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VISIONARIES

"THE PRICE OF FREEDOM"

(Script)

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March 26, 1987

"The Price of Freedom"

ACT I
FADE IN

ANGLE - EDGE OF JUNGLE AREA

CAMERA starts high then swoops in along the jungle, catching up with the DAGGER ASSAULT VEHICLE, rumbling along the jungle's edge. REEKON drives, MORTREDD seated next to him.

ANGLE - MORTREDD & REEKON

They're late. Mortredd's worried, Reekon couldn't care less.

MORTREDD

Reekon, drive faster! Our Lord Darkstorm expected us back long ago!

REEKON

At the wages he pays us, he's lucky we're coming back at all!

ANGLE - INTERIOR OF JUNGLE

From within the jungle we see the Dagger Assault pass -- as does a ragged, staggering man (BELIZAR).

BELIZAR

(shouting hoarsely)

Hoy there! Wait!

ANGLE - EDGE OF JUNGLE

He stumbles out of the jungle, waving his arms.

BELIZAR (CONT)

Stop, please stop!

ANGLE - MORTREDD & REEKON

Reekon stops the Dagger Assault and starts to climb off

REEKON

What have we here?

MORTREDD

Reekon, we're late! We don't have time.

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Reekon joins him IN SHOT, supporting him.

REEKON

How may we be of service, my man?

ANOTHER ANGLE

Belizar marvels at the Dagger Assault.

BELIZAR
You have... technology!

ANGLE - REEKON

Grinning.

REEKON
Hate to disappoint you, but the name of
the game these days is magic.

He suddenly transforms into the Lizard, terrifying Belizar
ANGLE - MORTREDD

Sitting on the edge of the Dagger Assault, shaking his head.

MORTREDD
(exasperated)
Reekon, I'm sure the man knows it's the
new age.

ANGLE - REEKON

Reekon changes back to human form. PAN to Belizar

BELIZAR
(in awe)
And you must be its masters! Please, help
my people, the free citizens of Khemir!

ANOTHER ANGLE - MORTREDD & REEKON

Their turn to exchange amazed looks.

MORTREDD
Khemir?

REEKON
One of the great centers of the old
technology!

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Shaking his head sadly, he points back to the jungle

BELIZAR
It's been overrun by the jungle.
No machines function there anymore,
and my people starve. Please help
us.

ANGLE - MORTREDD

Still antsy to get back.

MORTREDD
We'd better tell Darkstorm first

ANGLE - REEKON

He extends a hand down to Belizar and pulls him on board.

REEKON

Can you guide us to your city?

ANGLE - MORTREDD

Worried.

MORTREDD.

Reekon.

ANGLE - BELIZAR AND REEKON

Belizar is next to Reekon, as Reekon FIRES the motors.

BELIZAR

Of course!!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

It pivots so that it now faces the jungle

MORTREDD

(a higher pitch)

REEKON...

ANGLE - REEKON

Grinning hugely as he rams the controls for the forward blaster and for full speed ahead...

REEKON

Then let's go!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT AND JUNGLE

As with FLASHES OF BLASTER FIRE, a path is blasted into the jungle, and the Dagger Assault goes rumbling in!!!

PULL BACK, PIVOT, and draw HIGH INTO THE SKY...

ANGLE - SOARING EAGLE

Cutting to a magnificent EAGLE! It soars O.S.

ANGLE - ROCKY CRAG

Landing on a crag and changing back to... ARZON!

ARZON

Feryl!

FERYL sits up from the flat rock he was snoozing on.

FERYL
 (waking up)
 Something new?

Arzon quickly leads him to where the Capture Chariot is parked on a concealed slope.

 ARZON
 Reekon and Mortredd found a man from
 Khemir. He's leading them back to the
 city!

ANGLE - CHARIOT

The two climb on board, Feryl driving.

 FERYL
 We'd better stay close on
 their heels!

DISSOLVE TO;

JUNGLE - PANNING TO RUINED CITY OF KHEMIR

Awe inspiring in its heyday! Today, towering spires, aerodynamic vehicles, and vast factories and dwelling places are overgrown by jungle vegetation, rusted and ruined.

ANGLE - OVERGROWN FIELD

Once cultivated by mechanized planting and harvesting machines, today overrun by jungle. PAN to a food processing plant, PUSHING IN on open doors. Inside are the KHEMIRITES.

FOOD PROCESSING PLANT

Their leader is ORZAN. In spite of ragged clothes and gaunt frame, he is haughty and aristocratic to the extreme. Others include MARNA, a young woman, and RONE, an older man, as well as a number of men, women and children. All wear the rags of once fine clothes and have an air of aristocratic arrogance, apparent even in their difficult circumstances. Orzan, holding an ancient book, stands next to an elaborate, rusted out food processing robot, Marna nearby.

 MARNA
 Go on, Orzan! try reading from that
 book.

CLOSE ANGLE - ORZAN AND BOOK

He looks down on the rune covered pages, then looks up.

 ORZAN
 (in a powerful voice)
 Skanka-freeble...

ANGLE- KHEMIRITES

Watching expectantly.

ORZAN (VO) (CONT)
Magumba-farble!

DRAMATIC ANGLE - ROBOT

Nothing happens.

ANGLE - ORZAN

He throws the book to the ground in frustration and disgust.

ORZAN (CONT)
What nonsense! If mouthing distasteful
syllables is the prerequisite of this new
age, then I want nothing of it!

ANGLE - RONE

Retrieving the book.

RONE
But Orzan, we must repair our robot
slaves.

ANGLE - MARNA

Tentative about expressing a subversive idea

MARNA
We could try to find our own food in the
jungle...

ANGLE - KHEMIRITES

Aghast at this heretical suggestion.

MARNA (VO) (CONT)
(even more hesitant)
And even begin farming for ourselves?

CLOSER ON RONE

Even the old man is horrified.

RONE
Marna, this is the Age of Magic, not
Sweat! Never have Khemirites demeaned
their heritage by manual labor...

ANGLE - KHEMIRITES

Shaking their heads with distaste at the thought.

RONE (VO) (CONT)
And I don't think any of us wish to start
now!

ANGLE - ORZAN

Totally contemptuous of this idea.

ORZAN

Rone is correct, Marna. Only robot slaves do their own work.

WIDEN as he indicates the ragged but proud Khemirites.

ORZAN (CONT)

The only activity proper for a free citizen of Khemir is to command...

DRAMATIC CLOSE UP - ORZAN

Unflinching determination showing in his expression

ORZAN (CONT)

Or die in the attempt!

But as sudden VEHICLE SFX SOUND, Orzan REACTS.

HIS POV - OPEN DOORS OUT ONTO FIELDS

The Dagger Assault speeds INTO VIEW, coming to a halt.

ANGLE - KHEMIRITES

Totally amazed!

KHEMIRITES

(ad lib)

Technology! Amazing! We're saved!

CLOSER ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

Belizar jumps off and runs to join his people.

BELIZAR

Not technology but magic!

He indicates Mortdredd and Reekon.

BELIZAR (CONT)

These two knights are the masters of the New Age!

