

Hutta stops, signals the others to stop.

They do.

He listens. Sniffs the air. Kamak must be around here. There was no way to escape.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - SAME

Kamak -- hiding in THICK BUSHES -- tries not to breathe too loud.

KAMAK'S POV: Hutta and his men are just ten yards away.

BACK ON Hutta, smelling the air.

He steps forward -- closer and closer to Kamak.

Hutta's men follow him, in hunting formation. Spears at the ready.

HUTTA -- begins stabbing his long spear into bushes.

Taking it out and -- WHOOSH! -- stabbing into another cluster of bushes.

KAMAK'S POV -- the Akkanakki warriors are all doing it now, a way to push out hidden quarry.

The spears will soon reach him.

Kamak braces. The spears coming CLOSER.

And then, he realizes he has just one option.

-- he CRASHES through the BUSHES and ATTACKS.

SMASHING Hutta with his GIANT CLUB.

WHUNK!

Hutta flies backward.

And then --

-- with a PRIMAL SCREAM --

-- barreling right at the Akkanakki, who --

-- have almost no time to react --

-- the Akkanakki wheel to confront Kamak and --

-- he SMASHES one, then the other --

The last one throws his spear -- but it's from such close range it doesn't have the impact it's meant to ---

-- landing in Kamak's shoulder, but without the force to kill.

Kamak charges through the injury -- the spear stuck into his shoulder -- and

-- SMASHES the last Akkanakki with his CLUB.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY**

Tiamat carries a basket of berries and some rabbit meat out to Buzur, who stands guard with another human.

She hands Buzur the berries.

He eats each one, almost daintily. Thanks her with his eyes.

Then she hands him some prepared meat.

He eats it ravenously. Offers her some. She demurs.

TIAMAT

I ate with the women.

He looks her over.

BUZUR

You bleed now?

TIAMAT

(almost ashamed)

No.

Buzur checks her out, very closely this time.

TIAMAT (CONT'D)

Soon, I think. Before the cold will come.

BUZUR

Then you will be mine.

TIAMAT

I can be yours now.

He looks her over a long beat. Keeps chewing the meat.

BUZUR

After you bleed.

He turns his attention back to his duties.

Tiamat walks away, eyes mixed with shame and longing.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

As most of the clan continues to work on building the
DOMICILES --

On the outskirts of the CAMP, DAMKIANNA stands with KISHAR and EKUR, watching them debate.

KISHAR

We run, we build, we run, we build.
And then run again. We must give
the girls back. Make peace with
their kind. Stop running.

EKUR

The Akkanakki only want to kill.

KISHAR

And they are more than we.

EKUR

We have the wolves.

KISHAR

The wolves will not save us.
(a different idea)
We send hunters. With the girls.
Find Akkanakki. Give girls back.

EKUR

(disagreeing)
And Akkanakki kill our hunters.

KISHAR

We lose two hunters, we save the
tribe.

DAMKIANNA

(a calm force)
No.

They turn to her.

DAMKIANNA (CONT'D)

We need the girls for new children.
Strong children. Not children from
brothers and sisters, fathers and
daughters.

KISHAR

More children means more food.
Children cannot help us now.

DAMKIANNA

Today children are a burden.
Tomorrow they will save us.

KISHAR

Tomorrow is far.

DAMKIANNA

We must grow our tribe. If you
don't wish to make a child with
her, we can give her to another.

Kishar looks at her -- do you dare challenge my manhood?

Damkianna hold his look -- unafraid of him. Or any man.

Kishar looks at Ekur -- for his opinion.

Ekur's silence tells Kishar that he sides with Damkianna.

Kishar moves away, disrespected and angry.

Damkianna watches him go, eyes on fire, sure of what she
believes in.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

On his knees, Hutta examines one of his fallen brothers.

His brains have been smashed in by Kamak. His eyes barren.
Blood oozing out of his lifeless mouth.

He hears a WHEEZING and turns to see --

Another WARRIOR -- gasping for breath.

Hutta moves to him. Touches the mess of bone and meat where
his ribcage should be.

Hutta grabs a protruding rib, tries to snap it back into
place.

The Warrior screams in agony and then --

-- BLOOD seizes from his mouth.

The last warrior (POGUA) -- staggers over, wounded and
battered by Kamak. Assesses the Hunter with the cracked rib.

Hutta looks into the face of the dying Warrior.

Dying Warrior looks up at Hutta, almost imploring.

HUTTA

Goodbye, brother of my brothers.

DYING WARRIOR

(whispered wheeze)

Brother -- of -- my -- brothers.

In a flash, Hutta drives a spear into the man's chest, right into his heart. Ending his life. Putting him out of his misery.

A few final heartbeats, and then he's gone...

Hutta looks at the lifeless eyes of the Warrior, then --
-- rises, grabbing his SPEARS.

Pogua grabs a polished animal HORN from his satchel.

POGUA

We call?

HUTTA

We hunt. Bring the beast's head to
my father.

Hutta moves into the MOUNTAIN THICKET, determined.

As Pogua follows, we

WIDEN -- to take in their fallen comrades. The victims of
Kamak's beatings.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - DAY

A RIDGE on a higher point of the mountain.

Kamak attempts to pull what remains of the SPEAR out of his
shoulder. It's about a forearm's length. He grabs it and --

-- YANKS.

