



42

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Presents



A

Half-Hour

ANIMATED

Television Series

A

RANKIN/BASS PRODUCTION

SHOW #42

"LION-O'S ANOINTMENT

FOURTH DAY

THE TRIAL OF MIND POWER"

Written By

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PART ONE

FADE IN:

A BRIGHT MOONLIT NIGHT

TYGRA stands in the FOREGROUND full figure, ankle deep on a snowy slope, his attention fixed on a point OFF SCREEN to the left.

CUT TO:

THE MUTANTS

S-S-SLITHE is trying to start the SKYCUTTER, muttering angrily to himself. MONKIAN peers through a pair of space-type binoculars. OFF SCREEN, JACKALMAN looking in the same direction.

MONKIAN

There's Tygra, S-S-Slithe!
Let's go!

S-S-SLITHE stomps on something in the SKYCUTTER. The jet exhausts sputter, emit puffs of black smoke. He curses.

S-S-SLITHE

GRAAGH!! The SkyCutter still
needs adjusting!

JACKALMAN

Hurry, S-S-Slithe! Lion-O has
already passed Panthro's Trial
of Strength, Cheetara's Trial
of Speed, and the Wilykids'
Trial of Cunning! ...

MONKIAN

... We must stop at nothing to...
keep Lion-O from being officially
anointed Lord of the Thundercats! ...

JACKALMAN

Yes! If we cause Lion-O to fail,
the Thundercats will be leader-
less ...

MONKIAN

(grinning)
... And demoralized! Easy prey
for us!

S-S-SLITHE

And Third Earth will be ours to rule as we please!

(looks up at the sky)
First light ... And Tygra's Trial begins at dawn!

S-S-SLITHE tries the SKYCUTTER again. It sputters, coughs, more puffs of black smoke. More frustrated curses.

S-S-SLITHE

ARGGGH!! Don't wait for me!
Attack in the NoseDivers! I'll join you when I can!

CUT TO:

LONG SHOT - POV SLIGHTLY ABOVE

The NOSEDIVERS rev up, start off.

CUT TO:

TYGRA IN FOREGROUND

He sees the NOSEDIVERS approaching in the distance throwing up plumes of snow. There is a chasm between them and TYGRA and they turn toward a solid field of approach, which should be clearly seen as the long way around.

TYGRA

(sees them)

Mutants! Mustn't let them interfere! ... I should conserve all my Mind Power energy for Lion-O's Trial, but ...

CUT TO:

EXT: CATS' LAIR

CHEETARA (VO)

Panthro, look! ...

CUT TO:

INT: CONTROL ROOM

PANTHRO at the controls of telescreen, CHEETARA, WILYKAT and WILYKIT, SNARF looking on.

CHEETARA
... Nosedivers!

PANTHRO
Yeah! Always those blasted
Mutants!

SNARF
(head in hands)
Oh, woe! And it's almost dawn!

WILYKIT
Lion-O will be confronting Tygra
any minute! ...

WILYKAT
(angrily, turns to
leave)
Can't let the Mutants disrupt
today's Trial! I'll rev up the
ThunderTank!

PANTHRO
Wait! Look at Tygra!

All gather around telescreen, look at CLOSE UP of TYGRA
placing his fingertips on his temples.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA

his fingertips to his temples, concentrating.

CUT TO:

AN IMAGE OF A SNOW BRIDGE

starts to materialize across the chasm at the point
where the NOSEDIVERS turned off.

CUT TO:

MONKIAN AT CONTROLS OF NOSEDIVER, JACKALMAN'S NOSEDIVER
ALONGSIDE

MONKIAN looks over his shoulder, sees the image of the
snowbridge.

MONKIAN
Jackalman! Look!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA

Same as previously, the strain of his concentration now showing on his face.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT - THE SNOWBRIDGE

now looks solid. The NOSEDIVERS are turning back towards it.

CUT TO:

MONKIAN

MONKIAN

A snowbridge! Turn back! It's a short cut!

JACKALMAN

(frowning)

Why didn't we see it before?

MONKIAN

What's the difference? We see it now! Come on!

The NOSEDIVERS head for the bridge.

CUT TO:

THE NOSEDIVERS

are about a fifth of the way across the bridge.

CUT TO:

TYGRA IN FOREGROUND

watching the NOSEDIVERS on the bridge in BACKGROUND. He smiles, removes his hands from his temples, nods. (A short but decisive nod with a snap to it.)

CUT TO:

THE SNOWBRIDGE

starts to dematerialize, making the NOSEDIVERS look very solid. They start to drop.

JACKALMAN

WHAAAaaaa ...

The SNOWBRIDGE disappears, the NOSEDIVERS drop into the chasm.

MONKIAN
YAAAHHHhhhhh ...

CUT TO:

THE NOSDEIVERS

hit the side of the chasm, tumble down to the bottom, roll over a few times sustaining no particular damage in the soft snow. The MUTANTS pull themselves out brushing snow off themselves.

MONKIAN
Where did the bridge go? ...

The SKYCUTTER appears, is coming in low for a landing. JACKALMAN points to it.

JACKALMAN
(ruefully)
There's S-S-Slithel! ... How do we convince him there ever was a bridge?!

CUT TO:

CONTROL ROOM - CATS' LAIR

SNARF
(puzzled)
I don't get it! Why did the Mutants do that?

PANTHRO
(chuckles)
Tygra had something to do with that if I'm not mistaken. One of his illusions.

CHEETARA
What he did to the Mutants is just a small sample of what Lion-O will have to face today ...

WILYKAT
Why hasn't he ever used these illusions before?

PANTHRO
Using his Mind Power is a terrible strain on Tygra. He's been storing
(MORE)

PANTHRO (contd)
up all his mental energy for
today's Anointment Trial ...

