

The Riddle

Written by Kevin W. Lamb

Based on the Characters created by Robert E. Howard, Michael Moorcock, Lin Carter & L. Sprague de Camp.

Writers Guild of America
Registration #1991156
Regulus.lamb@gmail.com

**For promotional display only
Not for Sale**

HORN from a DISTANT train BLOWS into the night.

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS. HOWARD RESIDENCE. HALLWAY.
FEBRUARY 1, 1933. NIGHT

FIRST radio broadcast of ADOLPH HITLER (NAZI MASS RALLY),
plays from a GREBE M-ONE Radio.

Pictures of the Howard family line the wall. Taps from
UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER from lighted room at the end of the
hall.

ROBERT E. HOWARD (O.S.)
(Mocking Adolph Hitler and
broadcast)

The little poets sing of little
things: Hope, cheer, and faith,
small queens and puppet kings;
Lovers who kissed and then were
made as one, and modest flowers
waving in the sun.

Crowd from the rally roars. Taps seize upon the desk. CLICK
presents silence.

ROBERT ERVIN HOWARD, 33, covered in sweat sits in front of
UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER. Intoxicated.

ROBERT E. HOWARD (CONT'D)
Mighty poets write in blood and
tears.

ILLUMINATION of the candle distorts the HIGHLAND QUEEN SCOTCH
WHISKEY BOTTLE, 9, that reflects a man shadow behind Robert.

Wind blows through open window. Curtains shift.

REFLECTION from the whiskey bottle *shifts*.

ROBERT E. HOWARD (CONT'D)
Go away.

MAN SHADOW swells over Robert.

Startled. Robert turns to the SHADOW. Fear. Turns to WHISKEY
BOTTLE. Grabs the whiskey bottle.

1/8 Full. Tilts liquor to the right corner of the bottle.
Shadow tilts. Relief.

ROBERT E. HOWARD (CONT'D)
 You have unhinged me. I shall be
 calling it a night.

Robert laughs and takes a swig.

AKIRO (O.S.)
 No, you must stay.

Robert slowly lowers the bottle on the desk.

AKIRO, 72, squats in the RIGHT corner. Concealed by shadow.

Robert lowers his head in agony, then takes hat off, and
 Sits the hat to the left side of desk.

Slight turn to right shadow.

ROBERT E. HOWARD
 You have returned. Why do you come?
 Why should I tend to your demand.
 Does it matter? Does any of this
 matter?

AKIRO (O.S.)
 You must, for it is the
 indiscretions of men, that shall
 make wraiths of us all. Yes, it
 matters.

MASSIVE SHADOW stands concealed in the LEFT corner. Ax in
 hand.

AKIRO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Young chronicler, I have but one
 final declaration for testimony.
 For without it, this saga shall
 forever be untold.

ROBERT E. HOWARD
 And then will you leave? Will you
 go away?

AKIRO (O.S.)
 Yes. Shall we begin?

Robert takes a deep breath. Prepares typewriter.

Storm begins to blow through Cross Plains, Texas, as
 lightning lights up the clouds in the night sky.

Winds blow into the window.

ROBERT E. HOWARD
Let us finish this.

Robert types.

AKIRO (O.S.)
Between the time when the oceans
drank Atlantis and the rise of the
suns of Aryas, there was an age
undreamed of.

SNAPS upon the PAPER begin to reflect the ECHOES from AKIRO'S
voice.

AKIRO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And unto this, Conan, destined to
bare the jeweled crown of Aquilonia
upon a troubled brow.

Candles sway the dark shadows in the room.

AKIRO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It is I, his chronicler who alone
can tell thee of his saga.

Akiro's HEAD tilts out of the shadows.

AKIRO (CONT'D)
Let me tell you the days of high
adventure.

EXT. OLD CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. NIGHT

Malted Metal aligns down a mold, then another, which reveals
two swords being forged.

EXT. OLD CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. DAY

Massive royal Guard AKANI, 44, HAMMERS and FLIPS the BLADE.
Snow falls outside of the hasty straw hut.

EXT. OLD CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. NIGHT

Royal Guard pumps the AIR BLADDER.

Guards stand around. Men WATCH the swords being forged
through the hot distorted air.

EXT. OLD CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. DAY

TROCERO, 55, engraves, MAY THE LINE BE UNBROKEN in the Atlantean language down the FULLER of the swords. WRAPS the handle with LEATHER, then lays the swords beside one another.

Grey haired, SUBOTAI, 61, sharpens the sword.

Swords are passed around and inspected by the massive royal guard.

Aquilonian royal guards marvel in the beauty of the Cimmerian steel, as guard turns, KNEELS and bows to deliver the swords.

FADE TO:

EXT. CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. THE ROCK. DAY

Crowned CONAN of Aquilonia, 64, KNEELS and prays before the Cimmerian rock. Frozen grey beard. Raises hand to touch brown BLOOD stains on the rock.

FADE TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK. CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. THULSA DOOM RAID. DAY

Young Conan looks to his EMPTY HAND, as the HEAD of GRESHAN falls.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. THE ROCK. SAME

King Conan stares at his left hand. Grief.

Sun breaks through the clouds. Draws Conan to look up. Footsteps draw attention.

Massive muscular figure with Atlantean blue eyes, and braided pony tail wrapped around his neck, Prince CONN, 32, son of Conan. Steps forward with hand on newly fabricated sword handle. Behind Conan and the Cimmerian Rock.

ZANE (O.S.)

Father?

Conan breaks from grief, and stands, then places his CROWN on the ROCK.

Walks past Conn.

Conn follows father up the MOUNTAIN. Subotai and Trocero follow.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Many years had past. Conan had returned to Cimmeria with crown and sons. For it was an endowment to his bloodline.

Conan leads Conn, Trocero and Subotai walk through thick cloud. Break through cloud.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Cimmerians, his people, abided these mountains for centuries. Loyal to the earth. Assembling the finest steel. A line of great virtue and pride, delivered to the earth by Doom.

(Grunt)

Through his pedigree they remained. They were not a forgotten people. The cold mountain wind no longer cried amends, only howls for victory.

Sun Shines, which draws Trocero to raise hand to block the shine.

Morning sun splashes down on the majestic spectacle of the Hyborian peaks. Clouds cover the LOWER half of the mountain. HIGH PASS Massive Twenty-Five thousand foot Peak on the WEST, in the distance.

Conn looks over the trail cliff and out to the GREAT HYBORIAN HIGH PASS in the distance.

EXT. HYBORIAN WEST MOUNTAIN PEAK. DAY

Conan sits with his sons on the mountain top.

CONAN

Crom is your god, and he lives in the earth. One day all this will be forgotten, little will endure, just crown and memory. One that I could not interpret nor journey without pain.

Conan pulls his sword from sheaf.

Clouds shift over the Twenty-Five Thousand foot pass.

ZANE (O.S.)
 What lies beyond, father?

SUBOTAI (O.S.)
 A land once called Valusia.
 It is said that these Mountains
 hold an enigma and are impassable
 by man.

Subotai stops surveying with a DISTANCE DIAL and turns.

SUBOTAI (CONT'D)
 Only the gods.

Conan turns away from the answers. Looks to the massive peak
 across the mountain ridge.

CONAN
 I had not prayed in some time, not
 since your bearing. Remember, when
 I spoke of a Riddle?

ZANE
 For Continuance.

CONAN
 For Crom. There was one who said
 the riddle came from flesh.

FADE TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK SEQUENCE - THE TEMPLE OF DOOM - DAY

Thulsa Doom walks out of the TEMPLE.

CONN (V.O.)
 Do you believe he was right?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HYBORIAN WEST MOUNTAIN PEAK. DAY

CONAN
 No, no I do not.
 (Strong demand)
 I can not groom you for what is to
 come. When it arrives you must
 know, you must understand. Master
 the land, the people. Recognize in
 from your hearts; the righteous;
 the wicked.

Conan lifts sword.

CONAN (CONT'D)
And the line that stands between.

Conan stands up and begins his descent down the Mountain path.

ZANE
What is the brand upon the sword,
father?

CONAN (O.S.)
It is an Atlantean prayer.

Trocero stands aside, while the King leads the descent down the mountain. Subotai stops and turns.

Zane and Conn stand and follow.

INT. ZAMORAN KING'S CHAMBER. NIGHT

The fireplace sends slight pops from the kindle.

KING OSRIC, 92, roles a scroll, as dark pestilence taunts him. Takes a wax candle and holds it over the candle fire, then drops to seal the scroll. Presses a seal on the scroll.

KING OSRIC
Messenger!

Torment stops. Messenger arrives.

ZAMORA GUARD/MESSENGER
Yes, my King.

KING OSRIC
Deliver this to the Aquilonian
King.

ZAMORA GUARD/MESSENGER
Yes, My King.

Messenger exits with scroll. Osric stares into the candle.

EXT. THE CAMP. WHEEL OF SORROW. DAY

Fire lights the dusk. Conan sits around the campfire. Royal Guards enjoy a hot pot of stew and haze both Conn and Zane. Trocero reads scrolls and maps the extension of the Kingdom. AKANI, 54, surveys the land.

AKANI
Forty cubit.

Trocero writes down the measurement. Akani looks over to the annoying screeching sound to his right.

AKANI (CONT'D)
Push harder young noblemen, or you
will not get any stew tonight.

CAPTAIN looks into the POT.

CAPTAIN BRAN
The pot is almost empty.

Royal Guard comes over to fill his bowl.

ROYAL GUARD YANG
Hand me that.

The Royal Guard fills his bowl. Conan shows his intoxication, while he stares into the fire.

CONAN
Pushes faster.

Conn pushes the WHEEL OF SORROW.

A rock taps Zane on top of the head.

ZANE
Hurry.

Rock hits Conn in the head.

Subotai on the ROCK. Subotai smiles, then gets off the rock and heads to the campfire.

Zane and Conn follow.

Conn sits down around the fire, takes two bowls, and looks into the POT.

Conn looks at the guards with SCORN, while they laugh.

SUBOTAI
How did it feel, Prince?

Zane pours meatless water from spoon.

ZANE
I would have rather eaten stew.

CONN
 How long did you push the wheel,
 father?

Conan stares into the fire with a drunken sense of sorrow.

CONAN
 Three winters with a full camp.

Conn smiles to a distant Conan.

CONAN (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Seven alone.

The group stares at one another stunned. Conan gazes deep into the fire.

EXT. VILLAGE OF VANIR. DAY

Ride upon the VANIR village. Village raided. Destroyed. Old ruins.

Conan drinks from the bladder. Rides forward. Drunken guilt.

Expedition slow down with intrigue by the fighting pit.

Brown stains align the wall.

CONN
 What is this place?

Conan rides through. Does not stop. Expedition slows down with intrigue.

AKANI
 An old village of Vanir. Push forward.

SUBOTAI
 Keep moving, Prince.

AKANI
 Prince.

Subotai rides up beside Conan.

Expedition stops at the old pit.

CONN
 What is this?

Subotai rides up beside Conan.

SUBOTAI

We should have pushed further
around.

Conan drops the bladder. Pulls the lead right. Turns around
and rides behind his sons. Subotai follows.

Conn, Zane, perched on horse. Look down at the pit.

CONN

Looks to have been a pit of
sacrifice.

ZANE

Men, women, Children slaughtered
under the madness of amusement.

CONN

To please a god, or fatten ones
wherewithal.

ZANE

Slaves no doubt.

Zane and Conn look back.

Conan INTOXICATED. Conan rides off. Subotai. Scorn. Rides
off.

EXT. WAR MASTERS VILLAGE. DAY

Conan leads the expedition into the WAR MASTER'S village.
Master ZHAO, 46 rides up beside Conan.

Scout Commanders, MASTER QI, 51 and Master YAN, 42, look back
at masked War Master CHU, 51, watch them into the War
Master's Village from the high ground.

Masked War master rides fast to the War Master's Staging
area. Zhao looks to Conan for permission.

ZHAO

My father awaits.

Conan nods yes. Zhao rides ahead. Dismounts and embraces his
father, MASTER QIN, 79.

Chu dismounts his horse and waits beside Master Qin with
Vigilance.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

Father. Brother.

Zhao slowly approaches his brother, MASTER CHU, 47, slides down mask.

Chu breaks with a smiles, and brothers embrace.

STABLEMEN, 14, 16, assist the expedition with their horses.

Masters Qi and Yan ride down from an overlook.

SUBOTAI

I have come to escort my son to the Citadel.

MASTER QIN

Retrieve the Hyrkanian, bring him to his father.

Master Qin smiles.

MASTER QI

Young Jochi. Come.

JOCHI, 23, runs to his father and hands his newly crafted sword to Subotai.

QI

He now belongs to you, Master Subotai.

Jochi embraces his father, then turns to Conan, Conn and Zane and bows, while Subotai presents a DECORATED SHEATH. Jochi turns to his father with excitement.

JOCHI

Father?

CHU

Young Jochi has withstood the war trials and is now ready for the Citadel.

JOCHI

Honor.

Jochi tries to touch the sheaf. Subotai pulls it away, slides the sword into the decorated sheath, then turns and puts the sword away upon the horse.

SUBOTAI

In time, young Hyrkanian. Here the sword, the Citadel, the hands.

Subotai turns and puts palm over fist. To Master Qin.

SUBOTAI (CONT'D)

When integrated, honor. Khatalan
sends her love.

CHU

Where is he? We were expecting your
second son.

SUBOTAI

Yaun!

YAUN, 16, arrives. He and Jochi embrace with excitement. Yaun
turns with confidence.

YAUN (O.S.)

Yes, father?

The hand of Subotai releases Yuan to the War Masters.

SUBOTAI

He is yours.

Yaun stands beside his father, with hesitation.

CHI

Come yearling, your potency is
saturated with baby shit. Let us
cleanse you in foil work.

Yaun follows Master Chi to the training area.

Training Area: A large Kendo Hut with young trainees being
ran through swordsmanship(Foil Work).

CHU

Come, we have prepared a feast. I
hear you have a daughter, Prince
Zane.

All walk together to the Village TABLE OF HONOR.

WIPE RIGHT:

INT. GREAT WAR MASTER HALL. TABLE OF HONOR. NIGHT

Torches line the walls. DECORATED Swords cross along the
wall. Table of HONOR wraps around fire that burns in the
middle. Cook cuts meat. Student delivers meat on the table.
Conan sits. Chin sits. All sit.

MASTER QIN

How was your journey, my King?

CONAN
It was, necessary.

ZANE
We traveled through the Hyborian
Col into Cimmeria.

Commotion, and unsettled whispers.

CONAN
Now Aquilonia.

QI
What did you find there, Young
Prince?

Master Qin shows concern.

ZANE
Cimmerian steel.

War Master Priest, HAN, stands.

HAN
Those mountains are cursed!

Chu signals Han to sit.

YAN
Qing zuò.

CHU
We have come upon a discovery of an
ancient dark perversion.

MASTER QIN
Hai.

Chu looks to Qin for permission.

CHU
Father?

Qin nods permission.

CHU (CONT'D)
Last spring my scouts came upon
barterers. They had no tongue for
what they had seen.

QI

The tongues of rumor have spread
throughout the Hyborian Rim
concerning Archaic Demons and dead
villages.

Trocero shows his concern. Leans in to Conan. Whispers.

ZANE

Dead?

CHU

The village. We went out to
investigate this claim. When we
arrived, we found a cipher of what
was of the living, now dead.

YAN

Just the stains of rapture. The
once proud Kingdom of Valusia. Now
ancient whispers of dark legend,
carried over the pass from the
marked.

CHU

By the Horde of the Shí rénzú.

QI

They were a thousand folds of vile.

MASTER QIN

An ancient legend that is all. With
winter closing in, the snow will
fall, and these rumors will settle,
for now. This spring, when the pass
clears, I will send my son and his
scouts to tend to these rumors.
Just to be sure, my King. Let us
enjoy this feast. How is your
Atlantean wife?