ANGLE - REEKON AND MORTREDD

Reekon is beaming from the praise and is getting ready for the biggest scam of his career, when Mortredd pushes him aside and interrupts, Reekon glaring at him.

REEKON

And if you pledge allegiance to me...

MORTREDD

Reekon, it's Darkstorm, the true master of the age, to whom they'll pledge.

ANGLE - ORZAN

Awed but maintaining his dignity

ORZAN

The people of Khemir bow before no one.

Belizar joins Orzan, trying to change his mind.

BELIZAR

I have seen the magic of the Darkling Lords. It is wonderful beyond belief!

ANGLE - MORTREDD & REEKON

Smirking happily as Reekon glares

BELIZAR (VO) (CONT)

Mortredd has promised Darkstorm will give us slaves to do our work, as in the ancient days!

ANGLE - KHEMIRITES

Suddenly happy again!

RONE

It's the answer to our prayers! We must pledge!

KHEMIRITES

(Murmurs of assent)
Yes, it's the only way. We must. I agree.(etc.)

CLOSER - REEKON

He leans over to Mortredd.

REEKON

(sotto)
If you hadn't brought Darkstorm into it, these simpletons would be pledging their loyalty to you and me!

WIDEN and PAN as Mortredd climbs up to the Dagger Dart and takes off.

MORTREDD

And deny Darkstorm of subjects? I hope you've changed your tune by the time I return with our one and only leader!

ANGLE - REEKON

PAN from the disgusted Reekon to the awe stricken Khemirites.

KHEMIRITES
(Ooohs and aaahs)

ORZAN
To such power, I, too, must bow

CUT TO:

UP ANGLE - JUNGLE AND SKY

From a different location, we see the Dart fly overhead.

ANGLE - ARZON AND FERYL IN CAPTURE CHARIOT

The two Knights have seen it. As the Capture Chariot moves carefully along the trail, the Dagger cuts through the jungle.

ARZON
Mortdredd in the Dagger Dart!

WIDER

Feryl turns the Chariot off the trail, into screening vines. The VEHICLE SFX die as it stops, mostly hidden.

ARZON
Get the Capture Chariot out of sight.

ANGLE - TRAIL

Feryl and Arzon emerge back on the trail, Feryl in the lead, both moving cautiously, ^{fe} ^{er} ^{ri} ^{ng} ^{the} ^{ir} ^{standards}. ~~carrying their standards.~~

CLOSE - FERYL

He sniffs the air, as he rounds a bend.

FERYL (CONT)
(smelling)
I smell rusted metal. We're close.

OTS FERYL & ARZON

As they finish rounding the bend, they get their first view, jungle obscured, of the ruined magnificence of Khemir!

ARZON (VO)
The lost city of Khemir!

OUTSKIRTS OF CITY

Arzon and Feryl are amazed at all they see: soaring, broken buildings, rusted futuristic vehicles, store display windows filled with ruined, luxury merchandise.

ARZON AND FERYL

ARZON

Amazing!

ANGLE - LIZARD

Reekon, in animal form, blending into the broken paving stones
He looks toward Arzon and Feryl, then whisks back into the
surrounding jungle, as Feryl REACTS.

FERYL

(alarmed - sotto)

Arzon, I think I just saw Reekon.

CUT TO:

CONCEALING JUNGLE

Reekon changes back as he rejoins Orzan, Belizar, and the others,
now armed with swords and clubs. He indicates the Spectral
Knights visible through the screening jungle.

REEKON

(sotto)

Those are Spectral Knights, who would
condemn you to hard labor for the rest of
your lives!

CLOSE ON ORZAN

eyes narrow into angry slits.

ORZAN

Our enemies!

ANGLE - ARZON AND FERYL

suddenly Reekon and the Khemirites come charging out!

REEKON/KHEMIRITES

(Angry yells)

Capture them. Don't let them get
away. (etc)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Belizar hurls a net over Arzon and Feryl

BELIZAR

You are our prisoners!

CLOSER - ARZON

Arzon slashing the net, he and Feryl escape.

ARZON

Never!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Reekon launches an attack on Feryl, but Feryl blocks his sword swipe with his own dagger.

REEKON

Ha!

CLOSE - FERYL'S DAGGER

He activates the magical spark...

FERYL

If you loved that, you love this!

WIDEN as the spark envelopes Reekon's entire sword in a glowing energy field -- and Reekon hurls it away in pain...

REEKON

(Yell of pain)

As Feryl hits him with a forearm SMASH, knocking him O.S., then whirls back towards the others, changes to wolf form...

FERYL

Arzon, to the Capture Chariot!

ANOTHER ANGLE

And the Feryl-wolf leaps and knocks over Belizar and Orzan. The rest scatter as Arzon runs behind Feryl's block.

KHEMIRITES

(Yells of fear)

Look out! Run! Aaah!

CUT TO:

CAPTURE CHARIOT

Feryl changes back to human form in mid-leap as he lands in the driver's seat, with Arzon changing to an Eagle to fly into one of the pods (immediately changing back to human). The Chariot ROARS to life and heads out.

FERYL

Let's roll!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

With Reekon at the helm, the Dagger Assault is now in hot pursuit, its blasters sending FIRE BALLS their way!

CLOSE ON FERYL

Driving for all he's worth.

FERYL

Arzon, cover us!

ANGLE - ARZON

In the pod, he activates the FIREBALL heaving hand...

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

And the fireball hits one of the blasters, DESTROYING it!

CLOSE ON FERYL

He's looking back, a wolfish grin on his face.

FERYL

All right!

But as he turns back to the front and looks up, it freezes.

FERYL (CONT)

I mean, all wrong!

HIS POV - SKY CLAW AND FLIER

Mortdredd & DARKSTORM in the Sky Claw swoop down, shooting FIRESHRIKES, with VIRULINA piloting the Dart!

CLOSE - MORTREDD AND DARKSTORM

Their weapons BLAZING.

DARKSTORM

Destroy them!

ANGLE VIRULINA

VIRULINA

It's great to be back with the Darkling Lords. I never realized how much fun I was missing!

ANGLE - CAPTURE CHARIOT

Feryl turns hard left, to evade the FIRESHRIKES

ANGLE - ARZON

As Arzon's pod and the other pod hurl FIREBALLS skyward...

ANGLE - SKY CLAW & FLIER

And these two vehicles have to veer away to avoid being fried, while, perhaps, their own BLASTER fire is hit by fireballs, and there are some good midair EXPLOSIONS!

ANGLE - FERYL

Driving through the jungle as fast as he can... not on the path, but dodging trees, rocks, etc.

ANGLE - ARZON

Manning the pod when he sees the Dagger Assault CRASHING through the foliage that concealed its flanking maneuver, a split second before it smashes through the last bit of vegetation, on a ramming course!

ARZON

Feryl!!!

And Arzon leaps from the pod, turning into the Eagle! PAN as he swoops down on Feryl and grabs him just as the Dagger Assault CRASHES into the lefthand side of the Chariot with its rams, UPENDING the vehicle with METAL WRENCHING SFX!

REEKON

(Battle Yell)

ANGLE - SKY

Arzon, carrying Feryl, is flying hard towards safety...