But it doesn't come all the way out. He winces from the sharp
pain. Blood spurts from the wound.

He yanks again.

The flesh being torn from his body as the Spear is removed.

And finally -- it's out.

He angrily throws the spear to the ground and --

-- puts a hand to his wounded shoulder. Trying to stop the
bleeding.

Staggeres to the RIDGE --

-- looks down, and sees --

Hutta and Pogua still coming, through the THICKET far below. Climbing over boulders.

Kamak reacts, grunts, thought they would give up.

Grabbing his club, he disappears upward into the clustered TREES.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

Damkianna and Ekur walk through the CAMP...

DAMKIANNA
Your brother will destroy the clan
if they listen to him.

EKUR
They listen to you. * hierarchy? *

DAMKIANNA
Not always.

Ekur seems to understand the deeper meaning behind Damkianna's words. He nearly barks out:

EKUR
I will not kill him.

DAMKIANNA
He cannot make children any more.

EKUR
You do not know. It can be the
fault of the girl.

DAMKIANNA
The girl is young. And strong.

EKUR
We do not know if our kind can make
children with theirs.

She gives him a look -- she knows.

EKUR (CONT'D)
I will not kill him.

Damkianna gives him a look, then moves on, enters...

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Tiamat is waiting for her here -- alone.

Damkianna sizes her up. Gestures with her hand.

Tiamat lowers her top. Revealing budding breasts.

Damkianna moves to her slowly, gently feels the breasts. Squeezes them ever so slightly. Checking their growth.

Damkianna unties Tiamat's lower garment and releases it.

The garment falls to the ground.

Tiamat is now naked.

Damkianna steps back slightly, examines Tiamat's vagina.

A few pubic hairs.

Damkianna bends to her knees, puts her face close to Tiamat's vagina. Smells.

TIAMAT

I do not bleed.

Damkianna looks up at her, then rises.

Reaches into her SATCHEL. Grabs some small red berries.

DAMKIANNA

Open your mouth.

Tiamat does.

Damkianna holds the berries over Tiamat's mouth and squeezes.

The juices flow onto Tiamat's tongue.

But the taste is clearly not sweet. It must be bitter because Tiamat scowls, trying to fight her displeasure.

When Damkianna is finished, Tiamat forces herself to swallow.

Damkianna moves her hand -- with the red berry juices all over her palm -- and --

-- rubs her open palm onto Tiamat's vagina.

DAMKIANNA (CONT'D)

This will tell your body to change.

Rubbing the juices there. Believing, it seems, that all of this will make Tiamat bleed sooner.

Another young woman, ZIKIA, enters the tent.

Doesn't flinch at what she sees happening here.

Damkianna turns to her.

ZIKIA

The big one -- he walks.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Damkianna walks through the CAMP.

Lalassu watches her. Seems to know what's going on.

And follows...

...Damkianna as she heads toward...

INT. TENT - DAY

Damkianna enters the TENT to find an adult female WOLF feeding her CUBS.

The ELDEST CUB is on its feet nearby.

Damkianna signals to Zikia, who escorts the eldest cub out of the Tent.

Damkianna bends to the ADULT WOLF, pets her gently as --

-- Lalassu enters.

LALASSU

You will lose your best hunter.

Damkianna peers at a couple of the sleeping CUBS.

DAMKIANNA

Her young will not follow us if she is here.

Damkianna strokes the Wolf then takes out an obsidian-bladed KNIFE and...

...stabs the wolf in the NECK, then --

-- surgically plunges the blade in at the base of the skull.

As the Wolf whimpers and dies...

Damkianna picks up the cubs and hands two to Lalassu.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

Three WET NURSES squeeze milk from their NIPPLES into hollowed-out gourds.

The gourds are put down in front of the CUBS.

Damkianna and Zikia help the cubs drink, holding the ones up who can't stand themselves.

Lalassu hands her cubs to another Woman, watches the scene unfold.

Disgusted by what she sees...

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Lakan, Zaad, Ram and the rest of the Neanderthal hunting party silently approach the RIVER [the same spot where Ram deposited Mot's body in Episode 1].

They use the natural cover to get as close as they can without entering the open.

Ram points to Lakan -- across the river. Whispers:

RAM

She there.

LAKAN'S POV -- the expanse of river -- up and down -- as far as the eye can see there is water. How did she cross?

LAKAN

How did she give spear?

ZAAD

(no other option:)

She crossed.

Lakan's eyes open wide. But how? How could she?

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

Kishar thrusts into Lalassu from behind. She holds onto a ROCK to keep herself steady. Eyes glazed. A sex slave.

It's primal and brutal.

When it's over, Kishar hisses into her ear --

KISHAR

Make a child.

As if she can control it in some way. He walks away.

Off Lalassu, eyes on fire --

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE RIVER - A BIT LATER - DAY

Ram and ZAAD hide in the BUSHES, fifty yards from the edge of the RIVERBANK. Poised with their THROWING SPEARS.

A group of twenty GAZELLE drink from the RIVER.

LAKAN AND RAM -- make eye contact.

Ram readies himself to throw -- as does Zaad.

Lakan signals -- WAIT.