CONN

She is not happy with father.

ZANE

He did not request permission for
this expedition, nor did he invite
her.

CONAN

There are reasons.

ZANE

And I shall be hearing these reasons from the Citadel.

TROCERO

(Whisper)

It would also reinforce the Citadel, my King.

CONAN

Master Qin, I request that your son and his War Scouts accompany us to the Citadel. There, he can stage and assist. When the weather is in favor, he will set off on this expedition.

Chu smiles to his brother Zhoa. Both excited. Master Qin looks to his son's. Cautious, then smiles.

MASTER QIN

They are yours, my King.

Chu stands and gives a toast. Master Qin and Conan lead the toast. All stand with ale.

CHU

May the crown stream pure like water, trickling devotion down unto the lands of its authority. To honor.

All stand.

CONAN

Honor.

All toast.

EXT. WAR MASTERS. PLATFORM. DAY

Conan and Master Qin stand together on a trainers platform. Over watch the morning training of the War Masters.

Conn enters the center of the training area. Displays his sword, and kneels before it.

MASTER QIN

Cimmerian steel. Your son has not found a wife, I see.

Conn pulls sword from sheaf and begins his display of Kendo.

CONAN

My son seeks honor and its direct path. His mother worries.

Conn starts slow. Methodical.

CONAN (CONT'D)

One day he shall attain the point in which the strike matters most. There is hope still.

MASTER QIN

I had prepared my sons all their lives for combat, hoping, they would grow old, only to see the growth of their children, and their bellies.

CONAN

And so we have.

Jochi stands beside Subotai. Conn picks up speed.

JOCHI

Father, what technique does he use?

SUBOTAI

It is not a technique, yet an antiquated eulogy that guides the prince.

Conn swings blade. Perfect. Impossible.

SUBOTAI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

If directed unspoiled, it is flawless.

Crowd reacts to Conn. Masterful. Crowd applause.

Conn kneels, then puts sword in sheaf. Stands and bows before platform. All bow.

MASTER QIN

And so, as fathers we pray for restrained swords.

Qin smiles.

EXT. WAR MASTERS VILLAGE. EXPIDITION STAGING AREA. DAY

Expedition prepares for departure. Conan and his sons gather around the senior War Masters.

CONAN

Aquilonia is indebted to you. I am
indebted to you.

MASTER QIN

The lands have thrived from your
sword and under your crown, my
King.

WAR MASTERS (O.S.)

Honor.

Conan bows, then Qin bows back, while Conn and Zane step
forward and bow.

ZANE

Master Qin.

Master Qin places seeds that ESSEI in Conn's hands.

MASTER QIN

As you requested, Prince Conn.

CONN

Thank you, Master Qin.

ZANE

That is?

CONN

Seeds that Essei. For a ceremony.

CONAN

For a Girl?

Conan smiles.

MASTER QIN

You are your father's sons.

Master Qin bows.

Conan and his son's mount and ride off. The War Scouts are
staged and ready for their departure. Qi looks to his Uncle
Qin.

Qi mounts his horse and leads the War Scouts to the front of
the expedition. Master Qin looks to his sons with warmth.

MASTER QIN (CONT'D)

Sons.

CHU

Father.

ZHAO

Father.

Father and sons embrace. Chu, Zhao and Qi mount their horses and ride to lead the front of the expedition.

MASTER QIN

Protect young Zane, and try to bring back a wife.

Qin watches the expedition ride off.

EXT. OPHIR DESERT. DAY

Zane and Conan ride deep in the back of the expedition. King Conan. Intoxicated.

ZANE

How long are you going to hold the bladder, father?

Conan drops back beside Zane and empties the bladder. Turns for an answer. Keeps pace.

ZANE (CONT'D)

They are quitting. I will not yield to their tender.

CONAN

Your method of attrition, son.

ZANE

My Citadel delivers the finest warriors of Hyboria, and will continue to preserve the Aquilonian banner, you have my word, father.

CONAN

The kingdom has expanded and recent concerns require assurance from the crown to the people.

Zane stops the horse.

ZANE

Assurance from number, or pundit? If I feed them they will earn it. You left me to tend to the strength of Aquilonia?

Conan stops. Slightly turns.

CONAN

Knowing you could accommodate the demand.

ZANE

Then allow me to.

Zane rides forward.

CONAN (O.S.)

More men.

Expedition rides through the plains.

EROS (O.S.)

Set camp.

EXT. OPHIR DESERT. NIGHT

Moon shines over the desert. Camp is set.

Subotai looks to the restless tent of Conan, then to the blood red line across the pass, then the star alignment across their path home.

EROS (O.S.)

There is a rider in the distance.

AKANI

Wake the king.

Subotai walks to the front of the camp.

Eros runs to Conan's tent. Returns.

EROS

He is incapacitated, Master Subotai.

Royal Aquilonian Guard ride up to greet them. ZAMORIAN MESSENGER, 45, shows the SCROLL in the distance. The grant the Messenger party access to the king. The messenger rides to greet Conan at the tent.

ZAMORIAN MESSENGER

King Osric request your banner.

Messenger hands the scroll to Conan.

CONAN

How is the old man?

Subotai unrolls and shows CONCERN upon evidence delivered by the SCROLL.

ZAMORA GUARD/MESSENGER

He is long in years, yet full of life. It is important that you attend.

CONAN

Tell King Osric we shall attend.

ZAMORA GUARD/MESSENGER

Yes, Master Subotai.

Zamorian Guard rides off, while Subotai looks with great concern at the scroll. Concern.

EXT. OPHIR DESERT. DAY

Zane looks back at a drunken Conan.

Zane rides up next to Master Qin and Trocero.

ZHAO

It will comfort me to have you attend the Citadel through this winter season, Brother.

CHU

I look forward to meeting the heirs of my brother's will.

ZHAO

They look forward to seeing you, brother.

ZANE

One in my village has found tolerant to my brother, although.

Zane passes Conan.

CONN

In proper time, brother.

TROCERO

The approach is that of patience. The right hand of Aquilonia can sometimes leave the left hand weak.

CHU

Hyboria is vast. Who protects the west?

TROCERO

Although there are many who dawn
majesty. Few give arms in order to
secure it.

ZANE

My Citadel can withstand any
trenchant that may require
Aquilonia's assurance.

Zane looks back. All look back. Stop.

SUBOTAI

Set Camp, Akani.

AKANI

Yes, Master Subotai.

Conan sits perched in front of a Tomb. (Tomb of the Sword,
Conan the Barbarian).

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOMB OF THE SWORD. NIGHT

Drunken Conan sits on top of the tomb. Reaches up to the FULL
MOON. Campfires in the distance.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Pain, regret, it had taken him too
long to forget. His authority was
vast. Cimmeria and Aquilonia, now
belong to him, yet from child, his
grasp had remained tormented, for
the mead could not deliver the
answer he so longed for, nor
vengeance.

Wind in hair. Hand Extends. Lowers hand. Sorrow. Intoxicated.

AKIRO (V.O.)

(Sorrowful stern)

Huh.

FADE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF POWER. DAY

Expedition rides by the ruins of the mouth. All gallop past.
Conan stops horse. Turns.

THULSA DOOM (V.O.)
(Echoes from the mouth of
the cave)
That is strength, boy. That is
power!

Conan tosses bladder to the ground, then rides forward.

END OF ACT I

THE RIDDLE ACT II

EXT. GRAND AQUILONIAN CITADEL. DAY

Zane leads center. Proud. Conn rides slightly behind. Proud. In the distance the GRAND AQUILONIAN CITADEL. Conan rides in back. Proud. Horn blows.

Sturdy logged built Citedal centered by gate into village. In the back stands a tower with open outlook from the Prince's chamber.

Training complex for the ROYAL AQUILONIAN GUARD stands outside to the left.

Large stone structure with stairs.

Men climb steps with logs on their backs. One-Hundred Acre Orchard lies beyond the Citedal Pond.

Fields of wheat line left outside the village. Men with red paint on their chest train with logs on their backs.

Men with blue paint on their chest are engaged with hand to hand combat.

Villagers are busy with duties.

Conan rides past JUN, 52, who fishes with young boys. Jun bows to Conan. Proud.

Wife of Zane and Aquilonian Princess, OONA of Melniboné, 29, sees the expedition arrive from the ORCHARD. Smiles.

Daughter of Zane, PRINCESS ARTERIA, 4, runs to the HORSE STABLES.

Oona stops and turns.

OONA
Chaya, could you please?

Oona hands the basket of fruit to CHAYA, 16, wipes her hands. Walks towards the horse stables.

EXT. HORSE STABLES. SAME

Zhao dismounts.

Beautiful wife, Wei, 36, steps out of the hut. Two girls YU, 5, and YA, 4, storm out of the hut. Run towards Zhao.

YA (O.S.)

Daddy.

Zhao smacks his brother Chu on the shoulder. Zhao walks to his two daughters. Chu follows.

Zane dismounts to see his daughter run to him. He walks to greet her and Oona, who is a few paces behind. Arteria jumps in his arms.

Zane lifts his daughter high in the air, spins around, then turns to see an angry Oona, who waits.

Zane lowers his daughter.

ZANE

Oona.

Pause. Oona explodes into his arms.

OONA

I have missed you, Zane.

Conan dismounts horse. Satisfaction.

CONAN

We will camp this evening, then push to the palace in the morning.

AKANI

Yes, my King.

Subotai hands Conan the scroll, then walks to the Trainee staging area. Conan opens scroll. Reads with concern.

Captain CAO, 32, holds four fingers up at the training hut. Directs War Scouts away.

Massive shadow moves towards Jochi and three recruits.

MASTER CAO (O.S.)

Four!

Jochi yells across the field.

JOCHI

Father, tell Khatalan I will see her soon, with honor.

Subotai smirks, then hands the scrolls to Conan. Conan reads and stops walking with concern, as Subotai stops in front and looks back with a familiar concern.

Chief Huntsman, VALEN, of Aquilonia, 32, a massive, powerful shadow approaches behind Jochi with a large log.

Three more massive trainers with logs who follow Valen. Four large THUDS startle the young recruits.

Jochi turns around to see the massive Valen walk away.

VALEN

Come, trainees, bring your friends.

Two more Cadre come and strip Jochi down.

VALEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Move.

Cadre force trainees to carry the log towards training area.

EXT. CITEDAL. TRAINING AREA. SAME

Eight trainees with blue paint on their mail armor, carry logs up long steps. Group skips a step with each stride. Separation within large thighs. Sweat. Dirt. Reach the top. Cadre stands. Impatient.

JAHI

Blue does not want to eat tonight.

Move!

Blue group reaches the top, turns right and heads to the steps, which take them back down.

QUN

Move.

Cadre stares the candidates down the stairway. Disgust. Raises hand.

Men reach bottom.

Combat Sensei ARANHA, 34, stops blue group.

SENSAI ARANHA

Stop.

Eight men, who carry logs, stop.

SENSEI ARANHA

Form.

Trainees drop their logs in an octagon formation. Sensei Proelia and Sensei Aranha choose their fighters.

SENSEI HAI

Hai.

To the first trainee. The first trainee enters the octagon of logs, as Aranha carefully walks around the octagon and stops.

SENSAI ARANHA

Hai.

To second trainee. The second trainee enters the octagon of logs.

SENSAI ARANHA (CONT'D)

Set.

Two trainees stand apart ready for combat. Sensei Aranha puts his hand up between the two trainees.

SENSAI ARANHA (CONT'D)

Hai!

Both trainees charge one another.

INT. HUT. SAME

Zhao and Chu enter Zhao's home. Chu observes the young girls, Yu and Ya play.

Wei prepares tea.

YU

We made this for you.

Yu and Ya both embrace Zhao. Hands a yellow and maroon sash around their father's neck.

ZHAO

Brother Chu, sit.

Zhao motions to Chu to sit. Yu and Ya run outside. Wei smiles and delivers warm tea.

Zhao and Chu kneel at the table.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

We grow up in a land, knowing only mother, now I have three within my heart.

CHU
It is beautiful.

Zhao grabs the sash around his neck.

ZHAO
It is the beauty in life, that
conducts a warrior to become who
they are.

Zhao and Chu toast.

Qi directs the War Scouts to set up camp.

EXT. CITEDAL. GATE. SAME

AELIA, 29, exits the Citadel hall. Notices Conn, then smiles.
She shifts her attention.

General's Expedition in the distant north. Horses in the
distance. Aquilonian Royal Guard Banner.

Valen turns and smiles.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES, 62, rides with a greeting party. Valen
smiles.

VALEN
Milo?

MILO (O.S.)
Coming, Commander.

VALEN
Take charge.

MILO, 47, takes the position of Valen. Valen runs to greet
his father. Valen and Pallantides embrace.

CONAN (O.S.)
She banished you?

Trocero hands scrolls to Hero. Hero opens, then hands them to
Pallantides. Concern.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
A thousand years of wisdom. The
Queen sent me to assure your
return, and my absence.

General Pallantides opens the seal and reads. Concern.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES (CONT'D)
His health?

CONAN
No concern.

Conan embraces his trusted Emissary HERO`, 65. Pallantides shows concern with scrolls and the War Scouts's presence.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
There are reinforcements. The War Scouts, why?

Pallantides hands the scrolls back to Conan.

CONAN
There is a rumor.

Conan looks to the great Hyborian Mountains, then to Pallantides.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
The pass?

TROCERO
A precaution upon my counsel. We will tend to these rumors in the spring, when the pass opens up. You need not worry, General.

Conan puts his arm over his trusted General and walks him to the furnace.

CONAN
We will discuss it over a grand feast. Is she upset?

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
The next expedition, you stay and I will lead it.

Group walks to the furnace for a great feast and reunion.

EXT. FURNACE. NIGHT

Furnace fire burns into the night sky. PIG roasts over fire. Large feast. Village, festive.

Group of stragglers are the last around the fire. Trocero enters the circle.

CONAN

A message sent to all the kingdoms of Hyboria. It is a seal of urgency.

SUBOTAI

We have lived in peace for five generations, now this news of demons.

CONAN

Who knows, maybe the old man just misses us.

SUBOTAI

Huh, I doubt it.

QI

The War Scouts will stage on the east perimeter of the Citadel. We will assist until spring. When the weather finds favor, we shall push to the pass. It is by far our largest scale.

ZHAO

There are many who believe this legend is real.

CHU

The Mountains have a godly oracle of truth that has yet to grant man's passage.

QI

An impossible feat by the physical?

TROCERO

The physical is not the deterrent, brother Qi. Since I was a child there remains precaution due to manifested lore of what lies beyond.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

Why so?

TROCERO

The otherside of those mountains we speak of have only delivered a conjuration from the damned.

SENSEI ALDON

The damned?

Moon shines over the peak of the great pass.

Trocero leans in.

TROCERO (O.S.)

There is a legend of an emperor, who had returned from a conquest of power. Upon his return he was awarded a remedy he received from a dark priest. This priest proclaimed that if the emperor were to take this royal libation, it would deliver aseity unto his soul, and in doing so, his converts would forever behold him, observing from the throne.

(Settles)

This story never brought reason to me as a child, yet this mysterious tale from the pass, has always kept men compliant with restraint.

CONAN

Why so?

TROCERO

It was the last story to cross those mountains, until recent dark advents. Let us hope rumor and legend hold truth.

Conn and Aelia make eye contact. Chu observes all the beautiful women in the village which outnumber the men four to one.

ZANE

Father, when the pass clears, Conn and I would like to accompany brother Chu and the War Scouts to investigate this rumor.

Oona concerned.

OONA

What rumor?

CONAN

Zane, tend to the Citadel and your family. Conn, those were years in which my choices could only be made through vengeance and the sword. I was groomed from a child to endure what it is I had to become, to survive.