ANGLE - SKY CLAW

When the Vulture ^(a Dragon) Hologram materializes and flies after them!

DARKSTORM

Spectral Knights, you are doomed!

ANGLE - FERYL AND ARZON

The Vulture dives down into scene, striking Arzon hard with its claws, knocking both out of the sky!

VULTURE

(Blood curdling cry)

CLOSE ON DARKSTORM

A triumphant snarl as he looks down...

DARKSTORM

Victory!

ANGLE - FERYL AND ARZON (AS EAGLE) - PANNING

Tumbling out of the sky, they plummet into trees far beneath! They disappear into the foliage with CRACKLING SFX.

ANGLE - CENTRAL AREA OF KHEMIR

The Sky Claw and Dart streak in for landings as the assembled Khemirites CHEER.

KHEMIRITES

(Cheering)

Alright! You did it! Way to go
Darkstorm! (etc)

DISSOLVE TO:

EDGE OF JUNGLE AREA (WHERE BELIZAR AND DARKLINGS FIRST MET)

The group of Khemirites, wearing tattered travelling cloaks, and the Darkling Lords are preparing to take their separate ways (the Dagger and Sky Claw parked there as well).

DARKSTORM

Your robot slaves may no longer function
in this age of magic...

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

Looking imperious.

DARKSTORM (CONT)

But if you accept my overlordship...

BELIZAR, ORZAN & MARNA

Exchanging determined looks

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)

And carry out the plan we discussed..

ANGLE - DARKSTORM & SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Looking evil

DARKSTORM (CONT)

You will soon have human slaves to carry
out your every wish!

ANGLE - KHEMIRITES

They brandish their clubs (to be concealed under cloaks).

KHEMIRITES

(Determined rumbling)

Slaves. At last! We do what ever you say. (etc)

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTERIOR - NEW VALARAK - NIGHTFALL

Establishing shot, featuring the high walls and gate.

CLOSER - GATE LOOK OUT POST

CRYOTEK is on guard duty. He REACTS as he sees...

CRYOTEK

Halt! Who goes there?

CRYOTEK'S POV - KHEMIRITES

The ragged group of refugees is approaching the gate, looking weary and in need of help.

MARNA

We are the only survivors from the
lost City of Khemir.

CLOSER - KHEMIRITES

Looking as pitiful as they can

BELIZAR

We seek food and shelter.

Although some adjust cloaks to hide the weapons beneath.

INT. NEW VALARAK COMPOUND

The huge gates swing open, and the Khemirites stumble in.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LARGE HALL

The Khemirites are sprawled out on rugs, cushions, benches, as citizens of New Valarak and Spectral Knights are providing them with food, blankets, pillows, etc. GALADRIA, in particular, is helping some sorry-looking specimens.

KHEMIRITES

(Assorted moans and sounds of eating)
Thank you, sir. Bless you. We are
eternally grateful. (etc)

ANGLE - LEORIC & ECTAR

Regarding this mass of supposedly suffering humanity in truth, though, they really are in bad shape).

ECTAR

Leoric, we know nothing of these people.
It would be safer if they stayed outside
the city walls.

CLOSER - GALADRIA

She's heard and REACTS

GALADRIA

Ectar, have a heart! These people are
suffering! All they're asking for is a
little food and a safe place to sleep.

OTS LEORIC, ECTAR & GALADRIA - ON KHEMIRITES

Once again, looking pathetic and grateful.

ANGLE FEATURING LEORIC

Leoric nods.

LEORIC

Galadria right. It's not often we can give such simple help and do such good!

WIDER

Leoric addresses the group of Khemirites.

LEORIC (CONT)

People of Khemir, you are welcome to the hospitality of New Valarak for as long as you like!

ON KHEMIRITES

KHEMIRITES

(Grateful murmurs)

Thank you, sir. Bless you. We are eternally grateful. (etc)

CLOSER LEORIC AND OTHERS

As they head for the exit, Cryotek ENTERS SCENE, concerned.

CRYOTEK

Leoric, Arzon and Feryl haven't returned from their patrol.

CLOSER

PAN with them as they continue out.

LEORIC

Knowing those two, they're probably out joyriding in the Capture Chariot.

CRYOTEK

~~(laughing)
You're right. If Feryl had his way, he'd have the Chariot goin' faster than Witter quick's Light Speed Staff!~~

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE - WILDERNESS

The bent and disabled Chariot (contrary to popular belief) is BUMPING along with excruciating slowness!

CLOSER

Arzon has his arm in a makeshift sling..

ARZON

Can't this thing go any faster? I'd fly, but my wing, er, arm, isn't quite up to it!

FEATURING FERYL

While Feryl sports a more all around banged up look.

FERYL

Hey, I'm as worried as you are. Those
Khemirites mean trouble for New Valarak...

ANGLE - CHARIOT

Heading towards the rising moon, rumbling and jerking along

FERYL (VO) (CONT)

But after the beating the Chariot took,
we're lucky it's moving at all!

DISSOLVE TO:

NEW VALARAK

Silent, a lone guard watching from the walls by the gate.

INT. GREAT CHAMBER

Where the people of Khemir are supposedly sleeping soundly.
However, in the darkness, shadowy figures get up from their
bedrolls, taking sturdy clubs out from beneath their cloaks!

WALL - CLOSE ON LONE GUARD GUARD (CRYOTEK)

Hearing a FOOTSTEP, he turns to see.

CRYOTEK'S POV

Belizar, club raised high! The club descends...

ANGLE - CRYOTEK

And Cryotek falls, losing his grip on his staff.

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Belizar steps in and seizes it, triumphant. He turns to Orzan,
who is next up on the wall with him.

BELIZAR

(sotto)

Open the gates and light the torch.

ANGLE - COURTYARD

as other Khemirites start to drag open the gate.

ANGLE - OTS DARKSTORM AND DARKLING LORDS - ON NEW VALARAK

They're hidden at a look out point, not that far from New
Valarak. Suddenly a pinpoint of light appears atop the walls,
rising up and down twice.

Darkstorm turns to Reekon and Mortredd.

DARKSTORM

That's the signal.

ANGLE - DARKLING LORDS

As they pile into the Dagger Assault vehicle and Sky Claw and set off for the city!

DARKSTORM (CONT)
New Valarak is ours!

FADE OUT
END ACT I

ACT II
FADE IN

GATES OF NEW VALARAK - NIGHT

The huge entry gates continue to open as the Dagger Assault and Sky Claw (hovering a few feet off the ground) enter.

INT. WITTER QUICK'S SLEEPING CHAMBER

Witter Quick is fast asleep, his staff propped against his bed. Marna appears from the shadows, takes the staff, and quickly leaves by the half-opened door.

LEORIC'S CHAMBER

Belizar, still holding Cryotek's staff, similarly relieves the sleeping Leoric of his standard.

EXT. TOWER WINDOW OF CENTRAL KEEP

Belizar and Marna appear in the window -- throwing the power standards out. PAN down with them...

ANGLE - CINDARR

Cindarr catching them on the fly! Then he heaves them to..

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

Lexor, who is riding on the side of the Dagger Assault!