SNARF has been following the conversation, his head turning from speaker to speaker. His chin trembles with apprehension.

CUT TO:

S-S-SLITHE IN THE SKYCUTTER

pulling one of the NOSEDIVERS out of a snow bank. JACKALMAN and MONKIAN stand alongside gesticulating upward.

S-S-SLITHE
Fools! It was a Thundercat
trick of some kind! Man your
vehicles! We attack again!

CUT TO:

LION-O AT THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE

(as in the previous episode) He is sitting cross-legged in a yogi position, eyes shut, the palms of his hands on his knees. The sun is just barely seen rising on the horizon. A couple of beats and his eyes snap open. He glances at the sun.

LION-O
Daybreak.
(stands)
Well ... If my mind isn't prepared
for Tygra's Mind Power now, it's
too late to do anything about it ...

He removes map from his belt, looks at it.

CUT TO:

POV BEHIND LION-O

He looks up from the map to the snow-covered mountains looming up before him.

LION-O
... The Desert of Sinking Sands
lies on the other side of those
mountains. To survive today's
Anointment Trial I must get there
by sundown ... and Tygra will ...
somehow ... be trying to stop me
all along the way! ...

TYGRA (VO)

Ho, Lion-0 ...

LION-0 turns to the right, CAMERA PANS TO THE RIGHT to pick up TYGRA, some distance off, standing about a third of the way up a snowy slope.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND TYGRA IN FOREGROUND

LION-0 trots up toward him from the BACKGROUND.

LION-0

Ho, Tygra. I'm ready.

TYGRA

Have you focused your mind, Lion-0?

LION-0

(nods)

I've tried to remember everything you taught me, Tygra.

TYGRA

The Lord of the Thundercats must be able to tell "what is, from what is not"! Have you prepared yourself?

LION-0

(shrugs)

That's what we're here to find out.

TYGRA

(sternly)

I am allowed to tell you this ... before this day is over, you will face your greatest fear!

LION-0

(frowning)

But ... I fear nothing! ... That I know of!

TYGRA

We shall see. Let the Trial begin! Look!

TYGRA points and LION-0 turns around. When he turns back TYGRA is gone.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O

LION-O
 Whoo! Tygra isn't wasting any
 time!

He starts forward.

CUT TO:

LION-O - FULL FIGURE

as he sees TYGRA's footprints in the snow going up the
 slope.

CUT TO:

POV ABOVE

as LION-O follows the footprints at a run.

LION-O
 Did he forget that his footsteps
 are visible in the snow!

THE FOOTPRINTS abruptly end. There is an unbroken expanse
 of snow to the top of the slope, rock outcroppings beyond
 it.

LION-O
 (eyes wide)
 He's gone. But how?

CUT TO:

CONTROL ROOM - CATS' LAIR

The other THUNDERCATS are watching the telescreen, which
 is framing the previous scene.

SNARF
 Where'd Tygra go?

WILYKIT
 Did he disappear?

CHEETARA
 He's making Lion-O think he's
 disappeared.

PANTHRO
 No way Lion-O will ever match
 Tygra in Mind Power. The Tygra
 clan of Thundercats have a
 special gift for it ...

WILYKAT

Then ... How can Lion-O possibly
win today's Trial?

PANTHRO

By being able to resist the
illusions created by Tygra's mind.

SNARF

(wringing his hands)
Do it, Lion-O! Resist! Resist! ...

CUT TO:

LION-O

his fingertips to his temples.

LION-O

All right ... Tygra is here some-
where ... Concentrate ...

His face is strained with concentration.

CUT TO:

FOOTPRINTS

slowly materialize in the snow from the point where they
ended.

LION-O

(exultant)
I did it!

He runs alongside the footprints. Looks up. TYGRA
stands at the top of the slope, smiling slightly, hands
on hips.

TYGRA

Your Trial has just begun.

A RAY suddenly shoots into the frame between TYGRA and
LION-O, blasting the rock outcropping beyond them. Both
jump aside.

CUT TO:

THE TWO NOSEDIVERS

come over a rise, guns firing. The SKYCUTTER swoops
down past them, nose cannon firing.

CUT TO:

TYGRA AND LION-O

dodging the blasts.

TYGRA

Mutants! ... Can't let them
disrupt the Anointment Trial ...

He puts his fingertips to his temples. A wind arises,
whistling softly at first, lifting a plume of snow up off
the slope behind him. It quickly begins to howl. Snow
begins to fall driven by the now fiercely blowing wind.

CUT TO:

LION-O

on his knees in the snow, shielding his face with an arm
from the driving snow.

LION-O

A ... blizzard! ...

CUT TO:

POV REAR VIEW OF THE SKYCUTTER

flying into the blizzard, visibility zero. Suddenly
the side of a mountain appears before it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE'S FACE

registering terror.

S-S-SLITHE

YAAAAHHHHHHhhh!!! ...

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

lifts up at the last moment, doing an inside loop to
avoid the mountain.

CUT TO:

ONE OF THE NOSEDIVERS

sideswipes the other with a CRUNCH!

JACKALMAN

Look out, you idiot!

MONKIAN

Can't see ... a thing! Where'd
this storm come from?!

JACKALMAN

Sure came up ... fast! Turn ...
back! ...

The NOSEDIVERS turn, bump into each other again with a CRUNCH.

MONKIAN and JACKALMAN diminishing curse-like chittering
and yelps as they disappear into the storm.

CUT TO:

LION-O

striding forward into the blizzard, hugging himself.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O

shielding his face against the snow.

LION-O (VO - THOUGHTS/
NO LIP SYNC)

... Can't tell if this storm is
real ... Or another of Tygra's
illusions. Either way ... It's
cold!