(MORE)

CONAN (CONT'D)

This expedition for you was rearing, for me, painful. You both will stay, Chu will lead the expedition.

QI

Leave it to the War Scouts.

CHU

We travel faster alone.

CONAN

Report upon your return. It is urgent that rumor does not spread panic throughout the kingdom. Hysteria over unnecessary things can create discontent and that is not my regard, truth is.

Aelia lures Conn from the fire.

Zane sends a deceptive smile to Conn. Turns to the crowd.

OONA

We need rest. Chavi, could you?

Chavi takes Arteria.

CHAVI

Yes princess, come little one, time for sleep. Grandfather?

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

This one stays with me tonight, child.

Oona hands Arteria to Chavi.

Valen's wife, MYIA, 34, smiles, as the General Kisses Chavi and Chaya on the forehead. Nods to Conan, then takes his grandchild with him to bed.

Carries his grandchild, NIKOL, 4, sideways upon his hip.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come grandchild, may the fullness of my belly keep us warm deep into the night.

Valen and Myia's smiles burst into laughter.

ZANE

Friends, family, I shall withdraw from this feast.

(MORE)

ZANE (CONT'D)

Thank you all for this homecoming.
This journey ends tonight, in my
bed.

Zane and Oona walk off together with warm intentions.

CONAN

I feel the warmth of the Aquilonian
winds calling me home. I miss her
touch. We depart at first light.

EROS (O.S.)

Yes, my King.

Conan exits fire.

INT. HUT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT. NIGHT

Conn and Aelia stand apart with a kettle, that heats from a
small fire underneath.

CONN

A bird delves for seed. A love
awaits.

Steam calls for Conn to bring forth the ceremonial gift.
Conn reaches in his pouch and pulls seeds that Essai and
delivers them into the bowl.

Conn grinds the tea powder.

Aelia smiles and pulls the scarf, revealing her beauty.

Conn taps the powder into the steaming bowl and looks to
Aelia for approval. Sensually stirs, as the steam rises.
Aelia's smiles.

Shifts her hips right.

AELIA

Love?

Conn smiles, then takes the spoon and pulls a perfect amount.

Slowly extends tea to Aelia's cup.

Conn turns the spoon over.

Steamed water releases into the cup.

Eye contact gives the spoon enough time to fill the cup.

Turns his attention to the last drop. Sets cup before Aelia.

CONN

He comes upon a wonder. A joy
delivered for love.

Pours a cup for himself. Sets spoon gently upside down upon
the rest. Looks up.

Aelia takes her cup.

AELIA

The seed?

Aelia takes a sip.

CONN

From the Cross Plains.

AELIA

The love?

Conn looks deep into Aelia's eyes, but her confident stare
forces him to look down.

AELIA

Do not evade, Prince.

CONN

The eyes, why no fear?

Aelia lies the cups back to the hold.

AELIA

I am a Princess, I only fear what
it is I love, and the cost of
losing it.

Conn takes a sip of the tea, and lays the cup back into the
hold.

CONN

No love, no fear?

Conn and Aelia stand across from one another.

AELIA

No seed. Good evening, Prince.

Aelia stands and exits, as Conn sits in thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EXPIDITION STAGING AREA - DAY

Valen approaches his father, who prepares to depart with Conan. The two stand apart and wait for the other to flinch.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

Before you return to the palace
this spring, have the ax sharpened
and oil. I want it returned in the
manner given to you.

VALEN

Anything else, father?

General embraces his son.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

Hurry, son.

General Pallantides looks to Myia and nods. Myia smiles. General Pallantides mounts his horse. Valen heads in the direction of Myia and Chaya. Chavi holds Nikol.

Aelia stands across from Conn, and reaches across and holds his blue gem. Rubs the gem and releases it.

AELIA

A love, a seed.

Conn and Aelia resist love, then Conn folds with chin down.

CONN

Princess.

Expedition is saddled up and ready to move to the palace. They wait for the king.

Zane walks over to the staging area, and greets his father.

ZANE

Father, send my love to mother.
Ensure her of my loving embrace,
that is soon to come. We will see
you this solstice, maybe with news
of another.

CONAN

More men!

Conan mounts his horse and rides off.

CONAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Do not keep your mother waiting.

Conn stands over to his brother to say goodbye. Conn stands across from Zane.

ZANE

Brother.

Conn looks over to Aelia, the Zane cups Conn by the back of the neck, and pulls him to the ear.

ZANE (CONT'D)

That is union, brother.

CONN

You heard father.

Conn mounts his horse, turns to take a last look at the woman he loves, Aelia, then rides off.

Chavi and Chaya come to deliver water and fruit to the trainees. Chaya hands the fruit to the Yellow group, while beautiful Chavi pours water.

Half beaten Jochi straggles, yet closes in while he drags his log.

CHAYA

Here.

TRAINEE takes the fruit from Chaya. Turns, looks outside the LOG LINE and smiles.

TITUS

Thank you.

SENSEI observes the look of Titus, then to Jochi who struggles with his log.

SENSEI ALDON

They still contain capacity within their base.

Chaya looks at Chavi, as they both walk off. Giggle. Jochi catches up and drops his log.

SENSEI ALDON (CONT'D)

If we can not run it out of them,
then we shall beat it out of them.
Form! You want pussy, then it is
pussy you shall receive.

Yellow group sets their logs in combat formation, then look to Jochi.

Jochi arrives, then is chosen.

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. DAY

The AQUILONIAN PALACE stands in front of a BEAUTIFUL LAKE. Back of the palace is wrapped around the front of the LAKE. Both ends of the palace are sealed in with MAJESTIC CASCADE CLIFFS on EACH SIDE. Path leads around the back left end along the cliff. In front of the Palace lies a small forest (THE GARDEN), which harvests ONE-THOUSAND METERS in front of the Palace. Between the garden and the palace is One-Thousand meters of lush green field. Slight downward slope towards the forest. To the far right is HILL into a ORCHARD that leads up to a second path up the right cliff. HIGH OVERLOOK into the DISTANCE.

PROSPERO, 36, stands at the regent's tower, and sees Conan arrive, then turns and walks with his guards.

PROSPERO

The King has returned!

Conan looks up to the palace (Lookout) balcony. Hair drifts with the wind.

AKIRO (V.O.)

The cool breeze of autumn had directed him back to the Aquilonian Palace. Back to her Atlantean heart. He could sense her presents. Piously unique, and the descendent of a great Conqueror.

Conan dismounts.

EXT. AQUILONIAN PALACE LOOKOUT. DAY

QUEEN ZENOBIA, 52, a tall Atlantean blue eyed, brown haired, light brown skinned woman of ancient extraordinary beauty. Stands at the lookout. Wind blows hair. Eager love. Looks out to the fields.

ZENOBIA

What in this life are you most grateful for, my King?

Conan peaks around the corner. Zenobia looks to the beautiful Aquilonian landscape from the lookout. Blue eyes shine and absorb the sunlight. Conan closes in.

CONAN
A family, a kingdom.

Conan wraps his arms around Zenobia.

CONAN (CONT'D)
And the strength that protects it.

ZENOBIA
Nothing feels as secure, as the
arms of a Cimmerian.

Zenobia pushes her spirit back into the embracing heart of
Conan, then settles.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)
Why did you leave?

CONAN
Cimmeria and Aquilonia are now
one....An unsettled question.

Zenobia turns to Conan.

ZENOBIA
Men and their quests. As a
Cimmerian you must quest for this
Riddle, but as a King, look at the
fullness in your heart. If a man
has given everything for his
family, and kingdom. Would it be
enough for his god to come visit?

Kiss.

INT. WAR MASTER'S CAMP - DOJO - DAY

Yaun sits with Master Qin and four other trainees on a
tatami.

MASTER QIN (O.S.)
What matters most upon the strike?

YAUN
The motive upon the rendition,
Master?

MASTER QIN
Darkness will never arrive when it
is convenient. It is time to
prepare you. Swords.

Han and Chi come and take their wooden katana's away and deliver them sharpened swords. Yaun looks to the other four with confidence.

INT. KHATALAN'S CHAMBER. DAY

Subotai walks to Khatalan's chamber with a smile. Settles. Knocks. Enters.

SUBUTAI
My son sends his love.

Subotai hands the sword to Khatalan.

SUBUTAI (CONT'D)
Two more winters, honor, then
union.

KHATALAN
Thank you, Master Subotai. My heart
awaits his embrace.

Subotai exits.

EXT. THE CHAPEL. DAY

Trocero enters a large open garden with CENTER mantle. Garden full of greenery some half brown. Trocero walks, turns and sighs A deck leads to an overlook to the left side of the fields.

Trocero stops to tend to a wilted plant, then walks to the overlook.

TROCERO
I pray this garden pleases you.

Winds gently sway the small forest, that lies one thousand meters in front of the great palace. The forest dances with the beauty of the light.

The sun blesses the Aquilonian Palace.

INT. ROYAL CHAMBER. NIGHT

Zenobia lays her head on Conan's bare chest.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 Wizards, there were no need
 anymore, for Conan and Zenobia
 conjured two sons with their love,
 and tenured a kingdom unrivaled....

The crown lays on the rest. Conan closes eyes. Settled.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 but their blessing had spilled over
 too far....

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS. BLACK KINGDOM FOREST. NIGHT

Cross Caverns shine under the fall hunters moonlight.

One thousand meters from the corners of the cross caverns,
 tunnels begin to light up across a two thousand meter span.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 Maybe the god had become jealous,
 or my Lord's sword had lied dormant
 for too long.

Pine sways in the dark forest. Winds whisper in a dark, yet
 unclear manner. Whispers conjoin with the winds, then split
 off to convey an evil direction.

SET (V.O.)
 (Pestilence)
 Go.

Wind picks up. Pine sways. Winds settle. Silence. Large
 shadow walks by.

EXT. ZAMORA PALACE. GATES. DAY

Zenobia rides a white GALA HORSE. Conan rides a large brown
 CLYDESDALE.

A tall, strong blond haired man with grey streaks, rides with
 authority. ELRIC, 59, Lord of Melnibone, arrives with his
 expedition and banner. Motions expedition to Zamora. Takes
 dragon helmet off.

CONAN
 Elric.

ELRIC
 King Conan, it is good to see you.
 Queen Zenobia.

Both grab forearm to forearm.

CONAN

What news have you heard, old friend?

ELRIC

The seal reports of a sentinel presents across the Hyborian col. Massacred villages along the rim. A collective effort I assure you. Come, let us resolve this matter. King Osric bless your being. How is my daughter?

Zenobia and Elric ride together.

ZENOBIA (O.S.)

We shall you see you this solstice? Will you be attending our feast?

Conan turns to the winds from the pass. Dark antagonistic whisper in the wind.

ELRIC (O.S.)

Yes, Conan?

Conan focused on pass.

ZENOBIA

Conan?

Zenobia and Elric sit on horse.

Conan pulls horse lead. Rides to Zamora. Zenobia follows. Worried.

Elric looks to Pass. Turns lead, then Follows.

FADE TO:

INT. ZAMORA. KINGS DINNER HALL. NIGHT

ALL KINGS of HYBORIA are gathered at the Zamorian Grand Table. Long tables on each side are full.

KING AXYIELD

Three, Three villages within my borders have not delivered tax. I sent an expedition last spring, and it has yet to return. All that return are rumors of ancient demons.

KING KORZETTA

What if this rumor has truth? A
Horde conjured by darkness?

KING AXYIELD

And has pushed over the pass and
into Hyboria? Staging to fulfill an
evil prophecy.

ELRIC

It is likely a warring tribe
seeking lust or war.

KING KORZETTA

This circulation of fear has
created displacement. Our subjects
are abandoning their obligations.
We are limited due to lack of
contribution. Zingara has a limited
capacity under arms.

KING AXYIELD

The Hyborian mountain rim is vast.
How could one spare trained men for
a rumor?

KING OSRIC

Many years ago it was rumors of
snakes, until they came glissading
into my kingdom. I will have my
cavalry assist upon the outlining
pass.

CONAN

I will send men into the region of
concern tend to this matter in the
spring when the pass clears.

KING OSRIC

We must take caution for it is
hysteria that borns rumor over
fires, and fear is not a king's
concern, truth is.

KULAN GATH

And what if the Horde is truth?

ZENOBIA

Then we will deal with it.

PRINCE CALIG

Is the Citadel secure? Can your son
protect the south from what threat
may lie beyond.

ZENOBIA

My son and his Citadel are more than capable of any defense that may be required.

PRINCE CALIG

His strength may not be enough.

CONAN

He is Cimmerian, Prince.

ZENOBIA

That is enough.

KULAN GATH

Prey that it is. The pass will open up this spring and, I do hope hell does not follow, Aquilonian Queen.

INT. ZAMORA KINGS THRONE CHAMBER. NIGHT

Osric sits on his throne stricken with a dark mystery. Gazes in concern. Conan appears. Osric catches Conan from his right eye.

Conan sits at his mantle.

CONAN

Have we done enough? I have flourished these lands with strength. I have honored my life, yet I feel the seasons and strength do not agree. I may not have the time to answer. If it is real and they have returned, why now.

KING OSRIC

Show me the sword.

Conan hands the sword to Osric.

KING OSRIC (CONT'D)

The Wyrd upon the fuller tells a story. A divide in an ancient land. When two could not be one and sword was drawn. Lonely King under the willow, what fate whispers in these troubled winds? Can thee answer once more?

Osric hands the sword back to Conan.

CONAN

Have they returned? What do you know of Set?

KING OSRIC

Doom was all I knew. There are many stories told about this god of the underworld, but all origins come from across those mountains. You killed the last of them, so it was foretold. You and this sword share this fate. A fate as old as the sword itself. Do you believe in fate, Conan?

CONAN

No. Not in this life.

KING OSRIC

It is difficult to understand your meaning.

CONAN

When the sword is relieved from my hand, then the fate shall belong to me.

EXT. CITEDAL. DAY

Zane mounts his horse.

Valen kisses Myia, and children. Myia hands bow, and arrow to Valen. Valen tucks the arrows in the saddle. Wraps bow around torso. Mounts horse.

GENERAL PICTON, 46, walks to the edge of the platform.

Zane rides past the platform. Stops horse.

ZANE

Add fifty pounds of meat tomorrow. We will work it off of them, when we return.

GENERAL PICTON

Yes, Prince.

Group rides off together.

GENERAL PICTON(CONT'D)

Fifty pounds!

Sensei Aldon notices Blue group smile as they carry logs.

SENSEI ALDON (O.S.)
Do not worry, men. You will not
notice a thing.

Valen rides up beside Zane. Chu and Zhao follow.

VALEN
I look forward to heading home this
spring. I shall return to the Royal
Guard.

CHU
Back to the Aquilonian Palace?

VALEN
Yes, when I was young, my father's
counsel was met with hesitation,
now it comforts. I look forward to
it.

ZHAO (O.S.)
It is said "The strength of the
kingdom derives from the integrity
of the home".

Zane looks to the fields.

Oona wipes the sweat off her brow, then turns and smiles.
Returns to work.

Children follow the horses to the edge of the field. Qi falls
in. Brushes off the children. Horses pick up. Ride off into
the green forest.

EXT. AQUILONIAN BADLANDS. DAY

Conan rides in front of Zenobia. Royal escort is in front.
Gains distance.

Conan notices his wife begin to fall back.

Zenobia stops.

Conan notices, then turns around.

Opposite ends. Hyborian Mountain backdrop.

ZENOBIA
Will I see my son this solstice?

CONAN
Yes, and with promising news.

ZENOBIA
Conan?

Conan's horse moves closer to Zenobia.

CONAN
The counsel's mood concerns you?

ZENOBIA
I have not seen our son since the birth of our granddaughter. The halls need more life.