CLOSE ON DARKSTORM (IN SKYCLAW)

Reacting triumphantly! The Skyclaw draws near to the Dagger Assault, Reekon driving.

DARKSTORM
The power staffs are mine! Reekon, it's
time to knock on Leoric's front door.

DRAMATIC FRONT ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

It ROARS forward INTO CAMERA.

ANGLE - ENTRY DOOR INTO CENTRAL KEEP

uses its battering ram to SHATTER the door

INT. ENTRY WAY

The whole front end of the Dagger is in the entry way! Now its BLASTERS FIRE, destroying most of the front wall!

ANGLE - HALLWAY OF SLEEPING CHAMBERS

Leoric, Witter Quick, and Ectar stumble out into the hall (with BLASTER SFX CONTINUING).

WITTER QUICK

My power staff is gone, my power staff is gone!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Galadrina rushes to join them...

GALADRINA

Leoric, the Darkling Lords are within the walls!

As all draw weapons and run towards the SOUNDS OF BATTLE.

ANGLE - FEATURING ECTAR - PANNING

Ectar is bringing up the rear.

ECTAR

I'll bet our innocent guests had something to do this!

WIDER

The others ahead of him round a corner and are momentarily out of sight as Belizar jumps out from an alcove and SLAMS his club into Ectar's armor, knocking him down!

BELIZAR

Very astute, Ectar!

ANGLE - MARNA

She emerges with a net, but as she tosses it down over the prone Ectar, he changes into a fox and darts between her legs and races around the corner!

ANGLE - COURTYARD

As the Dagger Assault continues to batter its first target, PAN with the Sky Claw as it flies past, BLASTING AWAY at other targets, directly under a window...

ANGLE - WINDOW

Out of which Leoric leaps

LEORIC

Darkstorm!

ANGLE - SKY CLAW

Leoric lands in the vehicle and begins grappling with Darkstorm! Mortredd gets kicked in the struggle and loses control, sending the Sky Claw climbing and spinning! Darkstorm and Leoric tumble out...

LEORIC/DARKSTORM/MORTDREDD
(Sounds of struggling)

ANGLE - SIDE OF TOWER

Falling against the side of a tower, high above the ground. Darkstorm becomes the Mollusk, clinging to the wall, while Leoric lands on a ledge.

CLOSER

The Mollusk ZAPS Leoric, who falls to grab a lower ledge with one hand, the ground dangerously far below!

ANGLE - GROUND

The other Spectral Knights (Ectar, Galadrina, and Witter Quick) are fighting Cravex, Cindarr, Virulina and Lexor hand-to-hand (BATTLE SFX) However, Witter looks up to see...

WITTER QUICK

Oh no!

WITTER QUICK'S POV - LEORIC AND DARKSTORM

Leoric, hanging on by one hand, with the Mollusk inching closer, its ZAPPING SPARKS drawing near!

WITTER QUICK (CONT)

Hang on, Leoric!

ANGLE - WITTER QUICK

And, dodging a club swing by Cindarr, Witter Quick changes to a Cheetah and dashes off...

ANGLE - TWO TOWERS

There are two towers only about six feet apart, and using his tremendous speed, the Cheetah is able to leap from one ledge to the next, in a diagonal upwards pattern...

ANGLE - LEORIC'S TOWER

Finally bounding across several ledges to arrive at the ledge to which Leoric clings. As a man, Witter Quick then SMASHES the window facing the ledge, then grabs Leoric's hand and jerks him up and through the broken window... both tumbling through just as the Swamp Mollusk arrives.

CORRIDOR (BY THE BROKEN WINDOW)

The two guys regain their feet...

LEORIC

Thanks, Witter!

And go dashing down a spiral staircase

WITTER QUICK

No problem, my pleasure...

LOWER LEVEL WINDOW

We can see the Dagger Assault vehicle through the window (the staves planted on it) as Witter Quick and Leoric run INTO SCENE (away from CAMERA and toward this window)...

WITTER QUICK (VO) (CONT)

Now let's get our power staffs back!

EXT. WINDOW

As the Cheetah and Lion come leaping out!

ANGLE - CINDARR

He sees the two beasts bounding towards him

CINDARR

I like little kitties...

ANOTHER ANGLE

As he leaps and grabs the Cheetah in a bear hug, wrestling it to the ground (as the Lion continues by).

CINDARR (CONT)

But I hate big ones!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT (STATIONARY)

Virulina and Reekon fight Galadrina (as Marna looks on). Galadrina knocks them back, but before she can get closer to the Staves...

VIRULINA

You'll never get your power staffs Galadrina! They're ours now!

GALADRINA

Don't count on it!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Mortdredd swoops down in the Sky Claw and uses one of the side ~~rams~~ to sweep her off her feet!

wing
)

GALADRINA (CONT)

(Yell)

But at just that moment, Leoric (as Lion) leaps INTO SCENE, knocking Reekon and Virulina away.

LEORIC (LION)

(Roar)

REEKON & VIRULINA

(Yells)

PAN with Lion as he gets to the Owl Standard and becomes Leoric, grabs the staff and prepares to invoke its power.

ANGLE - REEKON AND VIRULINA

Sprawled out, looking fearfully at Leoric.

REEKON

Stop him before he invokes the power of his staff!

ANGLE - LEORIC & STAFF

LEORIC

Whispered secrets of a shattered age, I summon you, renew this sage!

And the Owl flies out, blinking wisely.

OWL

Comfort and Wealth matter little if one is not free.

ANGLE - LEORIC

He suddenly crumples as Darkstorm appears from behind (having clunked him a good one), relieving him of the staff.

ANGLE - REEKON AND MARNA

Reekon gets to his feet, smirking.

REEKON

(evil chuckling)

Somehow I think the power of wisdom is vastly overrated.

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

Looking out over the battle damaged courtyard

DARKSTORM

Too true! From now on, Leoric needn't worry about comfort, wealth, or freedom.

ANGLE - COURTYARD

The other Spectral Knights, in nets, bonds, or chains are being led away by their victors, as frightened CITIZENS OF NEW VALARAK look on!

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)

Because, as of this moment, the Spectral Knights and the Citizens of New Valarak...

ANGLE - ORZAN AND BELIZAR

Joined by Marna, they all smile nasty smiles of content.

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)

Are all slaves!

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ANGLE - LEORIC, CRAVEX & CINDARR - NEXT DAY

Leoric is roughly led to...

THE DAGGER ASSAULT

Leoric's shoved into the magical dungeon, Darkstorm watching.

DARKSTORM (CONT)

I'm sure that you'll agree, Leoric, that the Spectral Knights will...

ANGLE - REEKON

Reekon hits the controls, and as the scarey SFX begin.

ANGLE - CAPTURE CHAMBER

The special HOLOGRAPHIC EFX AND SFX take place, as Leoric loses his lion totem. A moment later, the door is opened and Cravex reaches in and pulls out the shaken and pale Leoric... as Cindarr shoves Ectar in next to take his place.

DARKSTORM (CONT)

No longer need their totem powers to serve their new masters....

ANOTHER ANGLE

Darkstorm shoves Leoric, stumbling, in front of Ozran and the other Khemrites, now dressed in finery.