He moves past them, as silently as possible -- positioning himself farther down river. We're not sure why but he seems very certain of what he's doing.

Finally, he nods to them. Ram looks at Zaad and --

-- throws the SPEAR.

It pierces the GAZELLE and --

-- one moment later, a second GAZELLE falls -- impaled by Zaad's throw.

The other GAZELLES scatter quickly and --

-- Lakan jumps out from the BUSHES to intercept.

They barrel right toward him and -- from much closer range than Ram and Zaad -- plunges his heavier, tried and true Neanderthal stabbing spear into a fleeing GAZELLE.

THE GAZELLE -- impaled, is lifted off the ground by the incredibly strong Lakan.

It struggles on the spear, an awful sound coming from its mouth before --

-- LAKAN SLAMS it to the earth and DRIVES the spear in deeper. Into the heart.

THE GAZELLE -- finally stops moving...

The other animals escape, jumping and running with startling speed.

BUT -- the Neanderthals have three fresh KILLS. Two from the throwing spears, one from Lakan's close-range hunt.

As they look at each other with satisfaction --

-- Ram's self-confidence in his manhood grows...

EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Hutta and his last remaining hunter have started a fire, trying to stay warm in the freezing mountain air.

HUTTA -- pulls some food out of a satchel tied around his chest. As he begins to eat, we REVEAL what he's snacking on -

-- A NEANDERTHAL TOE.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Kamak hides under a ROCK FORMATION, shivering and starving. A half mile down, he can see the flames of the FIRE started by his pursuers, still on his tail.

Does Kamak dare to keep climbing in the dark? He seems to consider it for a moment. But hears the HOWL of the wind in the mountain peaks high overhead.

No. He would die.

He stays put, shivering in the cold.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The dying embers of a FIRE. Lakan and the others sleep. Remnants of their feast -- one of the cooked gazelle, is neatly placed in an indentation in the earth.

The other two gazelle lie nearby, skinned and dressed.

These will be brought back to the tribe.

Ram stares at the MOONLIGHT. His eyes move down to --

-- THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.

Wondering what is across the RIVER. What could be across this impassible barrier? Are there more like the strange girl he saw?...

He grabs a piece of wood from the fire and --

-- using it as a TORCH, heads along the RIVERBANK.
Disappearing into the NIGHT.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - NIGHT

Lalassu has a TORCH of her own --
-- as she makes her way stealthily through the CAMP.
She peers into an ENCLOSURE, where --

INT. TENT - NIGHT - SAME

Tiamat sleeps -- along with five women.
She creeps in and gently touches Tiamat's foot.
Tiamat wakes up. Lalassu signals to her. Come with me.

EXT. TENT - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Bathed in moonlight, Lalassu whispers:

LALASSU
We must go now -- as the men are
still on the hunt.

TIAMAT
Go where?

LALASSU
Find father. Return.

TIAMAT
I do not want to leave.

LALASSU
You will bleed soon. They will use
you to make children.

TIAMAT
My body is for making children.

LALASSU
Your body belongs to Akkanakkis.

TIAMAT
(torn)
We will die in the night.
(MORE)

TIAMAT (CONT'D)

Or in the day. By animals. Or no
food or water.

LALASSU

I can hunt. As any man.

Tiamat is about to turn back. Lalassu grabs her arm, tight.
They look at each other.

TIAMAT

I scream.

Lalassu looks at her sister -- furious.

LALASSU

I will return with father.

(a warning)

If he sees you with another's child
in you -- he will kill you.

Tiamat considers this. She's so young, eyes wide, and seems
incredibly vulnerable in this moment.

TIAMAT

I stay.

Lalassu realizes she can't convince her. Lets go of her arm
and --

-- disappears into the night...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAWN**

AN ANEMIC, CLOUD VEILED SUN -- rises over jagged, snow-choked mountain peaks.

ON THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - we see a TINY FORM, making its way upward.

EXT. THE MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAWN

Kamak -- the tiny form we saw, now gasps for breath in the thin air, making his way unsteadily toward --

-- THE PEAKS.

Forboding, impressive, the peaks seem impossible to summit. But he must continue. Because --

-- BELOW HIM: Hutta and Pogua keep up a brutal pace, closing the gap.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAWN

As the SUN breaks over the RIVERBANK, glimmering on the swift current, we MOVE TO FIND --

-- LAKAN, eyes opening. He rises, stretching his limbs. Cracking his jaw.

He stands, every joint POPPING and crackling. He snaps his neck from side to side, and a veritable symphony of snapping sounds issue from his bulky anatomy.

Lakan sees Zaad, already up, surveying the river from their hiding place in the BUSHES.

Lakan looks around, sees the other hunters. But --

LAKAN
Where is young-son?

EXT. RIVERBANK - MORNING

Ram investigates downstream, trying to find a place to cross.

He thinks he sees something. Moves toward --

-- a ROCK PATH in the River -- boulders that jut out from the water, lined up in a way that seem to form a bridge to the other side.

RAM -- eyes wide, excited. He's figured it out. This must be how the young girl comes across.

HE TAKES HIS FIRST STEP, climbs across the ROCKS, making his way.

Two boulders -- three, four, and then --

-- a jump to the next one. He leaps, nimbly and --

-- slips on some moss. Nearly tumbles off, into the swift current just feet below. Rights himself.