(straightens slightly)
No! Can't let myself feel it!
Concentrate! ...

(puts fingertips to
his temples)
It's not cold ... It's not
cold ...

Lion-O has straightened further, now stands heroically, braced against the blizzard, feet slightly apart, arms at his sides, fists clenched.

... LION-O

... It's not cold ...

He suddenly doubles up hugging himself, teeth chattering.

LION-O

... It's freezing, is what it is!

He straightens up again and puts fingers to temples, stares heroically into the storm.

LION-O

There is no blizzard! It doesn't exist.

The storm suddenly intensifies, snowflakes coming at him from the distance very fast, growing larger as most of them go past him, the effect is like onrushing trains. A platter-sized snowflake hits him square in the face, shattering as LION-O brushes it away.

LION-O

... It's ... getting worse!!

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - TYGRA - POV SLIGHTLY ABOVE HIM

standing on a ledge (no blizzard) looking down at LION-O in the blizzard. His fingertips are at his temples.

TYGRA

... "Make him see what is not there!"

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT - LION-O

The snowflakes are larger now, their diameter about half the size of LION-O's body. One of them hits him in the chest, shatters as he scrapes it off. He punches at another one coming at him, shattering it, but another, larger one hits him on his follow-through, knocking him off his feet. He quickly scrambles back up, punching at the onrushing flakes.

LION-O

... The snowflakes ... are ...
(punches)
... enormous! ...

Another flake, its diameter practically the size of his body, slams into him, sending him staggering backward. As he tries to fling it off with a breaststroke motion another -- the same size -- hits him.

He sinks to his knees as more flakes slam into him, bending him backwards. He keeps flailing at them, a losing battle. He is all but covered with snow.

As LION-O tries to fight back, the storm intensifies and obscures him, the screen virtually going white. Visibility returns as the storm lets up slightly, showing a mound of snow where LION-O was last seen.

HOLD for a beat, two beats. Suddenly the mound flies apart, LION-O's arms flung outward, fists clenched.

LION-O
 rrrRRROWWWRR!
 (a lion-like furious
 roar)

He lurches to his feet, flinging snow off himself angrily. Fair sized flakes continue to whip past him.

LION-O
 ... Snowflakes can't be that
 big! It's Tygra's doing! He's
 making me "see what is not there"!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O

leaning into the blizzard, face clenched, concentrating hard.

LION-O
 ... There are no giant snow-
 flakes! ... The blizzard is not!
 ... Is not! ... Is n ...

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT

The storm suddenly dematerializes and vanishes rather than stops, the sky clear blue where it is seen.

CUT TO:

TYGRA

on his ledge watching LION-O. He grins, turns and exits.

TYGRA
 So much for the "warm-up" --
 now for the game!

CUT TO:

CAMERA PULLS BACK AND UP SHOWING LION-O

trudging across a vast expanse of snow.

CUT TO:

THE NOSEDIVERS

plowing through the snow. They stop.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - MONKIAN

talking into intercom.

MONKIAN

... What kind of freak storm
was that, S-S-Slithe?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JACKALMAN

talking into intercom.

JACKALMAN

... It was a little too freakish
to suit me!

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - S-S-SLITHE

in SKYCUTTER.

S-S-SLITHE

Forget it! It's perfectly clear
now!

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

swoops low over the NOSEDIVERS which are facing in the
opposite direction, comes AT THE CAMERA.

S-S-SLITHE (VO)

Back after them!

CUT TO:

LION-O

trudging through the snow, passes under a snow-covered
overhang, quite high above him, many giant icicles
hanging down from it.

The Whoosh of the SKYCUTTER is heard. LION-O turns
quickly.

LION-O
Skycutter!! S-S-Slithe isn't
letting up!!!

A blast from the SKYCUTTER's nose cannon hits the snow to LION-O's left. He jumps to the right, runs further under the overhang.

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

lifts up, banks and turns, comes back aimed at the overhang.

CUT TO:

S-S-SLITHE AT THE CONTROLS

S-S-SLITHE
(grinning evilly)
Hah hah hah! ... No safety for
you there, Lion-O!

CUT TO:

SAME SHOT OF THE SKYCUTTER

coming at the overhang. The nose cannon fires, the blast shaking the overhang, clumps of snow flying.

CUT TO:

FRAME SHAKES AS LION-O LOOKS UP

One or two of the giant icicles break loose.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER ANGLE

as the icicles come down, LION-O leaping this way and that, the icicles narrowly missing him, imbedding themselves deeply in the snow.

The SKYCUTTER swoops in at the overhang again, fires another blast.

CUT TO:

AS LION-O DODGES ONE ICICLE

another comes down at a slight tilt, bangs him on the shoulder, a solid hit.

It knocks LION-O to the ground.

CUT TO:

POV ABOVE - LION-O

lying on his back looks up to see an icicle coming directly down at the middle of his chest, his eyes wide with terror.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - LION-O

rolling out of the way of the icicle. It grazes him as it imbeds itself into the snow next to him.

LION-O

WHOO!!

He continues to roll until he is out from under the overhang. Icicles under the overhang are imbedded in the snow. Some lie on their sides and others have rolled out from under. All are large.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

S-S-SLITHE

HAH HAH HAH!! Think you're safe now, do you?!

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

comes in low, directly at LION-O as he gets to his knees.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - POV FROM BEHIND LION-O - THE SKYCUTTER

coming directly at him. He grabs a giant icicle with both hands, lifts it up on his shoulder as he stands, hefts it up in one hand, holding it spear fashion, at which point the SKYCUTTER is almost upon him. He throws the icicle directly at the nose cannon.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - THE ICICLE

thunking into the mouth of the cannon.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

furious as the SKYCUTTER vibrates from the impact.