DARKSTORM (CONT)

(rubbing it in)

The free people of Khemir!

ANGLE - ORZAN

With a heavy hand, he forces the weary Leoric to his knees... a beat later, joined by Ectar, then Cryotek (also forced to their knees by their Darkling Lord escorts).

ORZAN

You are to do our every bidding, slaves.

CLOSE ON DARKSTORM

Enjoying himself hugely, he extends an arm indicating...

DARKSTORM

And if you don't, my proud friend..

WIDER ANGLE

The chained citizens of New Valarak, looking on in fear.

DARKSTORM (CONT)

The people of New Valarak will suffer... most horribly.

ANGLE - LEORIC AND KNIGHTS

Pale and shaken.

LEORIC

Do not harm them, Darkstorm. We will... obey.

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

A great moment for

DARKSTORM

Orzan, I've given these slaves to you, but I may want them back some day -- they provide excellent entertainment!

WIDER

He looks to his Darkling Lords

DARKSTORM (CONT)

And now, Darkling Lords, we will begin our tournament to determine...

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT - FEATURING CAPTURED POWER STAFFS

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)

Who will get the captured power staffs!

ANGLE - BELIZAR

He moves towards Darkstorm.

ANGLE - DARKLING LORDS

Looking surprised and contemptuous.

DARKLING LORDS
(Contemptuous laughter)

CLOSE ON LEXOR

Smirking, he moves to Belizar and pats him on the cheek.

LEXOR
We've given you slaves because it suits
our purposes, but that doesn't make you
worthy to become a Darkling Lord!

Upset, Belizar lunges forward, but Cindarr and Cryotek grab his
arms, restraining him.

BELIZAR
But Reekon told me...

ANGLE - REEKON

Shrugging

REEKON
I lied.

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

He walks up to Belizar, smiling, then threatening.

DARKSTORM
Be thankful I have accepted you as a
vassal...
(suddenly harsh)
And not made you a slave like those I
conquered!

ANGLE FEATURING ORZAN

He's gotten the message, as have the suddenly fearful Khemirites
standing behind him, even if Belizar hasn't.

ORZAN
Darkstorm, you are... most generous.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Cindarr and Cravex release Belizar, as Orzan leads him off.

ORZAN (CONT)
Come, Belizar, we must get settled in our
new quarters.

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Taking out his anger, Belizar gives Cryotek, the nearest in the line, a shove in the direction of the living quarters.

BELIZAR

Move it, slaves. You've got a lot of work to do!

CLOSE - CRYOTEK

He starts to react angrily, but Leoric puts a restraining hand on his shoulder, and Cryotek cools it.

LEORIC

Steady, Cryotek.

ANGLE FEATURING DARKSTORM

He thinks this is most entertaining and smiles evilly.

DISSOLVE TO:

LIVING QUARTERS

Galadria is attempting to sew some new garments for Marna. She holds one up -- it looks terrible.

ANGLE FEATURING MARNA

snatches it out of her hands.

MARNA

No, buffoon, you're doing it all wrong!

As Galadria starts to get worked up, Cryotek ENTERS SCENE and gently takes the garment from Marna.

CRYOTEK

I'll do it. Galadria can't sew.

CLOSE ON MARNA

Honestly puzzled.

MARNA

I thought all slaves could sew

ANGLE - GALADRINA

Exasperated.

GALADRINA

Look, we're human beings, each with our own limitations and abilities...

ANOTHER ANGLE

And walks to the window, looking out.

GALADRINA (CONT)

And the only reason we're working for you is that Darkstorm will take it out on our people if we don't!

ANGLE - WINDOW

Marna joins Galadrina.

MARNA

I'm sorry. All my life I've been served by robot slaves. I've never had to deal with... humans before.

CUT TO:

INT. ORZAN'S CHAMBERS

Witter Quick is trying to balance a full tray of food with one hand while pouring a beverage in Orzan's goblet.

CLOSER

The tray begins to wobble, and to avoid having it tip on him, Orzan KNOCKS the tray away...

ORZAN

Watch it!

ANGLE - FLOOR

And it all CRASHES to the ground!

ANGLE - ORZAN AND WITTER QUICK

Glaring at each other.

ORZAN

Now pick it up...
(as Witter hesitates)
Or your people will suffer!

Witter turns to mop up the mess.

CUT TO:

BELIZAR'S CHAMBERS

Belizar is having Leoric and Ectar rearrange the heavy furniture... first pointing them to one wall, then another, as they struggle, carrying a heavy, wooden cabinet.

BELIZAR

(with malicious enjoyment)
the cabinet here...

CLOSER - BELIZAR

Pausing and deciding on another location.

BELIZAR (CONT)

No, I think here is better... although,
actually, maybe...

ANGLE - ECTAR AND LEORIC

Exasperated, they drop the cabinet with a CRASH!

ECTAR

Hey! Just because Darkstorm won't let you
compete for our power staves, don't take
it out on us!

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Getting angry.

BELIZAR

Shut up and get back to work, slaves.

ANGLE - ECTAR

Equally angry.

ECTAR

We are free men and knights, which is more
than I can say for you...

Leoric, meanwhile, has caught sight of something out the window,
beyond the walls of New Valarak.

LEORIC

(to Ectar)

Arzon and Feryl!

HIS POV - THROUGH WINDOW

The Capture Chariot, trailing a plume of dirty smoke, is chugging
towards the open city gates!

LEORIC (VO) (CONT)

I've got to stop them from driving into a
trap!

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Advancing on the two Knights, perhaps brandishing his club.

BELIZAR

Get to work immediately, slaves, or...

ANGLE - LEORIC AND ECTAR

To Ectar's surprise, Leoric shoves Ectar at Belizar...

LEORIC

You're not going to take that, are you
Ectar?

ANGLE - BELIZAR

And as Ectar comes stumbling into Belizar, the Khemirite grapples with him, and they both go down!

BELIZAR
(Surprised yell)

As Leoric runs past them both, out the door.

LEORIC
That's showin' him! Keep him busy!

ANGLE - HALLWAY STAIRCASE

Leoric goes bounding up the staircase, as some Khemirite GUARDS see him and set up the alarm.

GUARDS
Hey! Where are you going?

ANGLE - TOWER ROOF

Leoric bursts onto the roof and waves his arms, yelling, the guards and Belizar racing out after him, a beat later!

LEORIC
Arzon! Feryl!

CLOSE ON FERYL AND ARZON

Almost through the entry gate, they REACT in surprise

LEORIC (VO) (CONT)
Go back!

OTS FERYL AND ARZON - ON LEORIC

Upon seeing Leoric standing on the tower, waving his arms... as Belizar and the others grab him and drag him back!

LEORIC (CONT)
The Darkling Lords and people of Khemir
have captured New Valarak!

ANGLE - CAPTURE CHARIOT

As the Capture Chariot enters the city (too late to turn back), Cravex and Cindarr drop down from the walls and grapple with Arzon and Feryl!

CRAVEX/CINDARR
(Battle Yells)

FERYL
Arzon, fly outta here!