Keeps moving.

Jumps from one to the next. Then --

-- he gets to what appears to be the last rock, only to realize the so-called "BRIDGE" doesn't go all the way across.

The rock path runs out twenty yards from the other side of the river. He couldn't know this until he was here.

Ram wonders if maybe the water here is shallow enough to stand in.

He puts his foot in -- it goes up to his knee.

Wants to figure out how deep it is.

He takes his spear and dips it in the WATER. The six-foot spear disappears under the water. Too deep.

He looks across the river, wondering how she did it. And starts to retreat, back the way he came.

EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Lalassu moves through the dense PLAIN.

She stops, looks back toward the Human Camp.

Examines her footprints.

Moves forward -- along a trail to the left.

She carefully presses her feet into the soft dirt, aware that she's creating TRACKS.

She reaches an area where the dirt ends -- and a ROCK FORMATION begins.

To move forward, she would have to climb over the Rocks.

Instead, she walks backwards --

-- retracing her steps -- exactly --

-- carefully putting her new footprints into the old ones.

MOMENTS LATER,

She arrives at the original "fork" in the trail.

She hops off this trail -- and onto a different rock formation.

As she scrambles across these rocks in the opposite direction, she's left a false trail the other way.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

BROKEN SPEARS -- in Ekur's hands.

He shows them to Damkianna and Kishar.

EKUR

She broke them all. In the night.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - OUTSIDE TENTS - MOMENTS LATER

Damkianna and the elders have cornered Tiamat.

TIAMAT

I don't know where she is.

Damkianna strikes her. Hard.

Tiamat looks up, eyes betrayed.

Damkianna looks at Ekur, who readies himself with a club.

DAMKIANNA

Tell us.

TIAMAT

(through tears)
The river.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Kishar and Damkianna argue as Ekur watches --

KISHAR

We must keep our men here -- until
the hunters return.

DAMKIANNA

If we wait, we lose her in the
wind.

KISHAR

If we send men, we have no
protection.

DAMKIANNA

And if she finds the Akkanakki? She
will lead them here!

Ekur intercedes --

EKUR

We send two men. The rest stay to
guard the camp.

It's not enough for Damkianna but --

EKUR (CONT'D)

(with finality)
Two can find the girl.

Damkianna relents here, knows how to choose her battles.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Lakan follows Ram's footprints along the RIVERBANK.

Trying to figure out where his son went.

The footprints -- stop and start.

Lakan has to follow a trail of broken blades of grass. A
slightly misplaced pebble where Ram's foot may have moved it.
Tiny clues.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DOWN RIVER - DAY

Ram, further downstream, sees --

-- a TREE fallen halfway across a narrow point in the RIVER.

This could be his bridge!

Excited, he climbs up on the massive fallen TRUNK.

Balancing, he starts his way on the fallen tree, avoiding sharp, broken branches.

The tree -- narrows as he gets further and further.

RAM -- wobbles.

Almost falls.

Rights himself. That was close.

CONTINUES -- one foot at a time.

He's nearly to the end of the tree, he's going to make it to the other side!

HE STOPS.

Nearly at the end of the tree, he's still ten feet from the opposite side of the shore.

He takes a step.

THE TREE -- bends with his weight.

It's too narrow. Maybe he could jump.

He tries to get a running start and --

-- SLIPS.

FALLS. Part of his deer-hide tunic STOPS HIS FALL.

He's hanging by his garment from the tree. Feet dangling over the swift current. And then --

-- rrrRRRIP!

His deer hide TEARS and --

-- he FALLS --

-- into the river.

EXT. IN THE RIVER - MORNING

RAM'S POV -- underwater, the world swirling and rushing.

HIS HEAD -- breaks the surface.

Ram GASPS for breath, coughing water, and --

-- he goes under again.

HIS POV -- a fish rushes past him. Something massive up ahead as he's yanked downstream and --

-- WHUMP!

The massive thing was a submerged BOULDER.

RAM BREAKS THE SURFACE, head bleeding.

He fights against the flowing CURRENT.

BUT -- he has no idea how to swim.

He scratches and claws, desperately searching for something to grab onto as he gasps and swallows water.

The current pushes him down-river and he SMASHES -- back first -- into...

...A ROCK FORMATION.

He yells in pain, but manages to --

-- spin around and grab the ROCK.

Steadying himself.

He's only ten yards from the other side.

He sees a VINE, roots in the bank across from him, curving out into the water. Five yards away.

If he can lunge to it, and grab it, it could be his salvation.

He surveys the rapids coming toward him. Knows they'll push him down-river once he reenters the stream.

If he makes a dive for it, will they push him past the vine?

He eyes the vine again.

His grip on the ROCK is starting to become more difficult to hold onto.

He needs to make a decision. Now.

He takes a deep breath and --

-- pushes himself off the ROCK --

-- diving into the water UP-RIVER. Against the current.
The river pushes him back,
-- toward the VINE, but fast. Maybe too fast.
He flails and grabs and --
-- just grabs the VINE with one hand.
The currents push him -- hard.
The Vine is ripping apart the palm of his hand.
But he hangs on, pulling and --
-- gets his second hand on the vine.
Grasping for it and -- grabbing it.
Now, with two hands, he pulls himself --
-- against the current --
-- elbows and knees scraping against the ROCKS in the WATER.
But, finally --
-- manages to pull himself to shore.
Coughing up water, gasping for breath --
-- he sits up.
He's on the other side of the river. He's done it. He begins
to laugh in relief, and then realizes --
-- he has no way to get back.

EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Lalassu sees the RIVER up ahead -- a mile away.
Makes her way through some TREES, hungrily devouring some
BERRIES.
She pauses as she sees --
-- the shadow of a VULTURE.
She looks up to see -- a handful of VULTURES swirling over an
area up ahead.

EXT. PLAINS - MOMENTS LATER

Following the flight path of the vultures, Lalassu comes into a CLEARING, where she discovers --

Three HYENAS, feasting on the carcass of a dead BOAR.

Lalassu steps out into the open.

The Hyenas looks up at her.

THEY ARE IMPRESSIVE, frightening animals...

Hunched backs, sharp fangs, long snouts and powerful jaws.

Lalassu -- slowly takes out her throwing spear.

One Hyena backs away, slightly, wary of this strange beast.

The other two hold their ground. Feral eyes boring into her.

She moves toward them slowly, spear tip out and shouts:

LALASSU

Yaaaa!

Trying to scare them away.

No movement.

She steps forward, HISSES like a WILD CAT.

Now, two of the hyenas flinch and run from the carcass.

But the third one remains, unafraid.

A standoff. Two creatures facing one another, both wanting the precious kill on the ground.

THEN --

-- the Hyena CHARGES.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Kamak hungrily devours GRUBS that he found in a fallen tree. Eyes darting around for the Akkanakki hunting him.

He stops, thinks he's heard something.

The WIND whistles.

Then, the crackle of FOOTSTEPS.

Kamak takes out his CLUB.

Trying to figure out where the sound is coming from, when --
-- a THROWING SPEAR whistles by his FACE.

Narrowly missing him.

Then another, and another.

He takes off, dashing toward the ROCK-FACE on the MOUNTAIN.

EXT. AKKANAKKI CAMP - DAY

Ottalan pours the SAP from TREE BARK onto the HEAD of an
AKKANKKI BOY -- maybe 11 or 12 years old.

At his feet is most of his hair. Recently cut.

They are down to his SCALP now and need to get what's left of
the hair off his head -- to make it cleanly bald.

Another AKKANAKKI WOMAN spreads the SAP all over the Boy's
head -- creating a SLICK veneer.

Ottalan takes a SHARPENED SPEAR TIP and slowly SHAVES the
last bits of hair off the boy's head.

It's hardly a painless process.

The Boy's head BLEEDS and he winces in pain, but he tries to
be brave. Must be brave. If he is to find his place in the
tribe.

NEARBY --

Wikkanak eats a slice of cooked NEANDERTHAL MEAT. Chews.

Young AKKANAKKI TRIBESMAN sit with him.

Taste the meat, trying to discern its flavor...

 YOUNG TRIBESMAN
 Like buffalo.

Wikkanak chews, considers.

 WIKKANAK
 Like deer. From the mountain.

The Young Tribesman exchange looks. They don't dare defy
their leader.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN 2
Like deer. From the mountain.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN
Like deer.

All the young tribesmen agree. They have to.

Wikkanak takes another slice from --

-- A BODY. Burned and cooked, but obviously Varg's corpse.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN examines the Neanderthal...

YOUNG TRIBESMAN (CONT'D)
Arms bigger, head bigger. Mouth --
bigger. Feet -- bigger.

He looks at the penis.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN (CONT'D)
Here the same.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN 2
Woman must also be the same -- like
ours.

YOUNG TRIBESMAN
Can we make children with them?

Wikkanak makes a face -- who knows? He doesn't.

Slices off the penis, takes a bite.

Suddenly, he hears voices. Murmuring. Urgency. From his clan.

He gets up, moves toward the source of the noise to find --

A crowd of men and women. They part for him and as they do --

Three of his Warriors (including his son UKKANAK) are
revealed, holding --

-- the dead body of Hutta's WARRIOR, stabbed through the
heart to end his suffering.

UKKANAK
We found him near the trees of the
white bird. Garinak is there. Dead.

HUNTER
We couldn't carry him.

WIKKANAK
Hutta? Pogua?

They indicate they don't know.

Wikkanak steps toward Ukkanak, dripping with disappointment and anger.

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)
You come back? Without the head of
the beast?

Ukkanak doesn't know what to say.

Wikkanak SMASHES him in the face with his fist.

Then turns back to his Tribe.

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)
I need Warriors!

All of the MEN step forward, SPEARS ready, steely-eyed,
hungry to HUNT.

Wikkanak moves down the line --

-- touches the CHEST of each one he chooses.

Picking some, leaving out others --

-- a wake of PRIDE and SHAME swelling in both the chosen, and
the unchosen.

We may sense this is part of how he rules over his people. A
system of reward, shame and fear.

As Ukkanak watches his father choose nine more WARRIORS, his
eyes drop.

Assuming he will be left behind -- in humiliation.

Wikkanak issues a fierce, guttural rallying CRY.

The CHOSEN WARRIORS echo his CALL and follow him.

Wikkanak pauses before his son.

Ukkanak holds his father's glare.