S-S-SLITHE

... You've just given me another
weapon, Thundercat!

(grins)

... That icicle is coming right
back at you!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE'S FIST ON THE STEERING HANDLE

His thumb presses a red button.

S-S-SLITHE (VO)

HAH HAH HAH!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NOSE CANNON

There is a WHUMP, the mouth of the cannon glows yellow around the icicle, but fails to dislodge it. Black smoke issues from the cowl and vents of the cannon, flowing backwards.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

coughing, waving smoke away from in front of his eyes, his face black with soot.

S-S-SLITHE

Backfire!

CUT TO:

LION-O IN FOREGROUND

grins as he runs, looking up at the SKYCUTTER weaving eccentric patterns in the sky, trailing black smoke.

CUT TO:

THE TWO NOSEDIVERS

swerve, come to a halt as they see the SKYCUTTER come at them over the horizon. Its flight is now pretty much normal except for an erratic lurch now and then. It is still trailing smoke.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

his face black with soot.

S-S-SLITHE
 (into mike)
After him!! Lion-O is getting
away!!

CUT TO:

MONKIAN IN FOREGROUND

JACKALMAN seen in his NOSEDIVER close beyond him.

MONKIAN
 (chittering angrily)
 Yes, and who let him get away?!
 Pretty easy giving orders ...

JACKALMAN
 (angrily)
 ... While we do all the dirty
 work!!

CUT TO:

THE TWO NOSEDIVERS

take off in the direction from which S-S-SLITHE came.

CUT TO:

LION-O

small, trudging through deep drifts.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - LION-O COMING AT THE CAMERA

The sound of approaching NOSEDIVERS is heard OFF SCREEN.
 LION-O turns his head, looks behind him angrily. A beat,
 and then the NOSEDIVERS appear over a rise on the
 horizon.

LION-O
Nosedivers!! They just won't
 quit!

CUT TO:

LION-O

is at the top of a steep, snowy slope occasionally
 studded with smallish rocks. To his left as he faces

the slope is an almost vertical rock cliff with a few snowy ledges, the top of which is not seen, cropped at the top of the screen.

LION-O

... Only two ways to go! Up
... Or down!

CUT TO:

LION-O

sliding down the slope trying to brake with his feet as they plow up the snow.

LION-O

Down is faster!

CUT TO:

POV FROM BELOW LION-O

as he comes AT THE CAMERA. He looks up at the top of the slope where the NOSEDIVERS appear, tip forward and follow him down.

CUT TO:

POV FROM ABOVE LION-O

as he rapidly slides toward a wide band of black ice.

LION-O

Black ice below!

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT - LION-O AND THE NOSEDIVERS

sliding at a fast rate towards the black ice.

CUT TO:

LION-O

sliding past peaked rocks in FOREGROUND and on the other side of him.

He rolls over on his side, hands behind him as he unbuckles his belt, sliding all the while.

CUT TO:

ONE OF THE ROCKS

jutting up from the snow. LION-O comes sliding into the frame. As he passes the rock he loops the belt, held in his right hand and buckled again, over the peak of the rock. The belt pulls taut as it arrests LION-O's slide. The NOSEDIVERS come skidding past careering crazily as the MUTANTS try to stop their vehicles.

MONKIAN
(terrified)
YAHHHHHH ...

JACKALMAN
HNYAHHH ... HNYAHHH! ...

CUT TO:

POV ABOVE LION-O

his belt still looped around the rock, as the NOSEDIVERS crash into the black ice breaking it up into large floes, the water splashing high around the NOSEDIVERS as they sink out of sight.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - THE ICE FLOES

as they settle and start to move with the current. Bubbles rise to the surface and burst, releasing smoke at the spots where the NOSEDIVERS sank. LION-O is seen on the slope above still hanging on to the belt looped around the rock.

LION-O
The Nosedivers broke up the ice!
... And there's a swift current!

CUT TO:

LION-O

bracing himself in the snow, removes the belt from the rock, puts his arm through the loop, draping the belt over his shoulder. He hops, skids, hops down to the river.

LION-O
... If I can make it to one of
those ice floes ...

He makes a mighty leap onto a floe. He lands on all fours, steadies himself.

LION-O

... Maybe I can make up for
lost time!

CUT TO:

LION-O

crouched on the floe as the river swiftly carries him
along.

FADE OUT.

END OF PART ONE

TIME: _____

PART TWO

FADE IN:

LION-O

stands braced on the ice floe, riding it like a large surfboard, as the river carries him rapidly along. Belt still looped around shoulder.

CUT TO:

UNDERWATER

The two NOSEDIVERS sinking slowly, MONKIAN and JACKALMAN furious, making blub, glub glub burbling noises. MONKIAN works his hand controls, cursing, when suddenly the NOSEDIVER starts to sputter, exhaust flames shoot out of its tail. He angles his craft upwards. JACKALMAN kicks at his foot controls, bangs the sides with a fist. It too sputters into life, and he follows MONKIAN.

CUT TO:

LION-O ON THE ICE FLOE

looking at his map. The floe is moving swiftly.

LION-O

I'm still headed in the right
direction ...

CAMERA PULLS BACK to show the entire floe. His belt still looped over his shoulder, LION-O tucks the map into the top of his tights. Just as he does so the NOSEDIVERS crash upward through the bottom of the floe, shattering it. LION-O goes flying as the NOSEDIVERS zoom up beyond him.

MONKIAN

HAHAHAHAHA!!

CUT TO:

CAMERA FOLLOWS LION-O

as he is hurled through the air and lands heavily on an icy ledge on the bank of the river. Ice formations rise beyond the narrow ledge forming a kind of cliff.

LION-O

(as he hits the ledge)
UMMPH!!