ANGLE - ARZON AND CINDARR

Arzon turns to an eagle and escapes Cindarr's grasp! His wing is still lame, but he can fly...

ANGLE - CRAVEX AND FERYL

Cravex changes to his Phylot...

CRAVEX
You shall not escape!

But Feryl leaps and tackles him, pinning his wings in his grasp! The Phylot struggles, but cannot escape. Cindarr launches himself at Feryl, but the Spectral Knight holds on!

CRAVEX/PHYLOT
(Shrieking cries)

FERYL/CINDARR
(Sounds of struggle)

ANGLE - ARZON/EAGLE

He flies into the maze of New Valarak's towers to safety.

ANGLE - FERYL, CINDARR, CRAVEX

Cravex transforms back and hurls Feryl out of the Chariot...

CRAVEX
(Enraged roar)

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

To land with a THUD at Darkstorm's feet! PAN up to the Darkling Lord's face.

DARKSTORM
Your bravery is commendable, Feryl, and
your reward shall be...

ANGLE - FERYL

Cindarr and Cravex each grab an arm and drag him away!

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)
The loss of your magical powers!

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE - CENTRAL AREA, FEATURING DAGGER ASSAULT

With horrible SFX, Feryl is deprived of his magic in the capture chamber. He staggers out, pale and weak.

ANGLE - LEORIC

The Darkling Knights and Khemirites are gathered around. Leoric moves to support Feryl.

LEORIC
I'm sorry, Feryl.

FERYL
(Weak coughing)

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

Smiling maliciously.

DARKSTORM
So far, Leoric, your career as a slave has been easy...

ANGLE - TOWER

Arzon (as a human) is hiding on the roof, watching from his place of concealment, the scene below.

DARKSTORM (CONT)
But if Arzon doesn't surrender immediately, all of you...

ANGLE - DARKSTORM, LEORIC & FERYL

Darkstorm pushes Feryl in the chest, and he staggers back.

DARKSTORM (CONT)
Including this one, will be sent to the Vanadium Mines to work until you drop!

ANGLE - REEKON, MARNA AND BELIZAR

Reekon smirks.

REEKON
That place was deadly for robots! I wonder how humans will fair?

BELIZAR
If Arzon does not surrender, we shall soon find out!

CLOSE ON MARNA

Wincing in empathetic pain.

MARNA
A free man surrender himself into slavery? Even to save his friends, it's too much to ask!

ANGLE - CENTRAL AREA

But there is a stir, and various Lords and citizens point skywards as the Eagle suddenly appears, spiralling down.

CROWD

Look!

ANGLE - LEORIC

Arzon glides in, favoring one wing, and transforms to human, as Cindarr and Cravex grab him immediately.

LEORIC

Arzon, I would have never asked you to do this!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

Arzon looks back to him, grinning in spite it all

ARZON

Leoric, I would gladly lay down my life for you and all the Spectral Knights.

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

Addressing the Darkling Lords.

DARKSTORM

As soon as the slaves are safely locked away, the tournament for the captured Power Staffs will begin!

ANGLE - DARKLING LORDS

Enthusiastic cheers!

DARKLING LORDS

(Cheers)

Alright! I want Cryotek's staff. I take Witter Quick's. Let the tournament begin.(etc)

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CASTLE

Feryl, Leoric, and the other Spectral Knights are in the "slave quarters", arms loosely chained to wall manacles. PAN to door as Marna ENTERS and moves to Leoric, squatting down to his sitting level.

MARNA

Leoric, do you remember what the Wisdom Owl said?

ANGLE FEATURING LEORIC

Wondering why she's asking.

LEORIC

Comfort and Wealth matter little if one is not free.

ANGLE - MARNA

Standing up, making her decision.

MARNA

Thanks to Arzon's sacrifice, I now understand.

ANGLE - ARZON

Wincing as he moves his injured arm, he smiles all the same.

ARZON

If I were free at the expense of my friend's, I wouldn't be free at all!

ANGLE - MARNA

Nodding.

MARNA

Exactly. And as long as my comfort keeps all of you in slavery, I can find neither peace nor freedom myself.

WIDER

She moves to Leoric and unlocks his manacles, then gives him the key and he starts freeing the others.

MARNA

Therefore, I've decided to gain my freedom by helping you gain yours!

SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

(murmurs of happy surprise)
 Fantastic! This is too good to be true!
 Maybe the power of wisdom isn't so bad afterall! (etc)

ANGLE - MARNA

She also produces a bigger key, smiling broadly now.

MARNA

I also have the key to the courtyard entry to the Dagger Assault!

ANGLE - FREED SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

All standing up, rubbing their chafed wrists.

SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

(muted cheers)

May the Light shine forever!

CUT TO:

ANGLE - "BATTLE COURTYARD"

Where the Darkling Knights have started their tournament. Virulina and Lexor have squared off, Darkstorm holding his weapon between their touching weapons. He pulls it back...

DARKSTORM

The Winner of this match gains Arzon's staff.

(a beat)

Begin!!!

And the two begin their fight! Lexor uses his hook to jerk Virulina forward...

CLOSER ANGLE - LEXOR

And immediately changes to an armadillo, the off-balance Virulina tripping over him...

VIRULINA

(Off balance yell)

ANGLE - GROUND

And flipping head over heels, to land with a THUD! But she gets right up, turns, and charges back!

VIRULINA (CONT)

Why you little rodent!

ANGLE - LEXOR

The armadillo runs under the others' legs to get away...

ANOTHER ANGLE

But he ends up running right into her waiting grasp! She picks him up...

WIDER

And even though he changes back into human form, he's still over her head, in a wrestling type airplane spin... and she SLAMS him back to the ground with a THUD!

UP ANGLE - BALCONY

Belizar is watching, quite angry at being left out.

DARKSTORM (VO)

Virulina is the winner of the first round!

INT. CORRIDOR WITH BALCONY

Belizar is too upset to watch any more. He stomps into the corridor (which has a railing that overlooks a lower level).

BELIZAR
 (angry and jealous)
 I could have done that.

But he freezes and REACTS as he hears a DOOR OPENING O.S.

LEORIC (VO)
 (sotto)
 This way.

OTS - BELIZAR - OVER RAILING TO LOWER LEVEL

Leoric has just entered this area, the other Spectral Knights following silently behind (Marna not yet visible).

CLOSE - UP ANGLE - BELIZAR

Suddenly grinning.

BELIZAR
 Trying to escape!

DOWN ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Startled, they look up and REACT!

BELIZAR (VO) (CONT)
 When I sound the alarm, you'll all be sent
 to the Vanadium Mines...

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Gloating, he starts to move back to the exterior balcony.

BELIZAR (CONT)
 (triumphantly)
 And Darkstorm will have to make me a
 knight!

FADE OUT
 END ACT II

ACT III
 FADE IN

ANGLE - BALCONY AREA

Belizar moves to the window to yell to Darkstorm in the courtyard below...

BELIZAR
 Darkstorm!

But freezes as he hears...

MARNA (VO)
 Belizar!

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS AND MARNA

She has entered the room, calling to Belizar.

MARNA (CONT)

No!