WIKKANAK (CONT'D)
We come back with the beast's head.

And Wikkanak taps his son on the chest.

Choosing him.

Ukkanak nods, realizing with relief that he's being given another chance.

Wikkanak moves forward, issuing another WAR CRY.

Ukkanak brings one of his own --

-- as do the other nine warriors.

Eleven of the fiercest Warriors any of us has ever seen --

-- on a quest now to find the Neanderthal...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. PLAINS - DAY**

Ram carefully explores, looking around for any sign of human activity. Or animals. Not knowing what to expect.

Suddenly, up ahead --

-- he sees a figure coming toward him.

His eyes narrow. Trying to take in the figure.

He moves closer, but keeps cover.

And then he sees -- incredibly --

-- it's Lalassu.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Lakan, Zaad and the Neanderthals move along the RIVER, following Ram's path.

They lose his tracks in a GRASSY AREA.

Lakan smells the air, smells the ground. The trail has gone cold.

LAKAN -- eyes wide, searching.

Where is his young son?

EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Ram moves closer and closer to Lalassu, observing her from afar. Gradually realizes --

-- she's moving slowly, limping.

Then -- she falls.

HE RUNS TOWARD HER.

Finds her writhing on the ground in agony, holding her LEG.

RAM -- approaches her gingerly to see...

A bleeding GASH in her lower leg.

She looks up at him. Grabs her spear.

Then -- recognition comes over her. How did Ram get here? Will he hurt her? Did he bring others? The expression on her face shows a thousand questions, but --

He gestures that he won't hurt her, comes toward her slowly.

Their eyes connect -- and as she allows herself to believe him --

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Hutta and Pogua make it to the top of the mountain.

Out of breath, wary at every sound.

The wind HOWLS.

Hutta steps forward, looking around for any sign of Kamak.

Pogua moves in the opposite direction, thinks he sees Kamak's TRACKS.

Follows those Tracks toward a CLUSTER OF TREES.

But the TRACKS stop at a large BOULDER.

Pogua looks around, then realizes too late --

-- from the top of the Boulder, emerging from behind a small GROWTH of BUSHES --

-- Kamak leaps toward him --

-- from thirty feet high --

-- and STABS Pogua through the NECK with his SPEAR.

Hutta turns to see Pogua -- blood spurting from his neck and face -- fall dead.

Kamak tries to remove his SPEAR --

-- but it's snapped, broken.

Hutta realizes he has the advantage, removes his throwing spear.

Kamak sizes up his enemy. Considers running.

But knows he'd be giving Hutta a clean shot at his back.

And so --

-- Kamak CHARGES. Lowering his body to the ground, arms covering his face. Trying to make himself a smaller target.

Hutta takes aim and throws.

The Spear penetrates Kamak's ELBOW but it won't be enough to slow him down and --

-- Kamak LAUNCHES himself onto Hutta.

It is a brutal, uncoordinated battle. Teeth and nails and fists. They scrap and battle. Elbows. Knees.

Hutta manages to drive the SPEAR deeper into Kamak's arm, then --

-- grab a ROCK and strike Kamak HARD in the ribcage with it.

A SNAP of bone and Kamak CRIES OUT.

Smashes HUTTA to the ground.

Bashes Hutta's HEAD against the earth --

-- once, twice, about to finish him when --

-- HUTTA'S FIST comes up and SMACKS into Kamak's nose.

Blood sprays.

Kamak staggers backward. Rips the Spear from his elbow.

Hutta gets unsteadily to his feet --

-- sees Kamak protecting one side of his body -- the broken rib. And the bleeding arm.

Regaining his poise, Hutta grabs a thick fallen TREE BRANCH. he will use this like a club now as he moves like a dancer. Slowly circling Kamak.

KAMAK -- watches Hutta. Sees --

-- the CLUB in Hutta's hand. Ready to strike.

Kamak's breath comes in a wheeze.

His injured shoulder pulsates with pain. His ribs are a red hot fury of agony. His arm is bleeding.

And yet -- this big Neanderthal ATTACKS.

Hutta pivots as Kamak comes at him and --

-- SWIPES AT KAMAK'S INJURED RIB with the club.

WHUMP!

KAMAK

AHHHH!

ANOTHER SNAP - of bone. Another rib broken.

Kamak falls to one knee.

WHAP!

The club whistles down onto Kamak's SHOULDER.

KAMAK (CONT'D)

AAARRRR!

Blood SQUIRTS.

Kamak lashes out with a forearm. Nails Hutta in the face.

Hutta staggers, but spins back, club STRIKING KAMAK in the head.

A glancing blow.

If Kamak hadn't moved slightly, he'd be dead. But it's enough to put him down on the ground.

Hutta steps forward.

KAMAK'S POV -- Hutta blocking out the sunlight, the cruel club raised high over his head. Ready to smash in Kamak's skull.

This is the last thing Kamak will see on this earth...

BUT -- Kamak instinctively KICKS UPWARD with one massive leg, his foot perfectly placed into Hutta's chest.

WHUMP!

Hutta's eyeballs nearly pop out with the unexpected force. It's like being kicked by a stallion.

Hutta's breath WHEEZES out in a great WHOOSH! as --

-- he is sent flying backward, the CLUB falling from his grasp.