The NOSEDIVERS appear on the surface of the river scooting this way and that. LION-O darts out of their sight behind an ice formation.

MONKIAN

Where'd he go?!

JACKALMAN

We sent him flying over that way!!

He points in LION-O's direction.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - LION-O

backing off. As he slides along the ice formations an opening suddenly appears behind him and he tumbles backwards. He quickly gets to his feet, checks around.

LION-O

... Some sort of Ice Cave ...

CAMERA REMAINS STATIONARY as LION-O quickly enters the cave, then SLOWLY ANGLES DOWN for a CLOSE UP of his footprints in the snow going into the cave.

CUT TO:

LION-O IN THE ICE CAVE

occasionally looking over his shoulder.

LION-O

I've got to save my strength.

CUT TO:

THE NOSEDIVERS

climb up on the ledge, each going in an opposite direction.

MONKIAN

(in the further
nosediver)

I don't see him!

JACKALMAN

He's here somewhere, I tell you!
Hiding!!

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O'S FOOTPRINTS

as the front of JACKALMAN'S NOSEDIVER pulls up next to them.

JACKALMAN (VO)
Monkian! Over here!

CUT TO:

MONKIAN'S NOSEDIVER

pulls up alongside JACKALMAN's. Both examine footprints.

JACKALMAN
Lion-O's footprints! He went
in there!

MONKIAN
(revs up nosediver)
After him!

Both zip into the Ice Cave.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - AN IMPRESSIVE PILE OF ANIMAL BONES

in FOREGROUND. LION-O approaches cautiously in the
BACKGROUND.

LION-O
Uh-oh ... Don't much like the
looks of that ...

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND LION-O

as he looks into the darkening tunnel beyond the pile of
bones. An ominous growl is heard, then a full-throated
roar.

LION-O
... and I like the sound of that
even less!

He turns his head as the sound of the approaching NOSE-
DIVERS is heard. He grimaces.

LION-O
They've found me! Can't go back
that way! ...

He turns towards the bones again. Another roar, louder.

LION-O

... And whatever is waiting for
me that way ...

The heavy pounding footsteps of a four-legged creature
are heard, moving fast. Another roar.

LION-O

... Isn't waiting!!

He starts to turn back but the sound of the NOSEDIVERS
is louder. Turning back toward the bones, the pounding
footsteps and roar are louder. He turns his head
frantically one way then the other, suddenly sees a
ragged aperture in the ice wall about shoulder high and
about four feet in diameter.

LION-O

... Maybe this way!!

He springs up, grabs the lower lip of the aperture, goes
in head first and tumbles forward so that he will enter
the hole feet first.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - THE BELT

being pulled off LION-O's shoulder as he rolls forward,
snagged on an icicle.

CUT TO:

REVERSE ANGLE - THE BELT

as it drops off the icicle. The giant jaws of a BIG CAT
snatch it up in mid-air, shakes it back and forth with a
clenched-toothed roar. (If possible, the rest of the
CAT's head shouldn't be seen yet. It is "SNOWMEOW."
See "Lord of the Snows," Episode #13).

CUT TO:

LION-O

sliding down a lumpy, jagged ice chute, feet first, arms
trailing behind his head.

LION-O

Close! ...

He hits a jagged section.

LION-O

OWW!!

CUT TO:

THE NOSEDIVERS

rounding a corner of the cave, full into the rearing SNOWMEOW. It swings a mighty paw at MONKIAN, its claws inches from his face. He rears back. Clenched-toothed roar from SNOWMEOW, LION-O's belt in its mouth.

MONKIAN

YAHHHH!!

CUT TO:

THE NOSEDIVERS

backing up frantically.

JACKALMAN

Look!! Lion-O's belt! The beast
has devoured him!!

MONKIAN

Back! Before we meet the same
fate!!

SNOWMEOW catches up to MONKIAN's vehicle, sends it spinning with a swipe of its paw.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - JACKALMAN

still backing up.

JACKALMAN

I'll blast it!
(he twists handle lever)

CUT TO:

SNOWMEOW

gives JACKALMAN's vehicle a swipe on its nose with the other paw, turning it just as its nose-guns fire, the blasts hitting the walls of the cave. Another swipe upends it, the blasts hitting the ceiling, large chunks of ice fall on top of the NOSEDIVERS.

MONKIAN

Stop! You'll bury us in ice!

Jackalman is frightened, scattering chunks of ice as he turns the NOSEDIVER. MONKIAN's vehicle is wedged between the walls, blocking his way.

JACKALMAN

Move! You're in my way!!

He rams MONKIAN'S NOSEDIVER, freeing it. Both NOSEDIVERS rev up, head for the entrance. SNOWMEOW bounds after them, belt still in its teeth. Clenched-toothed roars throughout these scenes.

CUT TO:

THE TWO NOSEDIVERS

zooming out of the cave and into the water, SNOWMEOW hot after them. They surface and cut an erratic course through the ice floes. SNOWMEOW skids to a halt at the edge of the ledge, flailing its claws at them, shaking its head angrily, the belt still clenched in its jaws. SNOWMEOW roars.

CUT TO:

SNOWMEOW looks back at the cave over his shoulder, growls, then leaps up, his claws digging into the ice formations, climbs to the top of the sheer escarpment to an unbroken snowy field sloping slightly downward.

CUT TO:

SNOWMEOW

loping quickly across the snow.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND SNOWMEOW

as he stops on a snowy crest at which point the slope falls away sharply. He looks down. Far below LION-O is trudging along another unbroken snowy field, his footsteps leading back to the mouth of a cave. SNOWMEOW growls softly, starts down the steep slope after him.

CUT TO:

LION-O

pushing his way through waist-high drifts. He suddenly stops, looks.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND LION-O

In the distance in front of him is a rock formation like a flying buttress up against a tallish mountain.