CONAN
If it lessens your worry, next season, I will send Conn to tend to the Citadel and bring Zane back to the palace.

ZENOBIA
Is he ready?

CONAN
Why do you cradle our son?

ZENOBIA
Conn took longer to nurture. Zane found love early, and so maturity came in short time. I worry.

CONAN
Conn lacks what we cannot give him. There is one who can. Be patient.

Zenobia moves her horse closer to Conan. Smiles, as she leans ACROSS to kiss her Conan. Kiss.

ZENOBIA
I am settled.

Conan turns, then rides off.

CONAN
I am not. She is Oona's cousin.

Expedition rides to Aquilonia. Zenobia rides with relief.

EXT. AQUILONIAN RIM. DEAD FOREST. DAY

Zane stands at the campfire. Chu prepares his saddle. Zhao and Valen return.

VALEN

There is no life in this forest.
The Deer have been spooked deep
into the col.

ZHAO

Listen, do you hear that. The
birds. They is a warn the forest.

ZANE

We need food for the winter. We
cannot go home empty.

ZHAO

There is something out there.
Something unnatural.

VALEN

I believe there are two problems in
question, and we need to answer
them both.

ZANE

Let us go and find out

Zane snaps the lead and .

EXT. CITADEL TRAINING AREA - SUNSET

Jochi and seven trainees are taking a break. They sit on
their logs eating dried meat. Jochi rubs his sore jaw.

JOCHI

This meat is hard.

BAHN, 27, hands Jochi water.

TRAINEE BAHN

You will get used to it.

JOCHI

The first strike I took, I heard
Khatalan call.

TRAINEE BAHN

What did she say?

JOCHI

Come home.

They laugh, as the horn brings Sensei to the attention of a
winter storm in the distance.

Villagers rush for cover, as trainers lead men to the halls.
Sensei walks to the gates to see a winter storm approach.

SENSEI

She is here.

EXT. HYBORIAN MOUNTAIN. BLACK KINGDOM FOREST. DAY

Frozen mist roles down the mountain ridgeline.

Great Hyborian Mountain pass is covered with a frozen white cap.

Yellow and red leaves lie still within the frozen forest.

Deer settles in the forest. Looks up.

Zane stalks with bow. Frozen breath settles, as he pulls back bow.

Deer turns head slightly.

Valen releases an arrow. Hits the deer, middle neck.

Zhao approaches deer.

Valen pulls skinner and begins to gut and clean the meat.

ZHAO

Three more and the Citedal should
be enough meat through the winter
trials.

Zane arrives with Chu.

ZANE

Some are too big for the hunt. We
will cut their rations to trim them
this spring. They will fend for
themselves during the summer
stalking rotation.

CHU

Will you miss it?

ZANE

Early morning screams for mother,
by foolishly brave men.

VALEN

The Palace. More children to play
in the court yard, while the fields
of hops harvest in my gut.

ZANE & VALEN

No.

CHU

This is the life of an Aquilonian.

Chu watches. Content.

Valen skins deer around the fire.

EXT. HYBORIAN MOUNTAIN. CAMP. DAY

Zane cleans his blade. Hands Qi the bloody pot.

Qi takes the bloody pot to the river bed. Qi smells the wind.
Looks over the ridge. Looks to the river. Great concern.

Zane and Valen pack meat on horses.

Zhao lifts head. Concern.

Qi returns from the riverbed.

CHU

What is it, cousin?

ZANE

Qi, what is it?

QI

Come.

Group follows Qi to the river bed, and points to the
mutilated bodies down the river.

Qi looks to the smoke two ridges away, as eyes follow.

Village burns, with a smaller fire upon settled in a valley
higher up the ridgeline.

EXT. RIDGLINE. NIGHT

Group packs up and arms themselves. Valen Sharpens AX. Focus.

VALEN

There is a village right over the ridge line. Looks to have come in that direction.

Valen shows his concern. Presses stone away.

ZANE

Tonight we will slip up to the village. Down wind. It was fortified.

CHU

We should use the fog. Their numbers are unknown to us. There could be eyes everywhere.

ZANE

We will burry our things and cover our prints.

CHU

Follow me. I will lead.

Head to the ridge line.

EXT. VILLAGE. NIGHT

Village burns.

Zane comes upon a child's body, that lies halfway in hut. Kneels and puts his hand on child's shoulder.

Ahead at the end stands Chu. Looks up. Men fall in behind Chu.

CHU

Up there.

Fire and distant screams come from the next valley over the cliff.

EXT. HYBORIAN MOUNTAINS. NIGHT

Fog wipes the ridge. Layers of mist staggered across the ridge-line. Four black silhouettes ascend up the ridge. Lighted campfire from inside shallow valley. Haunting shadows wiggle upside down along the pine. Screams of women in the distance.

Chu crimps his fingers in a covet, along the edge. Leaps from one rock to the main boulder. Three follow.

Chu reaches top. Slides his eyes over the ridge. Zane slides eyes over. Eyes widen.

The valley below is lit up by fire that burns in the center.

THREE WOMEN tied upside down on the outside by a branch. Hands and arms tied together. Center woman HANGS LOWER than the two on each side. Feet hang tied from a pole. Pieces of flesh peeled from their thighs. Center moves. Two on the outside dangle. Limp.

FOUR Demon like Shi Renzu sit around the fire. Pull flesh from hot rock. Tangles from thumb and blade. Eat peeled human flesh.

WOMAN, tied in the middle, eyes slowly open to footsteps. Shadow approaches.

SHI RENZU I slits a whole on the open abdomen of the woman, and reaches in with his hand. Women screams, as slides his hand under the rib. Woman's abdomen bulges, then pulls his hand out from under her rib cage and plucks. Hemorrhages blood from her wound down and her breast.

Walks back to fire.

Ghostly sentry crawls up beside the woman and sniffs her fear. Bloodied woman agonizingly turns her head, goes limp and dies.

Ghostly sentry CRAWLS down the tree, upside down. Turns head.

Chu motions to hide.

Men duck into the shadows on the cliff.

Ghostly sentry comes down and looks around, leaps off the tree and into the mist. Mist streaks, fades.

Ghostly sentries are on the other side of the valley.

Chu motions the group. Group split up and come down around the camp.

Valen comes opposite. Blends with the thick fog. Valen closes in on his target. Head ducks.

Chu and Zane have their targets on the first and left seat. Chu Slides directly behind the left seat of the a Shi Renzu.

Qi sits on the top of the ridge, draws his bow upon the final target. Pulls back slowly.

Valen slides through the fog with ax in hand. Shifts with the wind, as it throws the fog right to left. Right eye and ax through the fog. Ax shines through a gap in the fog.

Shi Renzu IV sits. Chin up. Swift slash. Chu slices across the neck without seeing the blade. Neck opens up and blood begins to pour.

Zane slides his blade under the chin of the closest Shi RENZU III. Thrust blade up. Eye to eye, until the Shi Renzu lies dead.

Valen raises his ax and comes down. Valen splits the Shi Renzu II in half.

Shi Renzu I, stands and receives an arrow in the left eye from Qi. Through the back of the head.

Qi pulls another arrow, and scans the arrow to any more possible oncoming threats.

Ghostly mist stops.

Qi settles and moves towards the camp.

Zhao rushes to the fire. Turns and walks to the three Women.

All gather at the fire. Dump bodies in the fire. Valen drags the last body and throws it into the fire.

Zhao cuts the victims down. Dead.

ZANE

So, this rumor has truth.

QI

It is real.

ZANE

We must return. I must seek counsel from my father.

Qi snatches the head pendent off one of the neck of the Shi Renzu. Valen spits on the dead.

EXT. CITADEL. DAY

Hunting Party returns to the Citadel. Zhao rides to War Scouts camp. Qi sets a defense around the eastern perimeter. Oona is in the fields. Turns. Confused.

Arteria runs from across the Citadel. Arteria is intercepted by Oona.

VALEN

Stable boy.

Stable boy enters the stable.

VALEN (CONT'D)

We will leave for the palace at first light.

Valen turns to the Stable boys.

VALEN (CONT'D)

Water and feed the horses.

Zane walks out of the stable.

ZANE

Do not tell anyone. My mother, need not here of these things. This may be just another warring tribe.

QI

That eats the flesh of man? I will double the guard, and send War Scouts to sentry.

Valen takes the game to the smoke shed.

CHU

Prepare the War Scouts. After we return, we will depart, as soon possible.

QI

Shi.

ZANE

Tell the men to prepare quietly. We need not alarm the village.

Chu returns from the War Scouts staging area.

OONA

You are early.

Zane turns and grabs Qi. Walks away.

ZANE

Rotate shifts day and night, until our return.

Qi and Zhao gather the War Scouts Captains. Qi directs the War Scouts's attention to the wood-line.

OONA (O.S.)

Love?

Zane walks, stops and turns around. Oona shows worry. Sense slight panic.

OONA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

ZANE

Arteria, come.

Zane takes Arteria in his arms and walks to his quarters. Oona follows and stops to see the War Scouts set a perimeter. Zhao looks to Oona.

ZHAO

Banchu. (Move out)

Zhao leads Four War Scouts on horse into the wood-line. Zane carries Arteria.

ARTERIA

Jun took us to the pond.

OONA

Why a perimeter? Zane, stop.

Zane stops and turns.

ZANE

We are leaving for mother's at dawn. I need father's counsel.

Oona looks back to the Hyborian Mountains.

Jun looks to the pass, with concern.

EXT. VALLEY BELOW THE RIDGELINE. NIGHT

Shi Renzu pulls an arrow from Shi Renzu body. Sniffs arrow, and looks to hunter's moon, then into the direction of Aquilonia.

EXT. AQUILONIAN HILL. DAY

Zane rides with concern, as Oona rides a horse with Arteria.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Zane's heart could not except this
bile lust for flesh, for it had
branded a vile consequence deep
inside him. Years with no hostility
had delivered more hope, than
reason.

Oona comes upon a peak of the canyon, and turns to the pass,
then rides forward. Aquilonian Castle in the distance.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Snakes had not been vanquished from
the Earth.

Expidition rides to palace.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROBERT E. HOWARD'S ROOM. NIGHT

Robert slides paper into the Underwood Typewriter, then
pauses.

ROBERT E. HOWARD

Why so forgotten.

AKIRO (O.S.)

Why they returned is as ancient as
the fault itself. Who knows, there
is always deception hidden below
earth and reason, Chronicler.

FADE TO:

INT. AQUILONIA. PALACE HALL. NIGHT

Oona walks in the palace with Arteria in her arms.

AKIRO (V.O.)

A great burden both hearts would
soon bare.

Oona releases Arteria. Arteria runs to Zenobia.

OONA

Mother, your Atlantean Grace. Where
you expecting us?

ZENOBIA

(Expected worry)
This is an early blessing. Son?

Zenobia notices a concerned Zane. Approaches to embrace his mother.

ZANE
Where is father?

ZENOBIA
In the Chamber. Zane.

Zane leads men to the Chamber.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)
Come my dear, these walls are
thickened with austere men.

Zenobia and Oona head to the MAIDS CHAMBER. Zane leads to the CHAMBER OF COUNSEL. Looks back at Zenobia. Concern.

EXT. CITADEL - EASTERN PERIMETER - NIGHT

Qi stands with his War Scouts at the eastern perimeter.

WAR SCOUTS CAPTAIN
We have secured the eastern
perimeter. My War Scouts will
rotate soon.

QI
The next rotation will set traps
along the perimeter. High and low.

Qi is concentrated out upon the direction of the Hyborian Pass.

WAR SCOUTS CAPTAIN
Yes, Master Qi.

INT. KINGS CHAMBER OF COUNSEL. NIGHT

Men are gathered in the War Chamber.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
How many?

CHU
The entire village?

VALEN
They left no living.

ZANE

I have doubled the guard and have sent War Scouts to secure the border.

CONN

Is this an army, or bandits?

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

I do advise that we take precaution, until we know for certain the existence of this horde, and how large of a threat they may be. If this rumor does have truth, then we will have the army ready by thaw, my King.

Pallantides looks to Conan. Duel concern.

Zane hands Subotai the SET PENDENT. Conan recognizes this pendent.

SUBOTAI

We have seen this before. Bandits do not bare the markings of this dark affiliation. Doom.

CONAN

Set.

Subotai hands the pendent to Conan.

INT. ZENOBIA'S ROYAL MAIDS CHAMBER. NIGHT

Zenobia sits across from Oona. There is a slight second of silence. Arteria sits on Zenobia's lap. Zenobia lets Arteria go. Arteria runs to the maid to play. Exits.

Zenobia stands and takes a small chest off the mantle. She walks over to Oona and hands her the chest.

ZENOBIA

So?

OONA

So?

ZENOBIA

I am Atlantean, Princess. I can see right into the womb.

Zenobia walks across from Oona and sits. Oona opens the chest. It is an infants toy.

Markings on the toy are the Atlantean Prayer.

OONA

My queen, please do not bring this upon the ears of Zane. I wish to tell him myself, and in good time.

ZENOBIA

We can expect a girl? Atlantean women had men, and they always went to war. I will be delighted to hear another child's laughter through out the halls.

OONA

It is hard being the last of your bloodline?

ZENOBIA

It was after, well, until I met your king. I would hope my son to meet a woman.

OONA

He has, yet he is so wild and feral.

ZENOBIA

It will come. Growing up my sons were so feral, and hard to tame, yet when you do.

OONA (V.O.)

They are so beautiful.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. DINNER HALL. NIGHT

Meat upon the grand table sets the mood for a family homecoming.

Zenobia looks to Oona and tries to entice her to release the news of her pregnancy.

Oona nods her off.

Arteria climbs on to Conan's lap. Conan lifts his granddaughter and hands her to Elric.

Conn smiles, yet only to notice the woman he loves does not sit with him during this precious hour.

Zenobia observes the pulse of her family.

Zane shows distance.

Oona sits beside her father Elric. Oona tries to break Zane's concern. Arteria climbs over on Oona's lap. Takes her attention away from Zane.

Zenobia looks at her sons, then to Conan.

Zane spills fear, and distance from the table.

FADE TO:

EXT. CITADEL COURTYARD. NIGHT

Aelia walks in the courtyard.

AKIRO (V.O.)

The War Scouts had rotated day and night, yet no signs of malice could be found, only worry.

CHAVI (O.S.)

Why do they scurry?

Aelia turns to see Chavi and Chaya, who watch the War Scouts with concern.

AELIA

It is a precaution.

CHAYA

Our father speaks of a menace upon the pass.

CHAVI

We have been directed to stay within the fringe.

Aelia, Chavi and Chaya look on the vigilant action of the War Scouts.

War Scouts Team one ride in.

AELIA

It would be wise to listen to family, until further revelation. Come, I have peach porridge. It is still warm.

CHAYA

My sister has found a new admirer.

Team One brief Team two on Horse.

War Scouts agree, shake, then Scouts Team two rides into forest.

AELIA

This admirer would not bare blue on his chest, would he?

Women walk to the hut.

CHAYA

Forbidden.

CHAVI

A friend, to be assigned to the kings Hall. We have been groomed since child hood.

AELIA

For?

Ladies inter hut.

CHAYA

(Sarcasm)
Porridge.

Pine trees Sways.

EXT. AQUILONIA GATES. DAY

Conn watches his brother and Oona stage for departure.

Zane stops in front of Conan. Royal Aquilonian Captain and Fifty Royal Guards on horse ride past staged expedition.

CONAN

A precaution.

ZANE

Father.

Expedition rides off.

Zane looks over to Oona. Comfort.

Zenobia watches from the Lookout.

WIPE LEFT:

INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. YARD. SAME

Conan and Zenobia walk to the gates. Conan turns to incoming horses, as Zenobia enters with maidens.