Kamak -- injured, gasping for air, tries to stand, to finish off the human when -- he hears --

-- a GROWL.

BOTH MEN, one homo sapiens, one neanderthal -- know exactly what this sound is.

They stop fighting. Look up to see --

-- A DIRE WOLF.

Standing on a rock, looking down at them. The Dire Wolf is bigger, thicker than modern wolves. More fearsome. A voracious hunger in its eyes.

Kamak backs away.

Hutta does, too.

THE DIRE WOLF -- circles them on long, strong legs. Paws as big as a man's hand. Eyes cold and unforgiving.

It seems to be sizing up the two men, assessing. Waiting to make the first strike.

And now -- without a word between them, the two antagonists, human and Neanderthal, come together. Back to back. Standing inches apart.

Unlikely allies against this formidable beast. They both are weaponless.

The two men can feel their bodies against one another.

They make eye contact.

A tacit agreement between them -- for now the fight is over between us. We need to survive.

Kamak motions with his head...

...the club. Ten feet away.

Hutta confirms the plan with his eyes. Yes.

They wait as --

-- the wolf circles them.

Feet away. Not attacking yet. Ready to pounce...

THE WOLF -- sizes them both up, then --

RUSHES AT HUTTA --

KAMAK -- carries out his part of the plan by --

-- stepping into the path of attack.

KAMAK strikes with his fists, his feet, his arms, as --

-- FANGS bite into flesh.

HUTTA -- grabs his club. Looks back. Sees --

-- Kamak on the ground, the wolf inches from Kamak's face.

HUTTA HESITATES. Kamak sees this. Eyes furious. Betrayed.

THE FANGS ARE INCHES from his throat.

BUT -- Hutta is hit with a pang of conscience and abruptly rushes forward to help, swinging the club and --

-- CONNECTING with the wolf's side.

THE WOLF YIPS, turns and CHOMPS onto Hutta's arm.

HUTTA

AHHHH!

Hutta reels backward, blood flowing from the deep wound as --

-- THE DIRE WOLF whirls back to Kamak.

KAMAK -- has used Hutta's attack to find his footing. Bodily THROWS the Dire Wolf from him.

THE BEAST -- flies through the air.

Lands in a heap. Turns to see --

-- HUTTA, bleeding, wincing.

Closer prey.

The Wolf coils and LEAPS.

HUTTA SWINGS with the club. MISSES.

THE DIRE WOLF'S FANGS --

-- CHOMP into Hutta's neck. Just near the shoulder. Hutta's club goes FLYING out of his grasp and he SCREAMS --

HUTTA (CONT'D)

AAAAHHHHH!

A GOUT OF BLOOD -- arcs into the air.

THE WOLF -- GETS READY FOR ANOTHER BITE, when --

SPLAT! -- blood sprays Hutta's face. Not his own.

There is an awful HOWL of canine agony and --

-- THE WOLF, wounded by Kamak, stumbles and RUNS OFF.

KAMAK - stands over Hutta.

The club he wielded has sent the wolf into retreat.

THE DIRE WOLF -- bleeding from the skull -- lopes into a nearby ravine, and takes its path down the mountain, away from these creatures...

Hutta looks up at Kamak. Eyes watering from the pain.

Their eyes meet.

Hutta seems to ask for mercy. But then closes his eyes, preparing for his death.

Kamak raises his club to finish him off and then --

-- lowers it.

...And backs away.

Hutta hears the footsteps moving away from him and --

-- opens his eyes.

Sees that he's still, somehow, ALIVE. And that his quarry, now his pardoner, is fleeing.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The body of the first dead Akkanakki.

Head smashed. Brain matter splattered.

REVEAL -- Wikkanak, standing over the body. His eyes are on fire. Eyes filled with vengeance.

Ukkanak -- watches his father, seeing the rage that drives him.

He steps next to his father, wanting to prove that he shares this rage, that he is ready to avenge and to redeem himself.

EXT. PLAINS - DAY

BUZUR traces Lalassu's FOOTSTEPS --

-- to the ROCK FORMATION.

He wonders -- did she go over this?

His partner -- HUNTER -- seems confused.

HUNTER

Her sister said she went to the
river.

Buzur follows Lalassu's false trail, considering whether
Tiamat told the truth.

Where did Lalassu go...?

EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Ram has dressed Lalassu's wound, using long plant fibres to
fashion a bandage. It has stopped the bleeding.

He uses two long sticks as a splint, wraps it in long plant
stalks, which he fashions into a kind of hemp rope.

He moves to a nearby tree to grab some BERRIES for her.

When he turns, he sees that --

-- she has risen.

He indicates with his hands --

RAM

Sit. Rest.

Lalassu indicates and gestures --

LALASSU

(in her language)
To the river. The water.

He doesn't understand.

She begins to walk toward the river.

RAM

You must rest.

But she keeps going.

And so, he follows --

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Wikkanak looks at the mountain face, realizes Kamak and Hutta must have climbed up.

WIKKANAK

We climb.

Ukkanak looks up, silently incredulous: we climb *that*?

But, wanting to prove himself, HOWLS a RALLYING CRY.

The other Warriors follow him and ECHO the cry.

Wikkanak begins the climb himself, leading the way.

THE OTHERS -- follow.