LION-O

That arch ... it's on my map!
I'm still headed in the right
direction.

As his hand goes to his belt his face registers alarm.
He looks down.

LION-O

My belt! I've got to go back
for it!

Very upset, LION-O looks at his footsteps trailing all the way back, a considerable distance.

CUT TO:

MONKIAN, JACKALMAN AND S-S-SLITHE

the NOSEDIVERS and SKYCUTTER parked nearby.

MONKIAN

I tell you, S-S-Slithe, there
was nothing left of Lion-O but
his belt!

JACKALMAN

Hnyah! Hnyah! We've seen the
last of him!

S-S-SLITHE

(unconvinced)

We've thought so before ... But
those Thundercats each have nine
lives!

MONKIAN

Well, this Thundercat has used up
the last of his lives!

JACKALMAN

You'd be convinced of it too,
S-S-Slithe, if you'd seen that
Cave-Beast!

S-S-SLITHE

(getting into SkyCutter)

I'll never be convinced until I
see for myself!

MONKIAN and JACKALMAN in the FOREGROUND as the SKYCUTTER lifts off and zooms into the distance.

CUT TO:

TYGRA

standing on a mountain ledge high up, shading his eyes as he watches LION-O trudging across the snow field in the distance.

TYGRA

(frowns)

Lion-O is turning back! I wonder why?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA

TYGRA

Is he giving up? ... No! I'll never believe that! But ...

He suddenly looks up at the sound of the SKYCUTTER.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND TYGRA

as he ducks behind a rock outcropping. The SKYCUTTER zooms toward them between two mountain peaks. In a few moments LION-O will be visible to S-S-SLITHE.

TYGRA

S-S-Slithe ... And Lion-O is out in the open!

CUT TO:

LION-O

is now at the edge of the chasm, sees the SKYCUTTER approaching.

LION-O

No cover in sight! ... Can't make myself invisible like Tygra ...

He dives into a snowbank, throws snow over himself. The camouflage is only partly successful.

LION-O

... So this will have to do!

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND TYGRA

He has seen LION-O's action below. The SKYCUTTER is closer, veering toward LION-O.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA

fingertips to temples, concentrating hard. CAMERA PULLS BACK to show TYGRA from the waist up. He touches the THUNDERCAT insignia on his chest band. It begins to glow.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

shields his eyes as a brilliant red whirling glow floods the cockpit. The THUNDERCAT insignia forms within it.

S-S-SLITHE
The Thundercat signal! What ... ?

CUT TO:

TYGRA

standing on his ledge, his insignia flashing. CAMERA REVERSE ZOOMS until TYGRA is quite small.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND S-S-SLITHE IN COCKPIT

TYGRA seen clearly through the windshield on his ledge, insignia flashing, radiating outward.

CUT TO:

LION-O UNDER THE SNOW IN THE FOREGROUND

The SKYCUTTER has been coming directly at him, now veers sharply to attack TYGRA, the wash from its jet ripping up a swath through the snow. As it nears LION-O, the jet exhaust flings him over the lip of the chasm, the jet swath cutting through the spot he just occupied.

CUT TO:

LION-O

falling off the edge as the SKYCUTTER's jet trail loops up out of the frame at top right. CAMERA FOLLOWS as

LION-O reaches out an arm, tries to grab the lip of the chasm. Chunks of snow break off, he fails to get a grip, falls further.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O'S HAND

grabbing at the rock-face of the wall. Gets a firm grip on a projecting rock. The other hand comes up, also gets a hold.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - LION-O

clinging to the wall about six feet from the top.

LION-O
 (looking down)
 ... Can't move up or down ...
 I'm pinned here! A sitting duck
 if S-S-Slithe sees me!

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND LION-O

clinging to the wall at the right of the frame as the SKYCUTTER purposefully zooms away.

LION-O
 No! ... He's after something else!
 ... But what?

CUT TO:

POV BEHIND S-S-SLITHE IN COCKPIT

TYGRA looming larger through the windshield.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - NOSE CANNON

firing.

CUT TO:

FULL FIGURE - TYGRA

He vanishes a split second before the blast hits the ledge.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

S-S-SLITHE
 (gasps)
 Tygra's disappeared!

The cockpit floods with brilliant red whirling light. Through the windshield TYGRA is seen standing on an open snow field.

S-S-SLITHE
 No! There he is!

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

banks, heads for Tygra, insignia flashing, radiating.

CUT TO:

FULL FIGURE - TYGRA

Vanishes a split second before the blast hits the snow, throwing up chunks.

S-S-SLITHE
 (a bit frightened)
 Do my eyes deceive me?

The cockpit fills with brilliant whirling red light over his shoulder. He whirls.

CUT TO:

TYGRA

stands on a rock promontory, insignia flashing.

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

loops, heads for TYGRA.

S-S-SLITHE (VO)
 How did he get over there?

CUT TO:

FULL FIGURE - TYGRA

Vanishes a split second before the blast hits the promontory.

CUT TO:

THE SKYCUTTER

looping, banking and flying away from the scene.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - S-S-SLITHE

looking back over his shoulder.

S-S-SLITHE
RRROWSSS! This is all beyond
Mutants' knowledge!

CUT TO:

TYGRA

watching the SKYCUTTER disappear between the mountain peaks. Looks down at LION-O clinging to the wall. Concern fills his face. He puts his fingertips up to his temples. Abruptly lowers them.

TYGRA
No! I'm forgetting! It's
forbidden to help Lion-O during
the Trials!

He regretfully turns away, trots off in the opposite direction (away from LION-O).