Aquilonian General SUH, 36, a large Warrior from the heart of Zimbabwe rides to the gate and dismounts, followed by Aquilonian Captains.

SUH

We have secured the right and left flank of Aquilonia, my King.

Conan nods with satisfaction.

Suh bows, and turns then slowly turns again.

SUH (CONT'D)

Has there been any news of my mother, My King?

Conan shakes his head no with regret.

Suh mounts his horse.

Conan looks back at the distant pass, and the chaotic movement of the forest.

EXT. CITADEL HORSE STABLES. DAY

Zane walks to horse stables. Chu and the War Scouts pack equipment on the horses.

ZANE

Tomorrow, my men and I will accompany you out along the border.

CHU

There will be no need, Prince. We leave now.

EXT. TRAINING - LOG OCTAGON - DAY

Jochi struggles to take away a trainees hand. Herdoc slides in the rear naked choke.

SENSAI PROELIA

Kill him.

Jochi begins to panic, squeals, calms down. Pulls trainees hand from neck. Turns over into trainees guard, and takes his back, then applies the rear naked choke. Trainee taps.

SENSEAI PROELIA

There is only one direction in
combat. It is not in the earth. You
survive today, Hyrkanian.

Jochi stands to see Zane, who watches.

Zane walks to the rock next to the pond.

Oona puts the full basket next to the tree. Oona walks to
Zane. Zane sits on the open rock in the fields. Studies his
sword with concern. Oona approaches. Sits beside Zane.

ZANE

My father had this engraved, yet
from these eyes I bare no
understanding. Oona, I propose
Arteria and you escort the women
and children to the palace. Mother
could use the concourse. I will
request for you upon the scout's
return, baring favorable news from
the pass.

OONA

What is it that occurred on the
hunt? I see blood in your eyes.
Tell me, Love.

ZANE

An explanation I could not deliver,
for I have no explanation for
myself.

OONA

Look! What did you see?

Directs Zane's chin to the Citedal. War Scouts rotate.
Village. Fear.

ZANE

I do not know.

OONA

Myia tells me of her husband's
quiet anger that keeps him up in
the night. You will deliver this
news to your wife.

ZANE

A manifestation from hell? How can
such exist? If the horde is real?
Is this enough? Are we enough?

Zane looks to Arteria with worry.

OONA

Tend to your responsibilities, and
the rest shall follow. By our own
hands, this Citadel has been the
staple of peace since our union,
and if it is darkness that comes.

Oona pulls his chin to look him in the eyes.

OONA (CONT'D)

Then this darkness we shall face
together.

Oona pulls the CHEST out of her pouch and hands it to Zane.
Oona pounds her forehead to Zane.

OONA (CONT'D)

May the line be unbroken.

ZANE

What?

OONA

The sword, Cimmerian. It is an
Atlantean Prayer. Men, so quick to
swing the blade, yet too stubborn
to know why.

Zane puts his sword away.

ZANE

I love you.

Zane opens the chest and smiles.

OONA

I am bearing.

Zane looks to the Atlantean prayer on the toy. Arteria
arrives. Arteria jumps on her father's lap.

Zane, Arteria and Oona look to the beautiful sun that shines
through the clouds.

INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. KING'S CHAMBER. NIGHT

Conan sits in his throne, as captain bows and exits with his
men. Generals stand around the base.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

When the War Scouts return, I will
ready the army.

(MORE)

GENERAL PALLANTIDES (CONT'D)

If the news of this has truth, we
march to the pass, to war, my King.

CONAN

What do you know of this legend,
Counsel?

TROCERO

A Army conquered the south beyond
the pass many ages ago, in an
ancient land called Valusia, yet
never strong enough to push into
Hyboria.

Trocero walks to the torch on the wall.

Zenobia enters chamber. Notices pendent in General Yyrkoon's
hand. Zenobia extends hand.

Yyrkoon bows and steps forward. Hands pendent to Zenobia.

ZENOBIA

And now rumors have emerged of an
ancient ruin, led by a lord who
conjured a deal with Set to expand
his vile covenant from the IBIS.
Are they here? Our son and
daughter, sleep only one moon's
ride from the pass? Are they here?

Zenobia studies the Set pendent. Reemerging fear. Hands
pendent to Pallantides.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

My Queen, there is no certainty
upon the strength of this horde, or
just Set savages who hold to an
ancient order. We need more
clarity. When the War Scouts
return, then we can asses the
effort needed to handle this
fulmination with due diligence.

ZENOBIA

Clarity?

Elric allows General Yyrkoon to step forward.

GENERAL YYRKOON

No army has ever crossed the
Hyborian pass and conquered these
lands. With winter setting in, the
weather makes the pass untrodden,
your Grace.

CONAN

Impossible. You need not worry,
Zenobia.

ZENOBIA

I need not hear the impossible.
Mine is to bare the thought of our
son's exposure to this devil horde.

CONN

Mother, father has sent more than
enough to protect Zane.

ELRIC

I will continue to safeguard the
rim with all my resources. My men
shall stay vigilant, until your
worriment subsides. You have my
word, Queen Zenobia. King Conan.
Prince.

Elric nods and exits. General's YRKOON, 47, and ROCKHIR, 51,
follow.

SUBOTAI

Their leader. What do they call
this lord?

Trocero gazes into the torch fire. Concern.

TROCERO

Set never named its son.

CONAN

Counsel, his name.

Trocero turns to Conan.

TROCERO (O.S.)

I am sorry, I have no name to give.
The damned bare no title, only
abomination, my King.

Torch on the wall burns.

INT. ZAMORIAN KING'S CHAMBER. NIGHT

King Osric's sits on his throne with eyes are pitched upon
the torches on the walls.

SET (O.S.)

(Pestilence)
They are coming.

Pestilence stops.

KING OSRIC

What are you? Who are you? Why have you returned?

GENERAL POULIS (O.S.)

The War Scouts have returned, my Lord.

General POULIS, 55, stands at the base.

GENERAL POULIS (CONT'D)

There are no signs of sentry, My King.

KING OSRIC

Double the rotations. Stay Vigilant.

Osric. Angry.

INT. CAVE. THRONE OF SET. NIGHT

Torch on the cave wall burns. Fingers tap the King crowned skulls, upon throne armrest. Muscular face is pale. Torch fire reflects into right eye. Black pupil with red ring.

THRONE OF SET: Impaled woman peeled and draped across the back of the throne. Her hands extended out. Looking up. Mouth open. Horns lay the backrest. Tusks expanding from each end of the back rest wrap around to the temple of the head rest.

Emperor's crown and skull attached to his spine make the throne backrest, which is rooted into the earth.

INT. PRINCE ZANE'S CHAMBER. SAME

Zane awakens with his body covered with sweat. He looks around the chamber, then to the precious sight of Oona and Arteria, who cuddle. Brushes Arteria's hair back. Arteria cuddles and squeezes Oona's finger.

Zane stands up slowly not to awaken Oona and walks to the Balcony overlook of the Citadel.

EXT. HYBORIAN BASE. CROSS CAVERNS. HYBORIAN MOUNTAINS. NIGHT

Chu and Zhao ride upon the base of the mountain pass. They see smoke from the caves.

ZHAO

Brother, I will take cousin with me
below. You cover from above.

Chu leads his men to the high ground, while Zhao slips into the ventilation cave. Zhao and Qi smell rotten flesh at the edge of the caverns.

QI

What is that smell?

Zhao looks to Qi with serious eyes.

ZHAO

Remember the village, cousin?

Zhao turns to his men.

CHU

Do not be discovered.

WAR SCOUTS

Gui'.

Group enters the Cave.

INT. PALACE HALLS. DAY

Zenobia walks beside Prospero.

EXT. CITADEL. DAY

War Scouts and the children play in the fields with a goat bladder. Horn under the sunset. Jochi helps his defeated opponent off the ground.

EXT. VALUSIA. POPPY FIELDS OF RUE. NIGHT

Qi and Zhao come upon the open on the side of ancient Valusia.

VALUSIA: Blue sea of Poppy fields lead back to ancient set towers in the distance. Major cave entrance below with campfires lined up across the outlining poppy fields. Twenty-thousand Shí rénzú camped around the fields.

Fields of poppy with slave drivers. Whip slaves. Thousands of slaves labor in an organized pain. Qi turns to Zhao.

YAN

Shí rénzú.

ZHAO

We must hurry back with news of
this. War is to come.

Men slide back.

EXT. FIELDS OF RUE. CAMP. SAME

ZULA, 71, lies on a small mat in a crowded slave camp. She looks up to the Hyborian Pass in the distance for a forgotten hope.

ZELA (O.S.)

Papa! Papa!

PAPA, 74, does not stand upon the request of the foreman. Foreman pushes ZELA, 24 away and draws sword. Zela screams and tries to intervene.

Foreman pushes her away. WOMAN, 54, grabs Zela, while she screams.

Foreman drives sword into Papa's chest.

Zula fights to stand, and work.

INT. CAVES. NIGHT

Chu and Zhao, as the war horn blows.

War Scouts run across path below, as they engage with Shi Renzu.

War scout runs into dark cavern. CAVE BATS fire from cavern.

Shi Renzu blinks. Sends black and white flash, ~Eye of Set~.

Shi Renzu shifts head right up to caves. Ghostly sentry crawls into a cavern from.

Curiosity. War horn blows thunderously throughout the fields and inside the mountain. Alarms the Horde.

Zhao and his men rush back through the caves. They run into Chu in Chi at the cross cavern. War Scouts head for the horses. Zhao stops and stands center at the corridor. Chu stops and turns. Confused.

CHU
Zhao, hurry?

ZHAO
Get to The Citadel and warn the
prince.

Zhao hands his sash to Chu.

CHU
Brother?

ZHAO
Warn them. Save them. Go!

Zhao stands and draws his sword.

Chu rushes to the horses, then looks back. Rides with
purpose.

Zhao takes his sword. Lures the men into a corridor. Zhao's
shadow strikes a man down. Man shadow comes from behind.
Spear strikes Zhao's shadow through and through.

EXT. IN ROUTE TO THE CITADEL. DAY

Chu and his War Scouts ride fast into the wind.

One thousand Shi Renzu calvary close in on the tired War
Scouts horses.

Chu looks to Qi and nods.

Qi and ten War Scouts split off in the direction of the War
Master's Village. Chu and his War Scouts ride hard to the
Citadel.

EXT. WAR MASTER'S VILLAGE. DAY

Master Qin sits at his table with tea. Trouble in the wind
persuades Qin to stand slowly.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PLAINS. DAY

Qi and the ten War Scouts ride hard.

Shi Renzu close in on Qi's horse. Ten War Scouts turn to
fight. Qi rides hard.

Forty Shi Renzu Warriors on horse close in fast.

Qi comes upon a hill. His horse collapses. Qi runs to the top of the hill, turns draws his sword and prepares for one last stand.

Shi Renzu cavalry close in.

Qi feels the wind blow upon his back. Smiles. Five hundred War masters on horse leap over the hill and decimate the horde.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGELINE. NIGHT

Chu and company double back for rest, then head to the canyons. Chu and his one-hundred War Scouts rest on the high Hyrkanian peak. War Scouts are hidden above the mountain ridgeline.

Shi Reznu ride with torches at the bottom.

CHU

Slow.

Chu rides slowly down the back of the ridge into the valley. Shí rénzú have set up a hasty reactionary camp in the valley.

EXT. WAR MASTERS REGION. DAY

War Master walks up to Shi Renzu, as the Shi Renzu crawls. Spear through head.

War masters have killed all who followed Qi.

Qi stands before Qin.

MASTER QIN

Qi. My sons?

Qi lifts head.

QI

Chu rides to the Citadel to warn the Prince.

MASTER QIN

Zhao? Qi, Zhao?

Qi lowers his head in sadness. Master Qin grieves quietly.

Yan leads calvary with anger.

YAN
(Anger)
Form.

WAR SCOUTS
War!

Two thousand War horses form into battle formation. Stage for there journey to the Citadel.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGELINE. NIGHT

War Scouts reach the bottom to see four Shí rénzú, who scan for War Scouts. Sun breaks over the ridge-line. Sun shines on ridge-line.

Silhouettes on the ridge-line. Blows the horn. War Scouts ride at full speed.

Half of the Shi Renzu Cavalry ride in pursuit.

EXT. CITADEL. DAY

Citadel comes alive to conduct the activities of the morning. Dogs bark. Roosters call for activity. In the great distance, a storm of blood rises with the morning sun.

EXT. MILES FROM THE CITADEL. SAME

Chu leads the War Scouts. Sun and the Horde follow in full strength.

INT. CITEDAL CHAMBER. SAME

Sun begins to rise and the RED DUST from the horde creates a horrific PANORAMIC stalking view.

Zane walks out to the balcony to see red dust in the great distance. Oona slowly walks behind her husband to see the beautiful Hyborian landscape. Oona kisses Zane in the back of his neck. Wraps her arms around him.

Both show curiosity to the RED STORM that arrives in the distance.

INT. VALEN'S HUT. SAME

Valen and Myia eat breakfast. Valen sees the red storm that approaches from the mountains. Stands, walks out of hut. Vigilant curiosity.

Chavi rounds up the children. Play.

Blood storm turns her attention away from the children. A child runs out of place and into trouble. Chaya guides the children in a flock. Releases child. Looks to Red Dust.

Chaya walks beside Chavi with curiosity in what may come in the distance.

EXT. WHEAT FIELDS. SAME

Aelia throws seeds to the wheat fields, then looks to the distant storm.

EXT. POND. SAME

Jun looks back with great concern from the storm. Jun looks to the water that TREMBLES, then to the blood red storm on the horizon. Looks back to the Citadel. Dust follows Chu. Rides through gates.

Jun back peddles to the gate with concern.

EXT. CENTER CITADEL COURT. SAME

Royal Cadre GYLE comes under the balcony.

GYLE

Prince, the War Scouts have returned.

Zane walks down to the staging area. Notices Chu in the distance. Zane heads to the front gate to the Citadel. Chu arrives.

ZANE

What follows?

CHU

Hell.

Zane looks at the red storm that approaches in the distance. Zane turns to Oona. Smacks Chu's horse on the backside.

ZANE
Warn my father, go!

Citadel is in an organized panic. Chu rides to the opening of Zhao's hut. Wei looks to the scarf on Chu's neck. She begins to shake, yet reaches and holds the scarf momentarily.

WEI
Zhao?

Chu shakes his head no. Wei looks to the blood red dust and lets go of the scarf.

WEI (CONT'D)
Dengdài.

Wei runs into the hut and returns with Yu, Ya and her family sword. Chu mounts them on the horse with Chu.

WEI (CONT'D)
Zou!

Chu rides off. Wei takes her sword and stands ready to face the blood storm. War Scouts prepare for a right cavalry charge. Aelia directs Chaya and Chavi to stage the children. Chaya and Chavi lead the children.

Two wagons arrive for the children. HENDO, 56, coaches wagon I. CABLE, 43, coaches wagon II. Jun and four Shi Renzu ride up beside and begin to load all the children on the wagons. Oona and Aelia load Arteria and children on Hendo's Wagon. Children are loaded. O'ona slaps the back of Hendo's lead horse.

OONA
Go. Move.

Oona looks to her daughter as the wagon rides off.

War Scouts stage a LEFT FLANK and wait for Zane and Oona.

Trainers run to the armory to get weapons and guide the trainees. Confused Jochi, follows. Approaches armory. BRUHL, 36, hands a spear and sword to Jochi.

JOCHI
Where are we going?

BRUHL
Just do what they tell you, go!

Eight trainees arrive. Trainers line them up. ALDON, 47, stands with spear and sword in hand. Jahi follows with spear.

SENSEI ALDON

Follow Me.

Eight trainees follow Aldon to a defensive position outside the Citadel gates. Trainers set the defense formation. Jochi comes to the front of the defense formation.