ON BELIZAR - DOWN ANGLE FROM INTERIOR RAILING

He turns, seeing Marna with the Spectral Knights below

BELIZAR

Marna? What are you doing there?

DARKSTORM (VO)

Belizar, what in the name of Iron Mountain do you want?

ANGLE - EXTERIOR BALCONY

Confused, Belizar goes back out to the exterior balcony.

BELIZAR

Uh... it was nothing, Darkstorm, nothing.

ANGLE - COURTYARD

Featuring Reekon and the others, looking up.

REEKON

(scornfully, to others)
I could have told you that!

DARKLING LORDS

(Contemptuous laughter)

CLOSE ON DARKSTORM

Gesturing with his hand.

DARKSTORM

Let the tournament continue.

ANGLE - INTERIOR BALCONY

Belizar reappears, looking down at Marna and the others.

BELIZAR

Marna, are you part of this... treason?

ANGLE - MARNA AND OTHERS

She indicates the noble crew standing around her.

MARNA

These knights are worthy of our support,
and if their freedom costs us...

CLOSE ON BELIZAR

The words sink in, and, after looking towards the courtyard, where we may hear TOURNAMENT SFX, he nods in agreement.

MARNA (VO) (CONT)
Our ill-earned comfort, then so be it!

CUT TO:

EXT. TOURNAMENT AREA - MORTDREDD AND DARKSTORM

Mortdredd is sucking up to his leader.

MORTDREDD
My Lord, do you think that I may be worthy
to compete for a staff?

Who puts a comradely hand on Mortredd's shoulder...

DARKSTORM
Yes, Mortdredd. You may compete
against...

And shoves him out into the battle area

ANGLE - CRAVEX

Where Cravex, practically foaming at the mouth, launches into a berserker charge!

DARKSTORM (VO) (CONT)
Cravex!

CRAVEX
(Berserker yell

ANGLE - MORTDREDD AND CRAVEX

Mortdredd ducks to save his life, and as Cravex's axe WHISTLES over his head, Mortdredd turns into the beetle.

MORTDREDD
(Yell of fear)

ANGLE - BEETLE

Which scurries along rapidly, as we see Craven's big foot STOMPING, trying repeatedly to squash it!

CRAVEX
Come back here, you bug!!!

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT VEHICLE

It's off to one side of all this, the Power Staffs of the Spectral Knights still on it, on the side facing the Darkling tournament. Meanwhile, however, screened from the battle, Marna, Belizar, and the Spectral knights are sneaking up to the magical dungeon!

DARKLING KNIGHTS (VO) (CONT)
 (ad lib yells, etc)
 Squash him, Cravex! Fight like a man, not
 a beetle, Mortdredd!

CLOSER

The first of the Spectral Knights climb into the chamber and with APPROPRIATE SFX, it ACTIVATES to restore their powers.

ANGLE - BELIZAR AND MARNA

Watching expectantly.

BELIZAR
 (sotto)
 It's working! Their magical powers are
 being restored!

ANGLE - TOURNAMENT GROUNDS - FEATURING BEETLE

Scurrying ahead of Cravex, the Beetle transforms back into Mortdredd. He turns and prepares to take a swing at Cravex, who instead, TACKLES him, driving him into a wall!

MORTDREDD
 Ouf!!!

ANGLE - DARKLING KNIGHTS

Cheering and carrying on!

DARKLING KNIGHTS
 (Yells and cheers)
 That's showing him, Cravex. Come on
 Mortdredd fight like a knight. Hit him
 again! (etc)

ANGLE - CRAVEX AND MORTDREDD

Cravex has Mortdredd by an arm and a leg now, and he swings him around once, and then lets him fly!

CRAVEX
 (Bellowing roar)

ANGLE - TOURNAMENT SIDE OF DAGGER ASSAULT

And Mortdredd flies INTO SCENE, CLANGING into the side of the Dagger Assault and sliding to the ground.

CLOSER

He manages to look up towards Darkstorm.

MORTDREDD

(thrashed)

I guess I won't be winning a Power Staff
after all!

PAN up to the top of the Dagger Assault, to where the Power Standards have been placed... as Leoric and the other Spectral Knights suddenly appear, having climbed up from the other side! Note: if possible, for the moment let's keep their chest holograms in shadow or not visible.

LEORIC

And neither will anyone else!

And with that, Cryotek leaps down to the other side...

ANGLE - MORTREDD

And picks up the long-suffering Mortdredd and hurls him back across the square...

CRYOTEK

(Roar)

ANGLE - DARKSTORM

To slam into Darkstorm!

MORTDREDD

(winded)

Forgive me, my lord

Darkstorm shoves Mortdredd to one side.

DARKSTORM

The Spectral fools will be powerless
without their magic! Get them!

WIDER

Cravex and Cindarr charge.

CRAVEX/CINDARR

(Battle cries)

ANGLE - CRYOTEK

But as they rush Cryotek, he changes into a Polar Bear, and with two mighty SWIPES, he knocks each of them flying!

CRYOTEK/BEAR

(Roar)

ANGLE - LEXOR

Suddenly worried, he changes into an armadillo and goes scurrying for shelter!

LEXOR

(scared)

If that's not magic, I don't want to find out what is!

ANGLE - CINDARR

Meanwhile, Cindarr recovers, and transforming to his Gorilla, he leaps for a nearby wall and climbs up rapidly. PAN with him as he reaches a good ledge, and leaps...

ANGLE - BELIZAR

Looking up, he sees Cindarr and the object of his leap...

BELIZAR

Cryotek's power staff!

ANGLE - POWER STANDARDS

Cryotek's staff is the only one still on the Dagger Assault (the others have grabbed theirs). Belizar runs INTO SCENE and grabs it just as the Gorilla lands and swings at Belizar, knocking him end over end...

CINDARR

(Roar)

ANGLE - GROUND

But when Belizar hits the ground, rolling, he's still got the power standard!

BELIZAR

(winded)

Whoaa That monkey packs a punch!

ANGLE - CINDARR

Up on top of the Dagger Assault, he BEATS his chest, then transforms to human (with his own staff) and commands the hologram to do its thing!

CINDARR

By nature's hand, by crafts, by art, what once was one, now fly apart!

CLOSE ON STANDARD

The Beast of Destruction emerges. WIDEN as it moves to...

A TALL TOWER

Which is directly overshadowing most of our heroes. The Beast SMASHES the towers' base!

ANGLE - TOP OF TOWER

Now toppling directly..

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Down onto the Spectral Knights (the shadow covering them).

CRYOTEK
Belizar, my staff!

ANGLE - BELIZAR

He heaves the staff.

ANGLE - CRYOTEK

To Cryotek, who catches it and invokes his power

CRYOTEK
Three suns aligned, pour forth their light
and fill the archer's bow with might.

CLOSE ON STAFF

The bowman emerges and fires his flaming arrow... PAN with it as it EXPLODES the falling tower to sparkling dust!

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Raining harmlessly down on our heroes!

DARKSTORM

is enraged and commands his standard to do its stuff.

DARKSTORM
By what creeps, what crawls, by what does
not, let all that grows recede and rot!