CUT TO:

LION-O

Also watches the SKYCUTTER disappear.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O'S HAND

reaching, feeling for another grip. Suddenly the giant paw of SNOWMEOW reaches down, makes a couple of cat-like passes at LION-O's hand. LION-O quickly pulls it back.

LION-O
YAHHH ...

CUT TO:

LION-O'S POV - SNOWMEOW'S EYES

are seen above him, his jaws are not seen, hidden by the lip of the cliff. A giant paw makes a pass in the air. A clenched-toothed growl.

LION-O

The Cave-Beast! ... Wouldn't do me any good if I could get up there! ...

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O

showing his head and upstretched arms. His BELT is suddenly lowered into the frame from above.

LION-O

My belt!

He reaches up for it, touches it, SNOWMEOW growls VO.

CUT TO:

SNOWMEOW

leans over the cliff, the belt in its jaws within LION-O's reach. LION-O grabs it firmly.

With a mighty toss of his head, SNOWMEOW rears up, yanking LION-O out of his position and tossing him in the air in an arc that lands him back in the snow with a thud.

LION-O

UMMMMPH!!

CUT TO:

LION-O

getting to his feet, cautiously watching SNOWMEOW, who drops the belt at its feet, returns LION-O's stare. LION-O moves closer, cautiously.

LION-O snatches up the belt, his eyes never leaving SNOWMEOW's, his stance still wary. SNOWMEOW comes closer, LION-O leans back.

LION-O

Easy, now! ...

SNOWMEOW rubs its head against LION-O's thigh, purrs.

LION-O

Hey! I know you, don't I? ...
Sure! You're Snowmeow!

SNOWMEOW
 (happily)
 Meowrrrr ...

The CAT rubs against LION-O again, almost knocking him off balance.

LION-O
 (laughing)
 All right, all right! I'm glad
 to see you too!

SNOWMEOW frolics about, kicking up snow, as LION-O buckles on the belt.

LION-O
 Sorry, boy ... Can't play with
 you right now! I've got a lot
 to do, and not much time to do
 it in ...

SNOWMEOW
 (a big roar)
 ...

He gets up on hind legs -- one paw on each of LION-O's shoulders. A lick on the face and SNOWMEOW runs off.

LION-O
 I'm sure glad he's a friend!

DISSOLVE TO:

LONG SHOT - LION-O

making his way through deep snow laboriously, puffing
audibly.

DISSOLVE TO:

LION-O

pushing his way upward through deep snow toward a flat stretch. Reaches it, stands. Before him is another pass going upward, rock-strewn, tortuous-looking, winding between two steep rock walls rising OFF SCREEN.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to pick up TYGRA, partially hidden among the rocks. He puts his fingertips to his temples. As LION-O, now in the BACKGROUND, looks at the path to his right, a new pass opens up to his left, shimmers slightly then steadies, showing clear sky beyond.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O

frowns, shakes his head as though to clear it.

LION-O

Another pass! Funny I didn't
see it before ...

CUT TO:

THE PASS

before him goes downward, at the bottom is the desert,
the Egyptian ruins seen slightly beyond.

LION-O

(happily)
The Desert of Sinking Sands.
The ancient ruins! I'll pass
today's Trial if I reach there
before Tygra does.

CUT TO:

LION-O

running down the path. Suddenly he stops. He removes
the map from his belt and opens it.

LION-O

Wait. This path isn't on the
map!

He slams his fist on the map and looks at the ruins.

LION-O

... What I'm seeing ... is not real!

The ruins immediately disappear. His eyes fairly pop
with surprise.

LION-O

Tygra, again. No time to lose.

He quickly turns, starts back up the pass.

Snow not previously there starts appearing on the floor
of the pass and is quickly up to his knees and rising.

LION-O

... Don't remember seeing all
this ... snow ... on the way
down ...

The snow is now up to his neck.

LION-O

... There couldn't be any snow
in this pass! ... Because this
pass doesn't exist!

The snow immediately disappears.

LION-O is left standing at the point where he entered the pass, now a wall again, which shimmers slightly, then steadies. The original pass is seen to the right.

CUT TO:

TYGRA

in original spot.

His hands tremble as he lifts his fingers to his temples.

TYGRA

(low, to himself)
That was too easy for Lion-O --
but this one won't be.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA FACING CAMERA

His eyes are clamped shut, his face contorted in concentration, head and hands vibrating, obviously setting himself for the big one.

His eyes snap open, glow fiercely. CAMERA CLOSES IN on the eyes.

CUT TO:

BACK TO LION-O

The blue sky seen between the wall of the pass before him suddenly turns black (no gradual transition). LION-O, startled, takes a step backward.

LION-O

Night? No! ... Day can't turn
to night that quickly! It's
Tygra again! ...

CUT TO:

LION-O

fingers to temples, face turned toward CAMERA so that his

expression can be seen, grimacing as he concentrates. In the black sky between the walls STARS have appeared. Small at first, spinning in place, they one by one come hurtling towards LION-O, looming larger and larger until they fill the space between the walls, turning the scene white, at which point they are extinguished, the sky black again as another star comes at him and maybe a third, same effect, LION-O flinching each time.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - TYGRA

Same as last seen. Hands at temples.

CUT TO:

LION-O

profile facing right, strongly lit from glare coming from OFF SCREEN right. A strong whistling wind suddenly comes up, blowing his mane forward. The force of the wind picks up quickly, debris flying past him to the right.

LION-O

Wind ...

CAMERA PULLS BACK as wind becomes stronger, the sound now a full gale. LION-O is swept off his feet, vainly tries to get handholds on the rock walls as he is bounced back to the ground a couple of times.

LION-O

Can't ... stay on my ... feet ...

CUT TO:

THE GAP BETWEEN THE WALLS

is now filled with an Aurora Borealis. LION-O is swept towards it, his figure growing smaller as he is swept into it, fading as it disappears.