Ukkanak starts the climb upward as --

-- His father is already swiftly ascending.

EXT. HUMAN CAMP - DAY

Damkianna's tribe CHANTS and SINGS as they ROAST and EAT --

-- the MOTHER WOLF.

It is a sacred ritual.

Nearby, the CUB WOLVES drink the milk from gourds and --

-- the WET-NURSES chew food for them, then feed them the chewed-up meat. The meat of their own mother.

One of the children -- a 10 year old BOY -- kicks the dead mother wolf's head. Laughs.

The other Boys laugh along with him.

Tiamat watches, wondering if this the way.

Damkianna gets up, as if to answer that.

She moves toward the Boy and --

-- slaps him across the face.

DAMKIANNA

The greatest hunter has given us
six more of her kind. Bow to her!

The chastened Boy gets to his knees.

Wheeling on the other children, Damkianna's voice is calm and threatening at once. Cold.

DAMKIANNA (CONT'D)

All of you.

The Boys and Girls do as they've been commanded.

Tiamat, feeling she must obey as well, goes to her knees and bows to the wolf...

EXT. RIVERBANK - DUSK

Lakan, Zaad and the others are paused at the edge of the RIVERBANK.

Lakan regards the ROCK-BRIDGE that Ram tried to cross earlier. Wonders.

Trying to read Ram's footprints.

Lakan steps out onto the ROCK-BRIDGE.

Zaad grunts something at him, but Lakan just ignores it.

Follows the path on the Rock-Bridge.

LAKAN -- stops at the end of the Bridge, where Ram did.

No way across.

Did his son try to swim across?

Off Lakan, trying to fathom where Ram went --

EXT. RIVERBANK - DIFFERENT PART - DUSK

Ram follows the wounded but determined Lalassu toward a different part of the RIVERBANK.

He regards her, trying to understand what she's thinking.

She slows for a beat -- to rest her wounded leg. Clearly in a lot of pain.

RAM

Rest.

But she doesn't understand his language. And if she understands his meaning, she doesn't regard it.

She keeps moving.

He follows.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DUSK

Lakan follows Ram's tracks to --

-- the FALLEN TREE.

He climbs onto the tree. Crosses it himself.

Nearly falls. But keeps going.

Until he sees --

-- the piece of Ram's torn garment.

He bends to it, rips the fur and hide off the branch.

Looks at it closely. Smells it.

It is Ram's.

Lakan gazes into the water and then --

-- across the River.

No sign of Ram.

Lakan looks at the running water of the RIVER, tells Zaad --

LAKAN

River take him.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DIFFERENT PART - DUSK

Ram and Lalassu move to the River's edge.

He looks at her strangely.

And she jumps in.

Ram watches, wide-eyed as she --

-- SWIMS across the water.

Paddling. Kicking. Even as she's pushed by the currents.
To Ram, it is a revelation. A skill he's never seen before.
And, even wounded --
-- she moves steadily toward the OTHER SIDE.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DUSK

WIKKANAK -- followed by his Warriors --
-- climbs toward the top of the MOUNTAIN.
Pulls himself onto a RIDGE.
They are half-way up.
Wikkanak looks around as --
-- his fellow Warriors join him.
They see --
Pugua's dead body, on the ground, impaled by Kamak and the
shattered Neanderthal spear.
Ukkanak rushes to Pugua but --
Wikkanak steps forward quietly, assessing the terrain -- is
the brutish beast still here? And where is Hutta?
Suddenly, he hears --
-- a groaning, the sound of a man struggling.
He looks back at his Warriors, moves toward the sound.
And finds --
-- HUTTA, leaning against a ROCK, bleeding profusely from the
wound in his neck, where the wolf ravaged him.
Alive, conscious, but struggling.
Wikkanak comes to him.
Hutta's eyes focus, see his father before him.
Confused, Hutta tries to speak. Wikkanak cuts him off.

WIKKANAK
Where is the beast?

HUTTA
 (delirious)
 He...was like a bear.

WIKKANAK
 Where?!

Hutta points upward --

HUTTA
 Over.

Wikkanak looks up at the PEAKS of the MOUNTAIN.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DUSK

Kamak emerges on the Neanderthal side of the mountain.

He pauses at a vantage point.

Looks at the valley, far below.

KAMAK'S POV -- somewhere, the Neanderthal cave lies, far down below -- miles away.

As the SUN begins to SET and the devastatingly cold night begins to set in --

Exhausted, bloodied, beaten, bruised --

-- for the first time fear and doubt wash over Kamak.

Can he possibly make it?

EXT. RIVERBANK - DUSK

Lalassu pulls herself to the OTHER SIDE of the RIVER.

Looks back at Ram...

The current has pushed her down-river from him, so she moves, gimp-like, along the Riverbank --

-- to try to get herself directly across from him.

She looks at him and motions for him to come.

It doesn't even occur to her that he can't swim so when he hesitates, she is confused.

She gestures again -- come on.

As he decides whether or not he should try --
-- Buzur and the other hunter jump out from the trees.
LALASSU -- sees them and SHOUTS a warning to Ram.
Ram sees her pointing hand, wheels, turns as --
-- BUZUR'S CLUB: whistles down and --
-- CRACKS him in the skull.

SLAM TO BLACK.

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