One Thousand three-hundred Shi Renzu charge at full speed towards the Citadel.

JOCHI

No.

Valen and fifty men stage in front of the hut. Valen looks to Zane.

Oona and Zane make eye contact.

Oona squeals to Zane, as they both look back at the wagon of children in the distance.

Zane jumps off the top of the hut and heads right. Valen and his men follow.

Archers release arrows.

Shi Renzu Cavalry split off in four groups. Right heads toward Zane. Left rides towards the War Scouts. Dominant center head towards the center gates of the Citadel. Twenty ride in pursuit of the fleeing wagons.

Aqulionian Guards stand ready at the gate. Captain Doron stands center.

Arrows land center of Horde. Few horses and men collapse.

CAPTAIN DORON

Hold formation. Do not allow them
to break the gates. Ready.

Men shout, as spears raise.

Oona pulls her bow, and lines up with the right flank that rides in towards Zane. Releases. Arrow strikes the lead Cavalryman.

Zane and his men collide with the cavalry formation.

Valen leaps into the air with his large ax. Two Shi Renzu are ripped off their horses.

Zane cuts through, turns pulls his sword back and prepares for a second rush.

Jochi and the front formation hold off the first wave. The second wave crashes the front line.

Jochi engages a dismount Shi Renzu. Jochi is able to strike a dismount dead.

Zane and his men cut through the horde.

VALEN

Prince.

Valen motions to the Citadel.

Oona's accuracy gets the Horde's attention. One man throws a torch in the hut. Oona leaps off the hut, draws sword and begins her assault. Oona strikes down two men.

Citadel begins to become overrun by the Shi Renzu.

EXT. CHILDREN'S WAGON. SAME

Horde closes in.

Jun turns around to face the horde. Jun sacrifices his horse into three Hordemen. Horse tips end over end. Jun's head hits the ground. Blinded. Bloodied. Long Katana in hand. Left hand stands as a guard with the short Katana. Hears movement of men. Takes his short sword. Surround him. Jun grips his katanas. Blades face down. Horde approaches with sword. Attempts strike. Jun blocks. Comes underneath. Back cut by strike from Shi Renzu. Shi Renzu Heckle. Jun drives blade into the sound. Lures with back step Weakness. Sigh. Shi Renzu attack. Jun cuts first. Takes a knee. Drives Boshi up under the chin of second Shi Renzu. Third Shi Renzu delivers sword through the back. Blind. Tilts head. Grambies. Pulls sword from gut. Decapitates Shi Renzu. Looks forward. Drops face first. Horde Cavalry ride by.

Jochi is tackled by Shi Renzu. Fights off a Shi Renzu. Stands to see all those around him dying or dead. Three cavalry charge in Jochi's direction. Jochi screams. Charges Calvary.

Shi Renzu rides up on Hendo as he whips the lead. Long Arrows Strike Hendo from all sides. Hendo bleeds from the mouth, kneels FORWARD, and dies. Children scream as the horde approaches.

Shi Renzu Calvary close in. Cable tries to turn and lose them. Cable cuts a hard right and flips the wagon.

Large group of Shí rénzú surround Valen and take him to the ground. Valen is swallowed up by the group of Shí rénzú.

Oona fights off Onslaught of men, Yet is taken to her knees.

Zane fights towards O'ona.

Shi Renzu raises his blade to Oona's NECK.

Zane hesitates upon the sight of his wife's FATE.

Arrow hits Zane in the back THIGH. Continues to FIGHT to his wife.

Arrow hits Zane in back RIB.

Zane drops to his knees. Surrounded by the Shi Renzu.

Jochi thrust forward. Zane sees Jochi run to him. Jochi is struck in the back with a spear. Jochi fights for air as he looks for life.

POV: Drops to his knees. Gasps search for air. Falls to the ground. Horses ride past Jochi, as he lies in his own pool of blood, that pours from his mouth.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. CITADEL. DAY

Flames burst from the Prince's chamber. Citadel burns.

Wei lies dead. Sword in hand. Shi Renzu kicks sword. Shi Renzu execute the remaining survivors. Screams. Slice. Gargle.

Zane awakens dizzy upon his knees. Shakes his head. Looks up to his left.

Oona sits beaten on her knees. Bloody. Saddened.

Valen on knees with hands tied behind back.

Myia, Chavi, Chaya and Aelia taken away in chains.

Valen resists. Beaten. Weak. Bloody.

Zane looks to Oona. Plea. Screams of parents follow. Oona raises head.

Wagon rides between Zane and Oona. Arteria lies dead, with an arrow in her back. Children are piled in the wagon, dead. The wagon is paraded around the prisoners. Cries follow.

EXECUTIONER I, 35, approaches Valen. Valen looks to Myia. Executioner I comes from behind, and cuts Valen's throat. Myia begins to break down. Chaya and Chavi. Shock. Valen drops.

Zane tries to look Oona eye to eye.

Oona's stricken sadness on the wagon.

Arteria. Deep Sorrow. Shock.

Oona clutches Chest. Executioner I approaches.

Oona smiles with relief and shock, as she turns to Zane.

Chest in her hand loosens from her grip. Blade swings across her neck. Oona drops.

EXT. LOOKOUT. PALACE. SAME

Zenobia is stricken with a sad mystery upon the palace lookout.

ZANE (V.O.)
(slight panic)
Mother?

Forest sways in a tragic anticipation.

INT. THRONE CHAMBER. SAME

Conan sits on the throne with fist under chin, in deep concentration.

ZANE (V.O.)
Father....

Conan lifts his head with concern.

EXT. CITEDAL. SAME

Shi Renzu, EXECUTIONER II approaches Zane. Lines his blade to Zane's neck. Rears his sword back. Zane slowly raises his neck.

ZANE
Crom.

Shi Renzu executioner II strikes. Zane drops. Head roles.
Citadel burns.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AQUILONIAN BORDER CHECKPOINT. NIGHT

Two Shi Renzu ride up with a chest between two riders. Shí rénzú men drop the chest on the ground and turn. Arrows hit them from all sides, piercing the Shí rénzú. Chu slowly approaches with three Guards. Walks over the Shí rénzú bodies. Turns to the chest. GUARD ONE, silently requests permission to open the Chest. Chu agrees.

They open the chest.

Chu turns his head in sorrow. Chu motions the Cavalry.

Conn and One hundred Royal Calvary Ride in the direction of the Citadel.

INT. THRONE CHAMBER. NIGHT

Hall doors open.

Conan and Zenobia sit upon their thrones. Men walk down hall. Chest slowly approaches. Zenobia stands. Steps forward. Fear. Conan nods permission for the Guard to open the chest.

Chest opens. Two heads lie in the chest. Queen screams. Collapses. Royal maids take her to her chamber. Conan looks at CHEST. Lowers head. Grief. Chu moves forward. Bows in sorrow. Extends Zane's sword. Conan takes the sword and holds it close. Sword trembles, Conan's blood slides down the fuller of the blade.

EXT. CITADEL. NIGHT

War Masters ride into the Citadel. Smoke and pain only remain. Yan Dismounts. Yan walks around fallen structure of the Citadel.

Conn walks with Arteria in his arms.

YAN
Prince? Prince?

Yan takes Arteria from the arms of an unresponsive Conn. Conn walks to the headless Oona.

Conn takes the chest from her dead hands.

EXT. STYGIAN PALACE. DAY

Elric prepares for a patrol. Aquilonian guard arrives with a scroll.

AQUILONIAN MESSENGER

My Lord, King Conan request you immediately.

Elric opens the scroll and reads.

ELRIC

Get my horse. Get my horse!

GUARD

Yes, my lord.

Elric' men react in panic.

FADE TO:

EXT. MOUNDS OF SORROW. NIGHT

Conan and Zenobia are at the base of the mound. Elric and his family stand beside him.

Conan motions Subotai to light the mound.

Subotai. Sorrow. Takes a knee. Elric softly grabs the torch from Subotai's hand.

Walks upon the mound of sorrow, then turns.

Conan nods yes.

Elric lowers the torch.

Fires of Zane, Oona and Arteria light the night.

General Pallantides stands at the gate overpass. The fires light up on the beds lined up passed the gate.

Conn stands alone at the cliff. Puts toy into pouch.

Chu and Qi ride to the overlook, and dismount.

Releases "Seeds that Essai into the wind". Fires light from the mounds, trail to the main road One Thousand meters out.

Conn collapses to one knee in sorrow.

Chu turns to Qi at the horses, then puts his hand on the head of Conn, as he grieves.

Conn slowly rises to his feet with eyes of vengeance.

INT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. MOUND. NIGHT

Fires burn through the night.

Zenobia sits at the mound. Conn rides to the mound and dismounts. Breaks down before Zenobia.

Zenobia comforts Conn.

EXT. SHI RENZU CAMP. NIGHT

Aelia, Chavi, Myia and Chaya are tied by chain around their neck to a large stake in the ground. Hold each other close. Chaya lies with Myia. Shaking back and forth. Bloody. Beaten. Shock.

CHAYA

Why do they do this to us?

AELIA

(Whispers)

Do not speak.

MYIA

Baby, please. Baby, please. Shh.
Shh.

CHAYA

(Shock)

Father? Father?

AELIA

Keep her quiet.

MYIA

Baby, be quiet, please.

Chavi bloody. Beaten. Crawls to Chaya.

CHAVI

It is going to be OK, Chaya. Please
be quiet.

Three Shi Renzu come to unlock Chaya and grab her. Chaya and Chavi fight to hold on to one another.

CHAYA

No. No. Please, do not let go.

Chavi loses her grip. Chaya's disappears into darkness.

CHAYA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Kill me. Kill me!

Chop. Grunt. Silence. Myia sits chained in shackles, as she rocks back and forth in shock. Women group together in fear.

EXT./INT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. NIGHT

Fires burn through the night.

Conan stands at the fireplace in the bed chamber.

Looks to Set pendent, then throws pendent into the fireplace.

Pendent burns.

DISSOLVE TO:

END OF ACT II THE RIDDLE

THE RIDDLE ACT III

INT. BEDS OF SORROW. DAY

Zenobia stands by the beds that smoke from the dead.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 His son, family, now ashes
 scattered to the four winds. His
 roots had grown too strong. Sown
 deep into the earth.

Ashes drift in the morning wind across the dark field.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE. NIGHT

Ashes from campfires drift across a dark path from the caverns.

LORD OF THE SHÍ RÉNZÚ, 45, perched on a black horse, slowly exits the cave. Red light, and smoke from the cave. Led by elite SHÍ RÉNZÚ guards.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 Drawing his greatest adversary.

Dark Lords horse's touches Hyborian earth, as he is perched on Hyborian earth.

Fifty Thousand Shi Renzu camped outside the caverns.

INT. AQUILONIAN LOOKOUT. DAY

Wind blows into Conan. Conn stands at the entrance to the lookout.

CONN
 The War Scouts report a large
 formation marching from the Pass.

CONAN
 How many?

CONN
 A strength of fifty-thousand. They
 will hit us head on....Father?

CONAN
 Summon the kings.

Conan turns and exits.

CONN
Yes, Father.

Zenobia sits at the base of the mound.

FADE TO:

EXT. BURIAL MOUNDS. DAY

Zenobia sits alone on a rock. Zenobia looks to the ashes on the beds.

Beds smoke.

Conan walks in front of the rock and to the base of the mound in front of Zenobia.

CONAN
You vowed upon our union with one consolation, that I not subjugate, but harness men's strength borrowed from the love we had cultivated from our creation.

ZENOBIA
A kingdom to resemble our family, our love, it was what I prayed for. The only jewel a mother could want.

CONAN
I want revenge.

Zenobia stands up and puts the chest in the hand of Conan.

ZENOBIA
I am done praying.

Conan looks back at his wife. Looks down at hand. Winds blow the remaining ashes away, as the Melnibone convoy arrives with Elric in the field.

FADE TO:

EXT. FIELD. DAY

Conan walks to the PALACE.

AKIRO (V.O.)
A secret within the cavity had revealed itself.

Elric drops to his knees in the fields.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 Woe and sorrow, this he did not
 share alone. For both had been
 stricken with tragedy, yet this was
 not the only weight bearing down
 upon them.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. SHI RENZU MARCH. DAY

TWO HILLS. FIRST. GREEN. Second. MOVING BLACK formation in
 the distance. Crow perched on tree.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 A Horde had erupted from the fires
 of hell, marching, devouring,
 defiling.

Crow flies off towards Aquilonian palace.

THREE WOMEN attached to POLES and CHAINS reach the top of the
 green hill, followed by The LORD OF THE SHÍ RÉNZÚ and a black
 Horde of FIFTY-THOUSAND, who march in formation.

AKIRO (V.O.)
 Delivered by Set himself.

Ten Set pale Priests on horses wearing DARK ROBES, carry
 BLACK torn BANNERS. Spaced and aligned across the front.
 Winds blow the banners left.

Horde Marches past the tree.

INT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. CHAMBER HALL. DAY

KING OSRIC (O.S.)
 (Echoes throughout the
 hall)
 We must kill the head of the Set,
 turn the prophecy....

Osric stands before the half filled counsel chamber, then
 sits.

KING OSRIC (CONT'D)
 And send this horde back into the
 fires of the Ibis.

Half of the kings from Hyboria are seated around Conan's Great Table.

Conan sits beside Zenobia. Prince Calig stands. Confidence.

PRINCE CALIG

The mature wisdom you present,
lacks the youth of resolve, old
King. We are all sure your mature
counsel upon wanting ears can lead
to a misguided blunt arrogance,
upon lesser.

KULAN GATH

So Please, King Osric, do advise us
all.

TROCERO

They march upon us, as we speak.
As the vanguard we have called upon
all banners to the Witan. Aquilonia
requests horses to our flank. To
stand. To fight. To war.

KULAN GATH

To war? This is fifty-thousand
blood thirsty Shí rénzú, coming to
bring hell upon these lands.

PRINCE CALIG

With ten thousand men? Koth did not
answer this summons to attend a
battle cry into oblivion. I will
not have my head decorated upon
this devil's throne. My banners are
ready, and will lead the expulsion
to the north. I do advise all to
follow.

ZENOBIA

We will not abandon our land.

QUEEN CALIG

Commit to suicide?

ZENOBIA

Commit to your people.

KING OSRIC

I will give myself.

Conan raises his head. Osric sits down. Weak.

KING OSRIC (CONT'D)

And my Zamorian army to your flank, Conan. Unfortunately, we have become too dependent on Aquilonia and its strength. Zamora stands. You have my banner, old friend.

PRINCE CALIG

They are the Shi Renzu, there will be no living spoil.

KULAN GATH

Cimmerian King, please endow us with your noble solution upon this juncture. Why does he not speak?

TROCERO

My king has little tongue since the requiem.

KULAN GATH

Aquilonian Counsel, you will be silent, and take order. Well?

Conan stands.

CONAN

I have ordered the War Scouts to lure them to the field. There, we will hold. Give me men. Give me time.

KULAN GATH

Give you time for what? He wagers more than entitled, and Barbarian, it is blood we levy tonight.

Prince Calig walks around the Counsel Chamber.

PRINCE CALIG

You come unto these lands and conquer with sword, yet with what majesty? A claimant who began his life suppressed in chains. I must concede Koth in such a reckless burden, although I must deliver one last inquisition. Is it a man's right to take such a position among the crowns?

Elric slams open the hall doors behind Prince Calig.

ELRIC

It is a man's love for all he
stewards, that draws his courage
onto the battlefield. This entity
heads no remorse, no mercy, and is
determined to kill all life in its
path.

Elric squeezes the infant toy of Oona's unborn child,
recovered from the Citadel.

ELRIC (CONT'D)

(Sorrow)

I held the torch that took my
daughter into the afterlife.

Elric sets the TOY on the table next to Zenobia, and before
the eyes of the queen of Shem.