CLOSE ON STANDARD

And the flying rat bursts forth. PAN as it draws a flying bead on Cryotek.

ANGLE - ECTAR

But Ectar jumps into the Lancer Cycle. It ROARS ahead.

ECTAR
Oh no you don't!

ANGLE - FLYING RAT

And just as the Rat is about to wrap its wings around Cryotek, the lance of the Lancer Cycle BOPS into the Rat, knocking it back through the air...

ANGLE - SIDE OF BUILDING

And as the rat hits the building, it disappears in a cloud of magical smoke!

ANGLE - CRAVEX

As Cravex, who's got a grip on Witter Quick, swings him into Feryl, sending both guys down with a CRASH. With that, he grabs his staff and invokes its power...

CRAVEX

O mist-filled pits, dark, dank, unclear,
touch all before me with frost-fingered
fear.

ANGLE - STAFF

And the spider of fear comes out, and sets off...

WIDER

After Leoric, who either doesn't see it, or is cornered

ANGLE - ORZAN, MARNA & BELIZAR

All momentarily together, watching. Orzan is in the middle, and he first looks to Marna, then to Belizar...

MARNA

If the spider bites Leoric...

BELIZAR

The Spectral Knights may lose the day!

CLOSE ON ORZAN

His jaw hardens in a sudden resolution, and he rushes O.S.!

ORZAN

Not this day!

ANGLE - LEORIC AND SPIDER

Before the spider is able to bite Leoric, Orzan throws himself between them, and the spider bites him instead!

ORZAN

(Yelp of pain as bitten)

CLOSE UP - LEORIC AND ORZAN

Leoric catches Orzan before he falls... as the spider, its mission complete, fades to nothing.

LEORIC
Orzan, you saved me!

Orzan smiles...

ORZAN
It was the least I could...

But suddenly, his smile changes into an expression of terror!
PUSH IN on his eyes and --

ORZAN (CONT)
(Shriek of terror)

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

ORZAN'S DREAM OF TERROR

Orzan spins around (Leoric no where to be seen), to see...

HIS POV

A number of half-robot, half-human "slaves" break their chains and move towards him with incredible CLANKING menace!

ORZAN (VO)
My slaves? What is wrong?

ANOTHER ANGLE

Orzan backing up in fear, as the "slaves" surround him.

ORZAN (CONT)
I order you to get back!

SCAREY ANGLE - SLAVE

Leering over Orzan with menace.

ROBOT SLAVE
We have done your work long enough.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As two of the other slaves grab Orzan from behind!

ROBOT SLAVE (CONT)
Now you will do ours, you miserable, squirming slave!

CLOSE ON ORZAN

Eyes wide with terror! PUSH IN and

ORZAN
(Terrified shriek)

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

REALITY - BATTLE SCENE

Belizar is using his club to WHACK Reekon. PAN with Reekon as he stumble/runs back to the Dagger Assault and climbs in (others getting on as well)...

ANGLE - CRYOTEK & MORTDREDD

While Mortdredd once again gets the heave-ho -- this time from Witter Quick...

ANGLE - SKY CLAW

SMASHING him into the Sky Claw! Darkstorm, getting in himself, hauls him into the driver's seat.

DARKSTORM
Get in, you fool, and get us out of here!

ANOTHER ANGLE - SKY CLAW

Mortdredd gets the Sky Claw airborne, and it starts off...

ANGLE - CAPTURE CHARIOT

As Feryl now commands the Capture Chariot, with Leoric and Arzon in the holo-pods HURLING fireballs after it!

ANGLE - SKY CLAW

It dodges most of them, maybe getting hit once, as it streaks away.

ANGLE - DAGGER ASSAULT

Meanwhile, the rest of the Darkling Lords are running after the Dagger Assault, which Reekon is sending racing towards the open main gate! They leap on board...

CLOSER

While Cravex is already manning a rear gun. He sends out magical BLASTS...

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Sending Spectral Knights dodging, as the BLASTS explode in the square.

ANGLE - ECTAR

Meanwhile, Ectar, still in the Cycle, sets off in pursuit...

ANGLE - CRAVEX

Fires at him

ANGLE - LANCER CYCLE

But the magical hands deflect the blast

ANGLE - TOWER OVERLOOKING GATE

And send it CRASHING into the tower over the gate. The tower wobbles...

Then the tower starts to fall, directly down towards the Dagger Assault!

REEKON

sees it, and REACTS, as ANGLE WIDENS to include Lexor.

REEKON

Lexor! Activate your staff!

LEXOR

The arrows turn, the swords repel, may nothing pierce this mortal shell!

ANGLE - STAFF

The horned man comes out.

WIDER

And shields the Dagger Assault with invulnerability, the moment before the tower CRASHES down on it.

EXT. NEW VALARAK

Allowing the Dagger Assault to make good its escape.

ANGLE - ORZAN

Lying on the ground, he starts to come back to his senses.

ORZAN

(bewildered)

What's going on...

WIDEN ANGLE as Leoric and Arzon help Orzan to his feet.

ARZON

Well, we just sent the Darkling Lords scurrying back to the rat's nest they came from...

LEORIC

But before that, you were bitten by the spider of fear...

CLOSE ON ORZAN

Realizing.

Belizar and Marna join him IN SCENE

ORZAN

(to Belizar and Marna)

It was horrible! I was about to be forced into slavery by those I, myself, had enslaved!

CLOSE ON MARNA

A new compassion showing in her eyes

MARNA

This is no fear, but the truth. We Khemirites have been so enslaved for years.

ANGLE - ORZAN

As he moves to address the others.

ORZAN

Well, I for one intend to declare my freedom by renouncing slavery forever!

ANGLE - LEORIC

He approaches Belizar

LEORIC

What about you, Belizar?

BELIZAR

Someday, I hope to prove worthy of becoming a Knight...

WIDER

PAN as Belizar indicates the wreckage around them (and we notice that the other citizens of Khemir (and, possibly, a bunch of the New Valarak civilians) are back on the scene.

BELIZAR (CONT)

But until then, I hope to stay here and help the free people of New Valarak rebuild what's been destroyed!

ANGLE - ORZAN

Things are moving a bit too fast for him!

ORZAN

Mmmm... that sounds suspiciously like work.

Belizar and Marna join him IN SCENE

BELIZAR

I know it will be a new experience for all
of us...

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS, KHEMIRITES, NEW VALARAKIANS

Starting to mingle and looking comradely.

ANGLE - BELIZAR, MARNA & ORZAN

All three, Orzan in spite of himself, starting to smile.

BELIZAR (CONT)

But I think we will find it most
satisfactory!

ANGLE - SPECTRAL KNIGHTS, KHEMIRITES, NEW VALARAKIANS

Victorious fists in the air, they CHEER lustily.

KNIGHTS, KHEMIRITES, NEW VALARAKIANS

(Cheers)

May the light shine forever!

CUT TO:

LONG SHOT OF NEW VALARAK

The battered Sky Claw and Dagger Assault continue their painful
journey home, New Valarak visible in the BG.

KNIGHTS, KHEMIRITES, VALARAKIANS (CONT)

(Distant cheers)

May the light shine forever!

FADE OUT

THE END