LION-O

AAAAAAHHHHhhhhhhh ...

CUT TO:

LION-O - FULL FIGURE

as he emerges from the Aurora into the jet black sky, pinpricks of stars in BACKGROUND. His cry continues over.

CUT TO:

A COMET

flashes across the sky, still distant.

LION-O

It ... it's not night! ... I'm
in space ...

LION-O tumbles through space. He dodges a shower of meteorites much as a skydiver might do. A comet comes at and past him. CAMERA FOLLOWS LION-O as he tumbles past planets of various types, some ringed, some circled by moons, etc.

LION-O

... Deep space! ...

He cries out again as he enters a nebula, which is a light show of swirling stars, some exploding, etc., predominantly white in color. It fades away as LION-O comes through it.

CUT TO:

POV FROM BEHIND LION-O AGAIN

A planet appears, looms up larger and larger. He is headed directly at it. (It is ThundERa.) LION-O tries to backstroke, unsuccessfully.

LION-O

Going to ... crash!!!

CUT TO:

If LION-O is seen at all here maybe only his head and shoulders are necessary as he zooms above the landscape of ThundERa. A cloud appears ahead of him and he is quickly enveloped in it.

LION-O

... Can't ... see where I'm ...

LION-O's form disappears in the cloud, only swirling mist seen for a couple of beats.

As LION-O comes out of the cloud WE SEE ThundERa.

CUT TO:

LION-O'S POV

(As from Show #1) The Planet explodes, etc.

LION-O (VO)
 That's ThundERa! I've come back
 ... in time and space ... IT'S
 HAPPENING AGAIN!

Spaceships leaving ThundERa, etc. (From Show #1 only.)

LION-O (VO)
 It was Jaga who saved me ...

Line of ships coming ... forming circle, etc.

LION-O (VO)
 ... He got me aboard the Space-
 ship ...

CUT TO:

LION-O, JAGA AND THE OTHERS
 watching ThundERa exploding.

LION-O (VO)
 (anguished)
 ... Just in time to see my beloved
 ThundERa blown into space dust! ...

CUT TO:

ADULT LION-O

He is back in the pass, as before his trip, on his knees,
 doubled over, his face in his hands, lit with a red glow.

LION-O
 ... It's my nightmare! It's
 wakened me in terror ever since!

CUT TO:

BOY LION-O

aboard the spaceship, his face also lit with a red glow.

LION-O (VO)
 ... I hid my fear then ... As I
 hide it now ...

CUT TO:

ADULT LION-O

LION-O
 ... Because ...

As though he suddenly remembers, he hears TYGRA's voice VO.

TYGRA (VO)

... "Before this day is over, you
will face your greatest fear" ...

LION-O

My "greatest fear" is that I'll
be afraid again.

CUT TO:

LION-O - FULL FIGURE

The exploding ThUNDERa dwarfing him as it is seen just
beyond him in the pass.

LION-O

... But I fear it no more! Do
you hear me. Tygra?! My night-
mare is over!!

He dives into the fiery planet. His figure fades and
disappears. As the planet's red glow loses its intensity
LION-O is seen wrestling with TYGRA, both red silhouettes.
LION-O has thrown TYGRA to the ground as their figures
resume their normal coloration and the planet fades out.
CAMERA CLOSES IN as LION-O pins TYGRA to the ground.

TYGRA

(voice very faint)

Enough, Lion-O ... you've won ...

LION-O helps a very weak-looking TYGRA to a sitting
position.

LION-O

No. I must reach the Desert of
Sinking Sands -- the Ruins --
before sundown.

CUT TO:

THE SUN SINKING BELOW HORIZON

LION-O runs -- looks back.

LION-O

I'll come back for you. Rest!

Off he goes.

FADE OUT.

END OF PART TWO

TIME: _____

EPILOGUE

FADE IN:

LION-O AND TYGRA

LION-O

Now that I've survived the Trials
of all the Thundercats, I wonder
why they were so important.

TYGRA

It is our tradition.

LION-O

Tradition?

TYGRA

Yes. It gives our lives form
... tells us who we are and what
we must do.

TYGRA hands LION-O his insignia.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - LION-O'S HAND

reaching down for the insignia. As his hand touches it,
it begins to glow.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE UP - THE EYE

in the hilt of the Sword. Its lids snap open, the EYE
glows fiercely, the THUNDERCAT roar is heard. CAMERA
PULLS BACK to show the arrangement of the Sword, Coronet,
Cloak as before.

WILYKAT (VO)

The Sword!!

CUT TO:

THUNDERCATS

looking at the Sword happily.

SNARF

Lion-O's done it!

WILYKIT

He's survived Tygra's Trial!!

SNARF
 (snorts proudly)
 Hmmp! He's survived all of the
 Thundercats' Trials.

CHEETARA
 Only one more to go ...

SNARF
 Snarf ... Which one is that?!

PANTHRO
 He must challenge and defeat his
deadliest enemy ...

WILYKAT
 But that would be ... Mumm-Ra!

SNARF
 (aghast)
 Muh-muh-muh ...

His image starts to waver.

DISSOLVE TO:

SNARF'S IMAGE

in the vapor from MUMM'RA's cauldron.

SNARF
 ... MUH-MUMM-RA?!!

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - MUMM-RA FACING CAMERA

peering into the cauldron.

MUMM-RA
 So ... Lion-O must seek out and
 destroy Mumm-Ra! Thus do the
 Anointment Trials end ...

The cauldron flares, transformation into the monster
 MUMM-RA. He raises his arms aloft.

MUMM-RA
 ... With the end of ... LION-O!!
 HA HA HA HA HA

FADE OUT.

THE END

TIME: _____