ELRIC (CONT'D)

(Resolute)

Melniboné stands. He is just a man.
He can be killed. You have my
banner, brother.

Queen Magnus eye's are stricken by toy, as She takes hand of
King Magnus.

QUEEN MAGNUS

The children that run, will run,
until they become no more.

Queen Magnus and King Magnus squeeze hands.

KING & QUEEN MAGNUS

We are Shem.

KING MAGNUS

We will hold your left flank. You
have our banner, Conan.

QUEEN MAGNUS

Kill him.

KULAN GATH

Not enough.

ZENOBIA

Where are they?

King Asim looks to the half empty seats in the Witen.

QUEEN GATH

The kings have fled to a safe and distant sanctuary.

ZENOBIA

What? Or Where they told to sit this one out?

KULAN GATH

They have no fortitude to fight. Upon the summons, some lost their will to respond.

Zenobia slams Zane's sword on the table.

ZENOBIA

I lost my son!

PRINCE CALIG

When this is over, we will all have delivered a contribution of sacrifice. You wear the crown, survive. Without authority, what hope would there be to restore the lands. Guards, prepare my horse. Mother.

Calig's mother looks away.

PRINCE CALIG (CONT'D)

Very well.

Prince Calig walks away with Princess Calig. Retreat.

Queen Calig sits in dishonor with head down.

ZENOBIA

You are not going anywhere. Sit.

Kings begin to follow.

TROCERO

Stop!

All stop. Calig and Guards turn around, and walk across from Trocero.

PRINCE CALIG

What reason give you to breach and defile the Witan code. Do you not understand title, Aquilonian counsel?

TROCERO

"Know, O prince, that between the years when the oceans drank Atlantis, and your royal ass was suckling from your mother's tit, One man, defied, while towers of Set surfaced, driving courage into a forbidden whisper. You scoured within the safety of your walls, as the serenity of the land drowned in a bowl of shit. One man, one king, born a crown of peace, galvanized through strength, knowing that on this stage we stand on hollow ground, and you will be atoned above it, or by the sword.

Conan stands. Conan slides Zane's sword from sheaf. The writing "May this line be unbroken".

All Gath and Calig Guards draw swords.

Elric draws his sword.

General Rockhir draws sword. Melnibone guards draw swords.

KULAN GATH

Right now, with steel drawn at opposing ends, you must decide how this is going to end. Your choice, savage King.

Conan slides sword back in sheaf, then takes Zane's sword and exits the hall.

Trocero and Calig. Eye to eye.

Gath and Calig guards back down.

Prince Calig looks at Trocero. Eye to eye.

ELRIC (O.S.)

Generals, prepare the men for battle. Kings, I will see you on the field.

Elric Exits. Generals follow.

King Osric smiles. Zenobia stays seated. Wicked sneer.

Doors close.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. DAY

General Pallantides stands in the center of the open field.

General Yyrkoon leads the barrel wagons to the forest.

Men carry spiked logs into the small forest.

Archers pour COMBUSTIBLE fluid into the forest. General Rockhir Ties spike to tree.

General Pallantides looks left.

Conan rides out past the forest with a royal detail and a wagon full of kindle.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. FIVE MILES FROM THE GATES. DAY

Conan and two Royal Guards arrive in an open field. Conan stops and dismounts his horse, walks center, takes the ATLANTEAN sword and draws a line. Stands center of the line.

Crow squawks, and draws Conan's attention. Crow flies to Palace, as Conan stairs in the distance.

GUARD RIGHT and GUARD LEFT look to their King.

Conan eyes widen with a deep breath, and thrusts the ATLANTEAN SWORD in the CENTER.

Guards smile, then set stand at each end of the line armed, and ready.

Conan looks out to the distance, then rides back.

Conn mounts horse and rides in the direction of the overlook.

One-Hundred meters back: Prospero starts a small fire. Kindle wagon staged center.

Conan stops his horse.

Akani and Prospero stand ready.

Conan nods and rides back to the Aquilonian Gates.

EXT. DISTANT CLIFFS. DAY

Master Qi and the War Scouts ride slowly as they observe the march from the overlook. Horde approaches in the distance.

INT./EXT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. DAY

Maidens and children scurry to the back in a slight panic. Zenobia walks from the halls to the Throne room. Sits and waits.

Women, and Children file through the palace yard and under the palace overlook to the path on the right side of the lake.

Conan rides through the slight panic in the city, and into the stables.

Subotai enters the stable.

Conan brushes the mane of the horse. Stable boy takes horse. Subotai approaches Conan.

CONAN

Kindle the exit. Prepare the army.
We stand.

SUBOTAI

We stand, we die, Conan?

Conan and Subotai stand face to face.

SUBOTAI (CONT'D)

Then we stand together.

Embrace. Subotai walks to stable doors, turns, SMIRKS, and exits.

EXT. HYBORIAN CLIFFS. DAY

Master Qi sits in black upon a horse at the OVERLOOK. Observation in BLACK DRAB WAR DRESS, and nods.

Sun rises from the east.

Yan lowers raised his hand.

War Scouts archers release arrows.

FIFTY-THOUSAND Shi Renzu march towards the Aquilonian palace.

Conn looks down to lower cliff trail. War Scouts ride slowly backwards.

Chu arrives at the Overlook.

CHU

There will be here soon. Out there
in front. There is a display. Look,
Prince.

Conn raises his head.

Aelia lifts head. Blue sparkle from the far distant left
cliff.

Set Lord lifts chin with a silent curiosity.

Conn eyes widen, turns and mounts his horse, while Chu looks
back and smiles with vengeful hope.

Conn approaches orchard, and stops.

Chu falls in with the War Masters.

Yan, and Qi dressed in full black drab armor staged in front
of the War Master Calvary of three thousand. War Masters nod
in respect and confidence.

Conn nods and rides down the steep trail to the side of the
Palace.

Qi's whistle draws ten Black drab armored dressed Horseman to
the front under the orchard tree.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. LEFT FLANK. DAY

King Osric stages center of his men.

KING OSRIC

Men, I salute you.

King Osric Rides to the King's staging area at the gates.

Men cheer Osric.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. CENTER LEFT. SAME

Melnibone Cavalry stages. Elric sits in front upon his horse
with focus on the field.

General Yyrkoon and General Rockhir to each side. Light
blonde haired female Melnibone General and sister, CYMORIL,
34, falls in beside Elric on horse with dragon helmet.

ELRIC

General.

CYMORIL

Brother.

Both turn focus to the battlefield.

INT. THRONE ROOM. DAY

Conan and Conan sit at their throne.

Zenobia stands from her throne. Flips hour glass. Walks to the base of the alter, stops, and turns to Conan.

ZENOBIA

They have taken enough from this kingdom. I stand upon the alter of reckoning.

Bows before Conan.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)

Marry me once more with your courage.

Exits.

Crowned Conan sits on the throne. Slowly leans forward, and raises his fist under chin.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. THE LINE. DAY

Guard right EYE'S WIDEN. Turn and look back at Prospero and Akani. Both grab the handle of their swords.

Executioner two motions the Calvary. Calvary charge out of the formation.

Aquilonian guards pull swords from sheaf.

Aelia is debilitated, yet slowly lifts her head.

Prospero NODS to Aelia.

Aelia shows STRENGTH, and grabs Myia's hand.

Prospero watches the calvary approach the Aquilonian Guards, then looks to Akani, as the Captain grabs his sword and motions Prospero to go on.

PROSPERO

Master Akani?

AKANI
Warn the King. Go.

Akani begins his sprint towards the Horde. Both guards follow.

Prospero lights the wagon, jumps on horse and rides off.

Aelia reaches for Chavi's hand. Chavi lifts her exhausted head. SQUEALS. Hope. Chavi grabs Aelia's hand.

ATLANTEAN SWORD stands center on the LINE, as the three approach.

Fire spreads and ignites the wagon. All three women pull the horde to the fire.

Ground rumbles. Elric sees the fire light up in the great distance. He lifts his chin. Resolute.

INT. PALACE - REAR PATHWAY. DAY

Subotai and Captain SUH stand at the back path for the evacuation of the women and children around the back end of the lake.

Suh finishes stacking kindle around the exit. Turns kisses ZULU, 4, and ZULIA's, 7, then puts them on the horse.

Horse rides off. Subotai turns to Yuan.

SUBOTAI
If they penetrate the gates, burn
the palace.

YUAN
Yes, father.

Subotai and Yuan embrace, then looks to his wife in the distance.

People of Aquilonia flee around the back right winding path at the side of the lake of the Kingdom.

Zenobia arrives at the lookout with maidens.

Prospero closes in on the Palace.

EXT. MARCHING UPON THE AQUILONIAN PALACE. DAY

Shi Renzu march towards the Aquilonian Palace.

Akani and Aquilonian Guards heads in a sack.

Aelia pulls.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. DAY

Alliance staged and ready for battle. Center opens a gap.

Gate doors open. Prospero rides through the Gates of Aquilonia. Dust follows.

INT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. THRONE ROOM. DAY

Silent echoes of reckoning call throughout CONAN'S THRONE chamber. Crown resting on a troubled brow. Smoke drifts across the back chamber. Torches on the base of the alter, release red light that fades into the dark shadows around the throne. Lions on each hand rest. Conan sits with fist under chin. Naginata *leans* to the right of throne.

Guards lined in front on both sides of Conan down walkway.

Sand drops down the hour glass. Subotai enters from the right hall and stands at the bottom left of the stairwell. Looks up to Conan.

Conn arrives to Conan's right.

Front doors to the chamber crash open. All turn attention to the doors. Prospero enters and walks to the throne. Prospero bows.

PROSPERO
(Echoed throughout the
chamber hall)
They have crossed the line, my
King.

Steps aside.

CONAN STANDS. Walks towards the Hall Doors. Conn on the right. Subotai on the left, both follow. Royal Guards collapse. Follow. TWO LINE formation behind. CONAN walks out the hall doors.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. DAY

Shi Renzu scout looks at the inward spikes. Sniffs the forest. Raises his hand and calls the horde to move around.

Shi Renzu split around the forest. Reform around the front end of the small forest and begin to stage on the battlefield.

War Master Cavalry concealed from the cliffs and a small forest on the right steep end of a hill above AQUILONIAN FIELD OF BATTLE.

Chi, Yan, look to one another. Qi and many of the War Master sit, perched in the dark orchard. Shi Renzu split around the forest and begin to stage on the battlefield.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. DAY

FIFTY-THOUSAND Black Shi Renzu reach staging area in front of ten thousand Hyborian Warriors. Dark Lord raises hand. Cries and screams of the slaughtered conjoin with the winds.

Winds blow in a grey and dark setting. Reveals only that what once was of the living, now tokens of power and absolution from hell. HEADS WITH HAIR decorate the armor. Pealed faces of humans. BLOW in the wind across the front formation.

LORD OF THE SHÍ RÉNZÚ perched center upon his black horse. CHEST Armor decoration of human hair around the leather dressed armor with CHAYA'S FACE Left. KING KORZETTA'S face right.

Lord of the Shí rénzú drops his hand. Horde halts. Screams stop.

DEAD grey skins of the Death Horde can only be matched by the sky of drab.

Horses unsettled.

Maidens turn away from the horrid sight from the LOOKOUT. Zenobia looks on. Strong. Committed.

Elric settles horse. Elric looks over to Generals Yyrkoon and General Rockhir. Perched on Horses.

GENERAL ROCKHIR

He did not get far.

Shi Renzu untie Aelia, Myia, and Chaya. Take them to the far left.

Elric sees Aelia in the distance. Rides out before his men. Turns to his Melnibone warriors.

ELRIC

Fight through them. Retort them
back to hell.

Elric turns his horse to get the attention of the Lord of the Shí rénzú. Dawns dragon helmet.

ELRIC (CONT'D)

You are mine.

Elric stares down the Lord of the Shí rénzú.

EXT. AQUILONIAN PALACE YARD. DAY

Fires from the evacuees light the back end path around the lake behind the palace. Sun sets. Evacuees follow the path around the lake.

Yaun holds the torch. Climbs stair well. Stands in position.

Crowned Conan walks to the Gates. Through the streets of the Aquilonian Kingdom.

Old Aquilonian man, 88, looks to King Conan for hope. Turns and walks around the path. Sun sets.

SMALL CHILD, 8, stands with Mother. Holds her hand. Fear.

Stands before the gates. Presents sword. Leans forehead against the writing on the fuller of the sword. Closes eyes.

ZANE (V.O.)

(Fearful)

I have failed you, Father.

CONAN (V.O.)

As a teacher you will be tested
beyond the flesh. You must prepare
them to carve through darkness, and
pain at all cost. Strip them of
everything. Discipline them to fall
back on courage and faith. Some
will fail, some will fall. The true
and committed will avail. When they
do, Son. Bring them before me.

Conan sword drops. Gates open. Puts sword in sheaf. Stands before Ten-Thousand Warriors. Torches light the night.

King Conan of Aquilonia walks through the crowd. Walks to the center and stands before his men. Men circle.

Chavi is pushed to the ground.

Qi and Yan slowly stalk the side of the concealed cliff. Picking up momentum as the hill becomes steeper.

CONAN

I do not pray anymore. To no man,
no god. I have searched my life for
a riddle. An answer I must carry to
be delivered into the next.

Conan draws sword, then men of Hyboria draw swords.

CONAN (CONT'D)

Tonight the gods will witness this
battle, and when night arrives to
seal Valhalla forever. Let their
vindication be celebrated with
envy, knowing it was men who
crashed open the gates. It is then
they shall heed my words. Follow
me, and we will answer this riddle
together.

Conan leads his men for battle with a steady stride. Elric raises sword and screams out. All Charge.

Trocero and Prospero pause at the gates.

PROSPERO

I have dedicated my life to
peaceful and sound resolution. Now
it has come to this?

TROCERO

Regents, you can stay here with
them if you'd like.

Prospero looks to Kulan Gath and Prince Calig staged at the gates. Regret. Trocero begins his stride. Pulls sword. Prospero follows. Pulls blades.

Shi Renzu. Surprised. Send Cavalry.

Master Qin rides one-hundred meters out behind Prospero and Trocero. Followed by two flag bearers. Master Qin stops horse. Flag bearers raise flags upward on each side of the horse.

Hour Glass empties. THROUGH THE HOUR GLASS: Master Qin raises his sword to the sky. Flags blow in the wind.

Lightning strikes across the sky. Reflection from the bolt shines across the sword.

MASTER QIN

Form.

Master Chin lowers sword.

Archers send flaming arrows high and into the forest from the Cliff. Flames trace the night far beyond the ranks of the horde.

GATES close and LOCK.

King Kulan Gath and Prince Calig look back at the locked gates with stagefright.

Aelia, Myia and Chavi are one Hundred meters out on their knees. Lined up to be executed. Executioner raises blade. Lines up to Aelia's neck.

Arrows hit the forest. Explosion sends wood shrapnel and decimates the back ten rows. Back rows panic.

Calvary becomes startled by explosion. Horse stop and raise in panic.

Elric's Calvary collapses Shi Renzu Calvary.

Executioner startled. Looks down to Aelia. Surprised. Aelia looks up to the executioner with rage, followed by a smile.

Black wave of horses reach the bottom of the from concealed hill. SHI Renzu horses are startled by thunderous rumbling in the night.

Rescue led by Qi and Yan. Yan rides down hill. Dark. Qi drafts with the armored horse.

Left SHI Renzu flank becomes unsettled by the pounding of the Earth.

Aelia and the women look ahead to the charging warriors of Aquilonia, led by Conan. Aelia lifts her neck and closes her eyes. Release.

King Asim's eyes widen as he approaches the Horde's line.

Qi pulls his bow and THREE arrows, and locks his foot within the saddle. Flips under the horse. Qi's horse is hit and collapses, as he releases arrows.

Executioner rears sword back and catches an arrow center mass. Two arrows strike the men behind the executioner.

Horse tumble, as Qi releases from the saddle, maintains balance on his knees and fist from collapse, and draws sword.

TEN WAR MASTERS wedge in between the women and Horde with shields to block the onslaught of arrows. Hordesmen run out to attack War Masters.

Yan dismounts and cuts the women loose. Aelia grabs Myia, Chavi, and run to the banners.

War Master's archers send arrows two hundred meters in front of their Cavalry. Shí rénzú charge loses momentum by the impact of the arrows. Chu draws sword. Impact.

Aelia runs towards the gates with Myia and Chavi.

Conn picks up his stride. Conn locks on Aelia's direction. Conn passes Aelia. Looks in Aelia's eyes. Fear.

Accelerates to a thunderous sprint, and draws sword.

Flags shift from right to straight up.

MASTER QIN (CONT'D)

Zhongjian.

Flagmen pull the flags back. Wind blows flags. Bannermen thrust Flags FORWARD.

Suh rears sword back and lowers shoulder. Screams. Royal Aquilonian Guard explode into the Shi Renzu. First line penetrate the Shi Renzu line.

Aquilonian's are cut down. Souls fight through. Distract the Shí rénzú second line with a shining strike. Souls fade. Second wave collapses line.

General Cymoril, screams and leaps with horse. Melnibone Calvary line breaks through the distracted Shí rénzú. Horde's front center line collapses.

Zamora Cavalry flip their facial protection down and line their crossbows. Charge through left corner of the Shí rénzú cavalry charge. Draw swords. Impact left flank.

Five Shi Renzu prepare from the screams of pain in the forward distance. Gap opens. Conn runs through with three quick taps. Formation opens a gap. Three bodies drop from his trail. Scalps follow.

Conn freezes. Fire blazes from the forest. Turns head. Flicks blood off sword. Shi Renzu Executioners I and II stand alone. SHOCK. Conn turns around. Executioner I lines up for battle. Thrust forward. Conn parries. Goes under. Opens up the abdomen. Executioner One drops to the ground, beside Conn.

Conn simultaneously steps over Executioner I and brings his sword behind him. DECAPITATES Executioner I. Pulls his hair BRAID back. Vengeance.

The center Shi Renzu formation opens up, as men crowd Conn

Conn stands before Executioner II with the high guard. Executioner II attempts to move forward. Conn taps him upon the head. Blood leaks down the face of Executioner II.

Conn takes a moment to grieve, swings. Delivers his head to the earth. Men step away in fear.

Two Shi Renzu approach. GUARD ONE thrust forward. Subotai goes under right to left. Up. Guard one drops. Blood strikes GUARD TWO. Stares upon the face of vengeance. Subotai moves forward.

Two massive Shi Renzu crush oncoming Aquilonians and Melniboneans with large hammer staffs. Cymoril sacrifices her horse, and kills one massive Shi Renzu. Leaps from the mount over the horse, then kills second massive Shi Renzu.

SENIOR SHÍ RÉNZÚ, motions his elite.

Chu pulls bow staff to his rear.

Six elite approach and circle Chu.

Chu steadies his staff. Confidence.

Four elites fire at Chu. Chu delivers three to the earth with his staff, spins staff killing the last two.

Chu's pony tale spins around his neck, as Chu looks up to the Kings.

Dark lord's feet thunderously hit the ground beside his horse, as he moves forward and draws his sword.

Elric strikes mid left then right to the temple of an Elite Shi Renzu with his sword.

CONAN

Elric, fall back.

GENERAL ROCKHIR

Conan, I can not get to him.

Elric moves forward, and strikes down more Shi Renzu. Flicks blood from his sword.

Lord of the Shi Renzu stands before Elric.

ELRIC

You are mine.

Lord of the Shí rénzú shifts left, smiles, then circles left.

Elric circles, then fires forward.

Lord of the Shí rénzú parries off the attempt with little effort. Elric attempts to strike again. Weak approach. Lord of the Shí rénzú cuts him across his back.

Elric stumbles, and his confidence drifts, as he looks to Conan.

Conan tries to nod him off.

Elric raises his sword overhead, and charges.

Lord of the Shí rénzú steps left. Taps hands from sword, and strikes across Elrik's chest.

Elric's body curls upon impact on the ground.

General Rockhir screams.

Charges, as the perfect strike of the Lord of the Shí rénzú spins Rockhir around to his knees. Blood pours, from his neck, as Rockhir gargles.

Lord of the Shí rénzú stares into Conan's eyes and rips Rockhir's head off, and tosses the head to the side.

Conan DRIVES forward. One elite steps in front.

Conan drives his foot into the face. Lifts elite off feet and into the earth. Snaps neck upon the impact of the bloody ground.

Conan and Lord of the Shí rénzú meet in the center, as fire blazes from the forest. Lord of the Shí rénzú thrust forward. Conan pushes him back.

Conan and Lord of the Shí rénzú circle left. Lord of the Shí rénzú adjust his blade to a high approach. Lord of the Shí rénzú thrusts forward then steps aside, leaving Conan exposed. Cuts Conan over his left shoulder.

Lord of the Shí rénzú settles back. Rips the face off his right CHEST PLATE. Taps chest plate. Nods to Conan.

LORD OF THE SHI RENZU

You.

Wide eyed Conan pulls SWORD into a rear back battle stance.

Lord of the Shí rénzú thrust forward. Conan steps aside and cuts the him across the RIGHT CHEST.

Lord looks down at open cut across his breast surprised.

Conan and The Lord of the Shí rénzú circle. Lord of the Shí rénzú comes behind and steps left, catching Conan off balance, cutting his lower back.

Conan swings from over head, right to left, then right and pushes the Lord of the Shí rénzú back. Lord of the Shí rénzú smiles. Goes to a high guard steps right, left then kneels, pierces Conan through the abdomen.

Sword exits through the back. Conan begins to bleed heavily. Conan falls back. Lord of the Shí rénzú draws back his sword with confidence.

Conan looks to Subotai.

Conan draws sword to his head and closes his eyes. Lord of the Shí rénzú thrust forward. Conan thrusts under. Cuts the RIGHT leg out from under the Lord of the Shí rénzú. Leg severed below the knee. Lord of the Shí rénzú screams in pain. Regains composure.

Conan spins. Lord of the Shí rénzú pulls back sword. SPINS. Conan taps Lord of the Shí rénzú on the HEAD. Skull pops. Scalp flies in the air. Lord of the Shí rénzú leans forward. Blood drips. Kneels into fetal position. Screams.

Conan leans over, lifts one leg across the torso of the lord and DRAGS his sword across the NECK. Flames burn in the Garden. Conan stands with the Shí rénzú Lords decapitated head. Presents it to the FLAMES. Reflection of the fire reflects from the Lord's eyes.

Conan drops the head and looks for an opening in a pile of ripped flesh.

Conan sees a BARE MOUND. Staggeres to the mound. Blood POURS from his fatal wound. Shi Renzu retreat. General Pallantides points to the burning forest.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

Send them back to hell.

Shí rénzú run away from Battle. Towards the burning forest. Run hard into the flames. Impaled by spikes. Sun peaks over the Great Hyborian Pass. Shí rénzú run through back of forest. Burn and fall.

Conan looks back sending confidence to Zenobia upon the lookout, turns. Holds wound. Blood pours through fingers.

Falls too his knees with sword in hand. High ground. Blood pours from his fatal wound in his fatal wound. Blood pours from back right kidney. Leans back. Gasps for breath.

Chu, Qi, Han and the others stand bloodied in sorrow.

Conn. Moves forward. Stricken sadness. Pallantides raises his arm to Conn. Dark sky turns blue.

King Osric nods his head.

KING OSRIC

I salute you.

Zenobia tries to content with hope, while it slowly fades from her face.

Sun begins breaks over mountains. Panoramic view of the mountain. The sun breaks over the peak, that sends a FLASH of light.

Conan's left bloody hand blocks the light, then slowly reaches out.

SWORD from Conan begins to fall from his RIGHT hand.

Small child's hand extends to the light. GRESHAN, 35, takes the small hand of Conan and leads him into the light.

SWORD falls from Conan's dead right HAND.

FADE TO:

EXT. LINE OF THE SWORD. DAY

Conn rides to the line. Dismounts. Atlantean sword lies on the ground.

Conn picks up the sword, and looks to Hyborian Pass.

EXT. MOUND. FUNERAL OF THE KING. DAY

Cymoril lies *Stormbringer* on Elric's chest. Descends down the mound.

Conan the King lies upon the STONE BED. Zenobia slowly ascends up the mound. Reaches the top. Zenobia takes the sword from Conan. Hands to Trocero.

SMALL CHILD stands with Mother. Holds her hand. Hope.

ZENOBIA (O.S.)

These eyes have gazed upon this
earth for many lifetimes.

Zenobia looks out to the crowd.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)

Many conflicts, I have seen. Brave
men, women, kingdoms, races, dying.
The trials of our lives are set
upon different paths, yet it is the
sincerity of love that unifies us
in spiritual accord. I will see you
again, my King. My Love.

Zenobia kisses a Blue FORGET ME NOT flower. Lies it on
Conan's chest. Looks to the Sky.

ZENOBIA (CONT'D)

Go.

Zenobia motions Subotai to light the stone bed. Turns and
descends down the mound. Maidens assist.

Subotai stands on the mound alone with torch in the wind.

SUBOTAI

This time, my old friend, I set you
free.

Subotai lights the bed of Conan. The bed burns through the
night.

EXT. MOUND. DAY

Zenobia sits at the base of the mound. Sorrow.

Dew from the morning lights up from the rising sun. The light
flashes colorful brilliance upon the earth.

AKIRO (V.O)

Ashes were all that remained of an
enduring love. Aquilonia had been
trimmed from battle. They looked to
her now for resumption.

Zenobia lifts her chin to the rising of the morning sun.

Conn and Aelia approach horse. Both mount his horse and ride
off.

Zenobia stands and walks under the WEEPING WILLOW tree at the
base of the stone bed mounds. Turns.

Birds fly out in the distance. Zenobia smiles. Looks to the cliff.

AKIRO (V.O.)

In time the land would mend upon
the crowning of an heir. One much
like my Lord.

Sun rises over the pass. Conn and Aelia dismount the horse at the cliff. Walk ahead to the edge. Conn and Aelia embrace, as the sun wraps its warmth around Aquilonia.

FADE TO:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. DAY

Chaya walks in the fields in a blue dress.

Forest burnt. Comes upon a flower in the open, and brushes the flower. Looks behind to the Queen at the lookout.

Zenobia smiles.

AKIRO (V.O.)

The ancient Cimmerian Chronicles,
which endeth here, Sayeth not.

FORGET ME NOT FLOWER swings from her touch.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELDS OF RUE. SPRING. NIGHT

POPPY FLOWER swings from the wind.

SHI RENZU field master, 52, cracks his whip.

Shi Renzu blows the Mammoth tusk from the cliff.

Horn blows.

EXT. BASE OF THE CAVE. HYBORIAN SIDE. NIGHT

Master Qin stages horse on a hill. Distant Caverns. Looks to Chu.

MASTER QIN

Do not give corruption a place to
nest in this world.

Chu leads the men into the caverns.

EXT./INT. CAVE. NIGHT

Two Shi Renzu stand at the cave entrance.

Subotai covered in black and white paint, walks to the cave entrance. Stands. Sword undrawn. War Scouts slide over the cave entrance. Cut throats. Subotai walks into the cave. Pallantides follows. Chu and War Scouts follow.

INT. CAVERNS. NIGHT

Torches light Caverns. Shadows move in caverns.

Subotai and Pallantides walk directly down the caverns.

Men startled. Killed as they try to respond. Subotai and Pallantides walk over the bodies.

Chu's face slowly peaks out of shadow.

Gargle. Bodies drop. Lead to the lighted throne room. Chu moves from shadow to shadow.

Subotai and Pallantides come to a fork. Pallantides and Subotai split. Bloodied Shi Renzu bodies lay around the lighted cavern.

General Pallantides stands before the THRONE. AX and emotion. HORN BLOWS.

EXT. VALUSIA. FIELDS OF RUE. NIGHT

Subotai walks out of the cave. High cliff. Stands out before Valusia Poppy fields. War Scouts pour out left, Aquilonian Royal Guard to the right, behind him.

EXT. SLAVE CAMP. DAY

ZELA, 24, holds a wet cloth over Zula's feverish forehead. Looks back in panic. Shakes Zula.

ZELA

Sukuma, sukuma, Zula.

Footsteps approach. Zela cries. Zula closes her eyes and releases.

Slave master approaches, while slaves pull Zela away. Zela resists terrorized and screaming, yet is yanked away by slaves.

Slave Master positions sword over the chest of Zula. Footsteps approach as a Shadow behind slave Master is followed by two large hands that snap the slave master's neck, then flings his limp body to the side.

Zula opens her eyes to Suh.

SUH

Umama.

Picks Zula up and carries her in his arms.

EXT. POPPY FIELDS OF RUE. DAY

Morning dew rises over the fields.

FIELD MASTER, walks across the front field line. Turns.

TWO FOREMAN, sit on top of the hill. Eating. Tripod cast iron pot heats above fire, boils between them.

Field Master turns. Cracks his whip. Pot roles past him. Pause. Field Master turns once again.

Conn stands alone on the hill. Atlantean sword in hand. Field master stands. Thousands of Hyborian men approach behind Conn. Conn stares him to the earth, as men drop their weapons, and whips.

They begin to slowly scatter.

Slaves begin to slowly walk away past Conn. Unsure of freedom.

Zela and Suh helps carry Zula. Both look to Conn as they walk by. He shakes his head no. Zula looks to the fields of poppy. ANGRY resolve.

Conn sits on the log by the fire. Slides sword into the fire. Puts fist under chin.

INT. THRONE OF POWER. DAY

Pallantides stands before throne. Anger. Destroys throne with AX.

Exits.

EXT. POPPY FIELDS OF RUE. DAY

Trocero walks on to the top of the hill. Conn sits by the fire. Trocero looks to the fields.

TROCERO (O.S.)
Hul Gil.

VIPER slithers through the POPPY FIELDS.

CONN (O.S.)
How did it come to this?

Viper exits the poppy fields.

TROCERO
A path is prevalent with such a
seed.

Trocero puts hand on Conn's shoulder.

TROCERO (CONT'D)
I have no counsel on what lies
before you. Like your father, know
your path aligns with the truth in
your heart. They will see, and with
good courage, they will follow. Let
us go home now, Prince.

Trocero walks away.

EXT. PASS.

Pallantides reaches the top of the pass. All watch from the pass. Trocero reaches the top. Turns.

EXT. THE FIELDS OF RUE. SAME

Conn sits by the fire with fist under chin, and recollects to the tragedy that haunts him.

INT. THRONE ROOM.

Throne Chamber is vacant.

EXT. STONE BED OF CONAN.

FIRE upon the stone bed of CONAN begins to dwindle. Smoke blows out.

EXT. AQUILONIAN LOOKOUT.

Zenobia stands in the WINDS of the Aquilonia lookout.

ZENOBIA

End it.

EXT. POPPY FIELDS OF RUE.

Conn pulls the hot RED ATLANTEAN SWORD from the fire. Stands above the POPPY Fields. Runs forward. Releases the Atlantean sword.

FIERY SWORD drifts end over end, violently into the air. Disappears center of the POPPY FIELDS. Smoke begins to form. Field begins to burn.

Aelia grabs Conn's hand. Both stop, turn, then walk over the pass.

Poppy fields burn.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CROSS, PLAINS, TEXAS. HOWARD MUSEUM. PRESENT DAY

CANDLE burns at the side of the UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER....

FADE TO BLACK: