

The Riddle

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ACT I THE RIDDLE

HORN from a DISTANT train BLOWS into the night.

FADE IN:

EXT./INT. CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS. HOWARD RESIDENCE. FEBRUARY ONE, NINETEEN THIRTY-THREE. NIGHT

Storm approaches small humble Texas home. 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 hallway.

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, 12, 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. Whiskey bottle follows the shadow. Fear. Turns to WHISKEY BOTTLE. Grabs the whiskey bottle.

One-Eighth 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.)
(Haunting Plea)
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.

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

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

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. Lightning
lights up the clouds in the night sky over the house. Thunder
crackles. 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?
 voice.

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

Akiro? HEAD tilts out of the shadow from the corner of the
 room.

AKIRO
 Let me tell you the days of high
 adventure.

EXT. OLD CIMMERIAN VILLAGE. DAY AND NIGHT

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

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

Royal Guard pumps the AIR BLADDER.

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

Young boy holds horses. Looks on.

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.

Tethered 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 to a large shadow. Large hand takes sword. Turns.

Two young Cimmerian men kneel with heads down. Prince CONN, 32, son of Conan raises his head. Sword gently lays upon his forehead. Large hand delivers sword to Conn.

ZANE, 34, oldest son of Conan raises his head. Sword lays gently on his forehead. Zane takes sword.

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.

Heads are spiked next to the bloody rock, as children are led away in chains.

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 Prince Conn

Steps forward with hand on newly fabricated bowed sword. Grips handle. Behind Conan and the Cimmerian Rock.

Tall powerful, brown eyed, Prince Zane with light brown braided pony tail that lies down his left shoulder, falls in beside Conn. Newly crafted Cimmerian Sword in sheaf.

ZANE (O.S.)

Father.

Conan breaks from grief and stands, then places his CROWN on the ROCK. Walks past Conn and Zane. Conn, Zane, Subotai and Trocero follow Conan up the MOUNTAIN.

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, Zane, Trocero and Subotai as they walk through thick cloud. Break through cloud.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Cimmerians, his people, settled these mountains. Assembling the finest metal. 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 for revenge, only howls of victory.

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

Morning sun splashes down on the majestic spectacle of five Hyborian peaks. Clouds cover the LOWER half of the mountain. HIGH PASS Massive Twenty-Five thousand foot Peak in the center breaks through 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. This is Cimmeria. You, that steel are Cimmerian. We are all that remain. Little has endured here, just crown and memory. One that I can not interpret without pain.

Conan pulls his sword from sheaf.

ZANE

What lies beyond, father?

Clouds shift over the Twenty-Five Thousand foot pass.

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

Subotai grunts to the fifth and highest mountain. Stops
surveying with a DISTANCE DIAL and turns.

SUBOTAI (CONT'D)
Only the gods.

Conan turns away from the answers. Looks to the earth and
memory.

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 it
came from flesh.

FADE TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK. TEMPLE OF DOOM. DAY

Thulsa Doom walks out of the TEMPLE.

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

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HYBORIAN WEST MOUNTAIN PEAK. DAY

Conan regains composure.

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 crown, the land, the people.
Recognize in 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 are the marks upon the fuller,
father?

CONAN (O.S.)
Your mother? 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 KINGS CHAMBER. NIGHT

Fireplace sends slight pops from the kindle. KING OSRIC, 92, roles a scroll, as dark SET whispers taunts him.

SET (V.O.)
I am coming, old king.

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 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
The pot is almost empty.

Royal Guard comes over to fill his bowl.

ROYAL GUARD
Hand me that.

Royal Guard fills his bowl.

Conan shows his intoxication. Stares into the fire.

CONAN
Push faster.

Conn pushes the WHEEL OF SORROW.

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. Scorns at the guards, while they laugh. Hands bowl to Zane.

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 (CONT'D)

Seven alone.

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

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. VILLAGE OF VANIR. DAY

Ride upon the Destroyed Old ruins of VANIR village.

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

The 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. Observe pit with curiosity.
Zane dismounts horse and jumps in pit.

CONN

Looks to have been a pit of
sacrifice.

Studies stains.

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. Rides off.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. WAR MASTERS VILLAGE. DAY

Conan leads the expedition. Close in on the WAR MASTER?
village. Master ZHAO, 46, rides up beside Conan.

Scout Commanders, MASTER QI, 71, and Master YAN, 42, look
back at masked War Master CHU, 51, who watch them into the
War Master? Octagon Village from the high cliff.

Masked War master rides fast to the War Master? 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. Chu dismounts his horse and waits beside
Master Qin with Vigilance.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

Father. Brother.

Zhao slowly approaches his brother, Chu who slides down mask. Chu breaks with a smiles, and brothers embrace. STABLEMEN 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 Vanguard.

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 SHEAF. Jochi turns to his father with excitement.

JOCHI

Father?

CHU

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

JOCHI

Honor.

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

SUBOTAI

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

Subotai turns and puts palm over fist.

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. Qin 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, 74, stands. Interrupts.

HAN
Those mountains are cursed!

Chu signals Han to sit.

YAN
Qing zuo.

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 who ran across a village.
They had no tongue for what they
had seen.

QI
Rumors 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 scourge from a once proud Kingdom of Valusia, Now ancient whispers of dark legend, carried over the pass from the marked.

CHU

By the Shi renzu.

TROCERO

The Horde from Hell.

Trocero whispers in Conan? ear.

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 my Vanguard.

TROCERO

(Whisper)

It would also reinforce the
Vanguard, my King.

CONAN

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

Chu smiles to his brother Zhao. Both excited. Master Qin
looks to his son?. 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.

WIPE LEFT:

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 with technique.

JOCHI

Father, what technique does he use?

SUBOTAI

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

Conn swings blade. Perfect. Impossible.

Crowd reacts to Conn. Masterful. Crowd applause.

SUBOTAI (CONT'D)

If delivered unspoiled it is flawless.

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.

CONN
Master Qin.

Master Qin places *Seeds that Essei* in Conn? hands.

MASTER QIN
As you requested, Prince Conn.

CONN
Thank you, Master Qin.

ZANE
That is?

CONN
Seeds that Essei. For a ceremony.

Zane turns the horse lead around and rides.

ZANE
For a Girl.

Conan smiles.

MASTER QIN
You are your father? sons.

Master Qin bows.

Conan and his son? 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. BATTLE MOUNDS. STONE BED. SAME

Conan rides alone to a hill. Flowers cover the land. As far as the eye can see.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Flowers. Warrior, what are the
flowers for?

CONAN (V.O.)

For a girl.

Conan smiles at the small modest shrine of AKIRO, which stands by the old hut. Rides to the mound and dismounts. Smiles to the sea of flowers. Walks to the bed of Valeria. Sons try to follow.

SUBUTAI (O.S.)

Stay. He must mourn alone.

Plucks one FLOWER from beside the stone bed. He lays the FLOWER upon the stone bed.

CONAN (V.O.)

I can no longer look to the earth
when I think of you. I hope you
hear me? Is it right?

King Conan looks to the SKY.

CONAN

Am I right? The honesty in my heart, tells me?

VALERIA (V.O.)

Conan.

CONAN

Valeria?

VALERIA (V.O.)

Tend to your lands and your Kingdom. Your work is not done here, Aquilonian King. He is coming.

Conan looks back to the pass behind him. Concern.

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 cries of tender, Father.

CONAN

Your method of attrition, son.

ZANE

My Vanguard 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.

Zane stops the horse.

ZANE

Assurance from number, or pundit? If I feed them they will earn it.

(MORE)

ZANE (CONT'D)
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. Conn rides beside Zane.

CONN
What has gotten into him?

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 with concern,
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.

SUBOTAI
Wake the king.

Subotai walks to the front of the camp.

EROS, 34, runs to Conan? 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. They grant
the Messenger access to the king. The messenger rides to
greet Subotai.

ZAMORIAN MESSENGER
King Osric request your banner.

Messenger hands the scroll to Subotai.

SUBOTAI
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.

SUBOTAI
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 Vanguard through this winter season, Brother.

CHU
I look forward to meeting the heirs of my brother? will at the Xianfeng.

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.

MALAK

The right hand of Aquilonia can
sometimes leave the left hand weak.

CHU

Hyboria is vast. Who protects the
C??

TROCERO

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

ZANE

My Vanguard can withstand any
threat that may require Aquilonia?
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 Grunt)

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF POWER. DAY

Expidition 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.

THE RIDDLE ACT II

EXT. GRAND AQUILONIAN CITADEL (THE VANGUARD). 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 Citadel 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 Citadel 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 Melnibone, 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, then 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.

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?) (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 mal 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.

CADRE I

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.

CADRE II

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 carefully circle to choose their fighters.

SENSEI ARANHA (CONT?) (CONT'D)

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?) (CONT'D)

Set.

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

SENSAI ARANHA (CONT?) (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, Papa.

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 to General? 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 Pallantides. Concern.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

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

General Pallantides opens the scroll and reads. Concern.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES (CONT'D)

His health?

CONAN

No concern.

Conan embraces his trusted Malak. Pallantides shows concern with scrolls and the War Scout? 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 with scrolls.

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 Vanguard. We will assist until spring.

(MORE)

QI (CONT'D)

When the weather finds favor, we
shall push to the pass.

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?
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
conjunction 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 ancient
emperor, who had returned from a
conquest of power. Upon his return
his wife awarded him a remedy of
sacrifice. Her priest proclaimed
that if the emperor were to taste
this vile offering, 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 tale has
always kept men compliant with
restraint.

OONA

Why so?

TROCERO

It was the last story to cross those mountains, until recent dark advents.

Subatai a familiar look to Conan.

MALAK

The Horde of hell. An ancient line of succession paved by the power of blood.

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.

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. 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.

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? 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 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.

Conn and Aelia make eye contact. Chu observes all the
beautiful women in the village.

Valen and Myia? smiles burst into laughter.

ZANE

Friends, family, I shall withdraw
from this feast. 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.

AELIA

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? smiles. Shifts her hips right.

CONN

Love?

Conn smiles, then takes the spoon and pulls a perfect amount.
Slowly extends tea to Aelia? 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.

AELIA

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

CONN

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...well?

Conn looks deep into Aelia? eyes, but her gaze forces him to
look down.

AELIA

Do not evade, Prince.

CONN

The eyes, why no fear?

Aelia lies the cup 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 oiled. I want it returned in
the manner given to you.

VALEN

Anything else, father?

General embraces his son.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

Hurry, son.

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

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.

Aelia walks away. Zane steps in front. Cups Conn? head forward. Cheek to cheek.

ZANE

That is union, brother.

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 (CONT'D)

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 mounts his horse and rides off.

CONAN (O.S.)

More men....Do not keep your mother
waiting.

CONN

You heard father.

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

EXT. VANGUARD CENTER. SAME

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.

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 as he drops his log into the octagon.

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? tower, and sees Conan
arrive.

PROSPERO

The King has returned!

Prospero turns and walks with his guards. Conan looks up to
the palace (Lookout) balcony. Lady 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? 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? 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? away and deliver them sharpened swords. Yaun looks to the other four with confidence.

INT. KHATALAN? CHAMBER. DAY

Subotai walks to Khatalan? 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.

Khatalan falls back onto her bed with arms wrapped around the sheaf and sword.

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. Settled. Conan closes eyes.

AKIRO (V.O.)

But their blessing had spilled over
too far....

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS. BLACK KINGDOM FOREST. NIGHT

Cross Caverns shine under the full hunters moonlight.

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

AKIRO (V.O.)

Unearthing an ancient tribulation.
Foretold and unfinished.

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.)

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 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 DINER 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?

KING AXYIELD

And they have pushed over the pass and into Hyboria? Staging to fulfill an ancient 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. Zingara has a limited capacity under arms.

KING AXYIELD

The Hyborian mountain rim is vast. How could one spare men?

PRINCE CALIG

For rumors.

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 to 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? concern, truth is.

KULAN GATH

And what if the Horde is truth?

ZENOBIA

(Stern)

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 Vanguard are more than capable of any defense that may be required.

PRINCE CALIG

His strength may not be enough.

CONAN

He is Cimmerian.

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 on the right.

CONAN

Have we done enough? I have flourished these lands with strength. I have honored my life. I feel the seasons and strength

(MORE)

CONAN (CONT'D)
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.

Conan hands the sword to Osric delivers the sword to the
light off the mantle and reads.

KING OSRIC
The Wyrd upon the fuller tells of a
story. A divide in the divine, an
ancient land, long ago.

CONAN
When two could not be one and a
sword was made.

Osric hands the sword back to Conan.

KING OSRIC
Lonely King under the fire mantle,
what darkness whispers in these
troubled winds? Can thee answer
once more?

CONAN
Have they returned? What do you
know of Set?

KING OSRIC
Doom was all I knew. There are many
stories told about this demigod of
the underworld, but all origins
come from across those mountains.
You killed the last of them, so it
was foretold. Do you believe you
and the sword carry the same fate,
Conan?

FADE TO:

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 I
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?
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? horse moves closer to Zenobia.

CONAN

The counsel? mood concerns you?

ZENOBIA

I have not seen our son, since the birth of our granddaughter.

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 Conan. Kiss.

ZENOBIA

I am settled.

Conan turns, then rides off.

CONAN

I am not. She is Oona? 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?
(Animal Calls)
They warn the forest.

ZANE

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

ZHAO

There is something out there.
Unnatural.

VALEN

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

ZANE

Let us go.

Zane mounts his horse.

EXT. CITADEL TRAINING AREA. SUNSET

Jochi and seven trainees take 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
her 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 Vanguard should have 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.

Zane skins deer around the fire.

FADE TO:

EXT. HYBORIAN MOUNTAIN. CAMP. DAY

Zane cleans his blade. Hands Qi the bloody pot with knife.

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

Follow me.

Group follows Qi to the river bed.

Qi points to the mutilated bodies that float down the river, then to the smoke two ridges away, as eyes follow.

Village burns, with a smaller fire settled in a valley higher up the ridge line.

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.

Presses stone away.

ZANE

Tonight we will slip up to the village. Down wind.

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? body, that lies halfway in hut. Kneels and puts his hand on child? 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. Shadows haunt and wiggle upside down along the pine. Pine sways.

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

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 tree limb. Pieces of flesh peeled from their thighs. Center moves. Two on the outside dangle (Dead).

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 he slides his hand under the rib. Woman? 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 demon dog 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 Demon dog 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 demon dog 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

This horde 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 as
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 Scout? 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.

Jun looks to the pass with concern.

Oona looks back to the Hyborian Mountains.

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 family and
 no hostility had delivered more
 hope, than vigilance. Snakes had
 not been vanquished from the Earth.

Village carries on unaware.

FADE TO:

EXT. VANGUARD. DAY

Expidition rides to palace.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROBERT E. HOWARD? ROOM. NIGHT

Robert pulls the paper from the Underwood typewriter, takes another slides it in, 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:

EXT. AQUILONIAN HILL. DAY

Zane rides with concern.

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

AKIRO (V.O.)
 A heavy burden my lord would soon
 bare.

Expidition rides to palace.

INT. AQUILONIA. PALACE HALL. NIGHT

Oona walks in the palace with Arteria in her arms.

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 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. 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 infant's 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.

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:

EXT./INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. DINNER HALL. NIGHT

Light from palace window.

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. Distant. Love.

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 (O.S.)
(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.

EXT./INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. SAME

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

Suh enters the hall. Walks to the Throne.

SUH
We have secured the border, my King. The Vanguard will sustain with the added men. You have my word, My King.

Conan nods with satisfaction.

Suh bows, turns and exits with men. General Pallentides enters.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES
The Lord of Melnibone, my King.

Elrik rides with his Generals to the front gates.

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.

Zane turns confused.

CHU (CONT'D)
We leave now.

EXT. VANGUARD. LOG OCTAGON. DAY

Chu and the Scouts ride past the Log Octagon.

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

Jochi stands to see Zane, who watches.

INT. ZAMORIAN KING? CHAMBER. NIGHT

King Osric? sits on his throne with eyes pitched upon the torches on the walls.

SET (V.O.)
I am coming.

Pestilence stops.

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

GENERAL (O.S.)
The scouts have returned.

General stands at the base.

GENERAL (CONT?) (CONT'D)
There are no signs of sentry, My King.

KING OSRIC
Double the rotations. Stay Vigilant.

Osric. Angry.

INT. AQUILONIA PALACE. KINGS CHAMBER. NIGHT

Conan sits in his throne. Generals stand around the base.

GENERAL PALLANTIDES

When the War Scouts return, I will
ready the army. If the news of this
has truth, we march to the pass, to
war, my King.

CONAN

What do you know of this legend?
This Horde?

Malak sits at the base. Twists a knife.

MALAK

A Horde conquered the south beyond
the pass many ages ago, in an
ancient land called Valusia, yet
never strong enough to push into
Hyboria. The stories from the pass
are just said to be rumors.

Trocero walks to the torch on the wall.

Zenobia enters chamber. Notices pendent in General Yyrkoon?
hand. Zenobia extends hand.

Yyrkoon bows and steps forward. Hands pendent to Zenobia.

ZENOBBIA

And now rumors have emerged of this
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, are the vanguard of
Aquilonia. Of Hyboria. Is set 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 savages who hold to an ancient
order. We need more clarity.

(MORE)

GENERAL PALLANTIDES (CONT'D)

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

Impassible. You need not worry, Zenobia.

ZENOBIA

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

CONN

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

ELRIC

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

Elric nods and exits. General? YYRKOON, 47, and ROCKHIR, 51, follow.

SUBOTAI

Their leader. What do they call this lord?

Trocero gazes into the torch fire. Concern.

CONAN

Counsel, his name.

Trocero turns to Conan.

TROCERO (O.S.)
 The devil never named its son, my
 King.

Torch on the wall burns.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAVE. THRONE OF SET. NIGHT

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

SET (V.O.)
 Deliver me.

ROTATH in black robe with snake tail slithers from center black cave. Waves fan. Walks to the stone bed.

ROTATH (v.o)
 Yes, my lord.

Young virgin girl lies on stone bed. Barely clothed. Sweat. Tied down by the hands and feet. Hands pull in a rhythmic sedated. Moans.

Rotath stands at the platform. Eyes of the serpent. Slides fan away. Caresses girl. Face to face. Girl moans sexually. Opens eyes. Snake faced Rotath transforms to man. Smiles.

Guard slight sedated panic.

Rotath calls to the underworld. Winds drive bats away. Stir up around the Dark Lord.

Rotath places hand on young girl? forehead. Brushes her hair back softly. Sniffs her. Girl turns head away.

Rotath pulls large blade from behind black robe..

Bats eyes glycine. Demon crawl towards the chamber from the cave. Scatter bats.

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. Lord lifts head. Eyes widen.

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

Rotath pulls blade across the girls neck.

Places cup under the stone bed. Fills cup.

Walks to the throne with cup. Extends cup to Lord.

Lord takes cup.

ROTATH (V.O.)
Aseity awaits you, my Lord.

Demons dance. Rotath slithers backwards with fan.

Lord drinks. Demon slither up to the throne.

Set? eyes turn to Black and red serpent eyes. Becomes SET.
Rotath delivers crown to Set. Set dawns crown.

SET (V.O.)
War.

Far distant shot of Mountain. Horn blows.

INT. PRINCE ZANE? 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? hair back. Arteria cuddles and squeezes Oona? finger.

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

EXT. CITEDAL FIELDS. DAY

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.
(MORE)

ZANE (CONT'D)

I will request for you upon the scout? 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 Citadel. 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 land. The rest shall follow. By our own hands, this Citadel has been the vanguard of Aquilonia since our union, and if it is darkness that comes.

Oona pulls his chin to look him in the eyes.

OONA (CONT?) (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?) (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 then opens the chest and smiles.

ZANE
I love you.

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.

EXT. CLIFF. DAY

The sun sets as Conn stands at the edge.

CONN
From the heart.

Distant blue light flickers from the fields under the cliff

EXT. CROSS CAVERNS. HYBORIAN MOUNTAINS BASE. NIGHT

War scouts close in on mountains.

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
Remember the village, cousin?

Zhao turns to his men.

CHU
Do not be discovered.

WAR SCOUTS
Gui'.

Group enters the Cave.

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 Shi renzu 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
Shi renzu.

ZHAO
Masters of Hul gil. 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 grabs Zela, while she screams.

Foreman drives sword into Papa? chest.

Zula fights to stand, and work.

INT. CAVES. NIGHT

Zhao and Chu run through dark caverns.

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 demon dog 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? shadow strikes a man down. Man shadow comes from behind. Spear strikes Zhao? 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 Masters Village. Chu and his War Scouts ride hard to the Citadel.

EXT. WAR MASTERS 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 Renzu ride with torches at the bottom.

CHU

Slow.

Chu rides slowly down the back of the ridge into the valley.
Shi renzu 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 Shi renzu, 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. VANGUARD. DAY

Vanguard comes alive to conduct the activities of the morning. Dogs bark 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. VALENS 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 then runs 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)
Dengdai.

Wei runs into the hut and returns with Yu, Ya and her family sword. Wei 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, Chavi, and Chaya run up and begin to load all the children on the wagons.

Oona and Aelia load Arteria and children on Hendo? Wagon. Children are loaded. O'na 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 as arrows stick into the Earth. 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.

Aquilonian 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.

Zane and his men cut through the horde.

VALEN
Prince.

Valen motions to the Citadel.

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

Oona? accuracy gets the Horde? 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. CHILDRENS WAGON. SAME

Horde closes in.

Jun turns around to face the horde. Jun sacrifices his horse into three Hordesmen. Horse tips end over end. Jun? 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 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? 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 Shi renzu surround Valen and take him to the ground. Valen is swallowed up by the group of Shi renzu.

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

Zane fights towards O?na.

Shi Renzu raises his blade to Oona? NECK.

Zane hesitates upon the sight of his wife? 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 thrusts 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 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 are 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 with arrow on top of pile in wagon. 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 and looks to the sky. Confidence.

ZANE

Crom.

Shi Renzu executioner II strikes.

Zane drops. Head roles.

Citadel burns.

EXT. AQUILONIAN BORDER CHECKPOINT. NIGHT

Two Shi Renzu ride up with a chest. Shi renzu drop the chest on the ground and turn. Arrows hit them from all sides, piercing the Shi renzu. Chu slowly approaches with three Guards. Walks over the Shi renzu 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? sword.

Conan takes the sword and holds it close. Sword trembles,
Conan? blood slides down the fuller of the blade.

EXT. CITADEL. NIGHT

War Masters ride into the Vanguard. Smoke only remains. Yan
Dismounts. Yan walks around fallen structure of the Vanguard.

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. MELNIBONE 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? 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.

Conn 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 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. SPIKE. NIGHT

Aelia, Chavi, Myia and Chaya chain around their neck to a large spike in the ground. Hold each other close. Chaya lies with Myia. Shakes 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?

Myia tries to push Chaya away.

CHAYA

(Shock)

No.

Chaya holds Myia close.

AELIA

Keep her quiet.

MYIA

Baby, be quiet, please.

Chavi bloody. Beaten. Crawls to Chaya.

CHAVI

It is going to be Okay. Please be quiet.

Chaya, beaten bloodied, notices a white skull like object that floats towards her. Object is a Skull. Un-extended. Empress crown fan made of human skin and bone with razor sharp ends.

Chaya curious crawls forward. Hypnotized.

ROTATH, 65, a black robed Set shape shifter slithers in a staggered ghostly rhythm toward Chaya.

Chaya slowly extends to the hypnotic rhythm of the SKULL Fan that approaches.

Three large Shi Renzu stalk in the darkness and dark moonlight. One ax in hand.

Chaya and the skull become face to face. Head and skull size match. Rotath extends pale and dark resolute face out of the robe. Fan snaps open.

Rotath slithers back, gains legs, kneels and bows into darkness. Snaps close. Skull fades into darkness.

ROTATH

(Hiss)

This is the one.

Chaya looks up in horror. Shi Renzu 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 disappears into darkness.

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

Kill me. Kill me!

Chop. Grunt. Silence. Howls and taunts call in the night. Mist streaks in the sky. Full moon is streaked in blood.

CHAYA (V.O.)

It is okay, mommy. I am with him now. Soon we shall be all together....

SET (V.O.)

In Hell.

Myia sits chained in shackles. Rocks back and forth in shock.
Women group together in fear.

FADE TO:

INT. CONAN? CHAMBER. NIGHT

Conan stands under the mounted Atlantean sword above the *Fire
Mantle*.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Maybe their god had become jealous,
or my Lord? sword had lied dormant
for too long. Who knows, It was
time for two masters destined to
conclude a battle foretold many
ages ago.

Conan takes sword off the Mantle. Fire burns in the mantle.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT II

ACT III THE RIDDLE

FIRE DIMS TO BLACK:

KING OSRIC (V.O.)

Lonely King under the mantle, what
darkness whispers in these troubled
winds? Can thee answer once more?

FADE IN:

EXT. BURIAL MOUNDS. DAY

Ashes drift in the winds. Eclipse closes on the beds. Zenobia sits alone on a rock. 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 conquer but
harness men? strength through faith
in a reign borrowed from the love
for our creation.

ZENOBIA

A kingdom to resemble our family,
our love, that was what I prayed
for. It is the only jewel a mother
could want.

CONAN

(Rage)
I want revenge.

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

ZENOBIA

(Affirmation)
I am done praying.

Conan looks back at his wife. Looks down at hand. Winds blow the remaining ashes away.

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

Thousands. They will hit us head on....Father?

Rage builds in Conan's heart. Settles.

CONAN

Summon the kings.

Conan looks in his hand, anger. Turns and exits.

Melnibone convoy arrives with Elric in the field.

FADE TO:

EXT. FIELD. DAY

Conan and Elrik stand across from one another. Conan hands toy to Elrik. Turns and walks to the PALACE.

AKIRO (V.O.)

The secret within the cavity had been revealed.

Elric drops to his knees in the fields.

AKIRO (V.O.)

Woe and sorrow, this they did not share alone, though this was not the only weight bearing down upon the brow.

FADE IN:

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, defiling.

Crow flies off towards Aquilonian palace.

THREE WOMEN attached to POLES and CHAINS attached to the lead horse reach the top of the green hill, followed by SET and a Thousand Black Hordseman. March in formation.

AKIRO (V.O.)
Led by the 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 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 hell.

Half of the kings from Hyboria are seated around Conan? 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 ten thousand blood
thirsty Shi renzu, coming to bring
hell upon these lands.

PRINCE CALIG

With a few 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? 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 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 stand. 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? right to take such a position among the crowns?

Elric slams open the hall doors behind Prince Calig.

ELRIC

It is a man? love for all he has, 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? 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)

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

Queen Magnus eye? are stricken by toy. Takes hand of King Magnus.

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

KING MAGNUS
I am King Magnus.

QUEEN MAGNUS
I am queen Magnus.

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, Good King.

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? 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.

(MORE)

PRINCE CALIG (CONT'D)
 Without authority, what hope would
 there be to restore the lands.
 Guards, prepare my horse. Mother?

Calig? 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? 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? 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.
 Suh tilts his head to a curiosity of combat.

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? sword and
exits the hall.

PRINCE CALIG

Look he runs away at this hour, and
you call yourself a king.

KULAN GATH

Conan, Where is it that you go!

Conan stops at the doors. Looks back.

CONAN

To draw the line.

Crashes doors open. Gath and Calig guards back down. Prince
Calig looks at Trocero. Eye to eye. Elric wide eyed.

ELRIC (O.S.)

Generals, prepare the men for
battle. Kings, we will see you on
the battlefield!

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. MILES FROM THE GATES. DAY

Conan and two Royal Guards arrive in an open field. Conan
stops and dismounts his horse, walks center, takes Zane?
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. Walk forward behind their king.

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

Guards smile. 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. Malak nods to Master Qi.

Master Qi rides out along the path to the edge of the over cliff.

Archers stand ready.

INT./EXT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. HALL. DAY

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

Sits and waits. Resolute.

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 men.
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. 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.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. LEFT FLANK. DAY

King Osric stages center of his men.

KING OSRIC
Men, I salute you.

King Osric Rides to the Kings staging area at the gates.

EXT. HYBORIAN CLIFFS. DAY

Master Qi sits in black upon a horse at the forward OVERLOOK. Observation in BLACK DRAB WAR DRESS. Yan lowers hand. War Scouts archers release arrows.

Ten thousand Shi Renzu march towards the Aquilonian palace.

Conn stands at the high cliff behind the trail. War Scouts ride slowly backwards. Malak arrives at the high cliff.

MALAK

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.

Conn eyes widen, turns and mounts his horse. Approaches
orchard. Stops on horse besides Malak.

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
concealed in black dull armor.

Conn nods and rides down the steep trail to the side of the
Palace. Malak follows on horse.

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

INT. THRONE ROOM. SAME

Conan enters with Guards. Guards align a path end to end down
the isle.

Conan sits with Zenobia. Both Resolute.

EXT. THE LINE. DAY

Guard right EYE? 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? 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.

Zane's 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. ESCAPE. 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, 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 hugs Yuan, then looks to his wife in the distance.

Prospero closes in on the Palace.

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. THRONE ROOM. DAY

Conan and Zenobia sit at their thrones.

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 MARCH UPON THE AQUILONIAN PALACE. DAY

The line of the sword is scattered with Shi Renzu dead bodies and horses.

Sword lies on the ground.

Shi Renzu march towards the Aquilonian Palace.

Akani and Aquilonian Guards heads in a sack.

Aelia pulls.

INT. AQUILONIAN PALACE. THRONE ROOM. DAY

Silent echoes of reckoning call throughout CONAN? THRONE chamber. Conan sits on his throne with fist under chin. *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 left 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? right.

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

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

Bows, steps aside and into formation.

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 SHi ReNZu perched center upon his black horse.
CHEST Armor decoration of human hair around the leather
dressed armor with KING KORZETTA? face right.

Lord of the Shi renzu drops his hand. Horde halts. Screams
stop. DEAD grey skins of the Horde can only be matched by the
sky of dark grey. Melnibone 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.

Rotath snaps fan.

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 these
demons back to hell.

Elric turns his horse to get the attention of the Lord of the
Shi renzu. Dawns dragon helmet.

ELRIC (CONT'D)
You are mine.

Elric stares down Set.

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.

Conan stands before the gates. Presents sword. Leans forehead against the writing on the fuller of the sword. Conan closes eyes.

ZANE (V.O.)

Father.

Conan sword drops and puts sword in sheaf. Stands before three 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. As a Cimmerian, one must
have an answer to be delivered into
the next. It is a mandate upon all
men, under any god, he so chose. In
time, the longing for this answer
had faded, as the love for my
family, land, and people grew.

Emotional, Conan draws sword, then men of Hyboria draw swords.

CONAN (CONT'D)

I have spent my life in the quest
of a riddle, knowing it is
delivered by the sword, yet can
only be forged within the heart of
men. Just men. 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.

Conan leads his men for battle with a steady stride.

CONAN (CONT?) (CONT'D)

Now follow me and we will answer
this riddle together.

Elric raises sword and screams out. All Charge.

Lord of the Shi Renzu pauses his charge with high hand.
Motions Half calvary to charge. Malak pulls blades. Smiles
and runs to battle.

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

In this garden I give the seed of
life. Take this seed and plant it.
As the it grows, nurture it, lead
it to the light. Regents, you can
stay here with them if you would
like.

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

PROSPERO & TROCERO

He who violate this law shall
replace the seed.

Shi Renzu. Surprised. Build shield wall around Set. 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.

FADE TO:

INT. THRONE ROOM. SAME

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.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. SAME

Master Qin holds sword high.

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 stage fright.

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

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

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

Elric? Calvary collapses Shi Renzu Calvary.

Executioner startled. Looks down to Aelia. Surprised.

Aelia smiles up to the executioner with rage.

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? eyes widen as he approaches the Horde? line.

Qi pulls his bow and THREE arrows, and locks his foot within the saddle. Releases arrows.

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 sheilds to block the onslaught of arrows. Hordesmen run out to attack War Masters.

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

ROTATH notices the hostage rescue. Directs men to a line of pursuit to the Girls with fan.

War Master? archers send arrows two hundred meters in front of their Cavalry. Shi renzu 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? direction. Conn passes Aelia. Looks in Aelia? eyes. Fear.

Accelerates to a thunderous sprint, and draws sword.

Flags shift from right to straight up.

MASTER QIN (CONT'D)
(Mandarin)
Break.

Flagmen pull the flags back. Wind blows flags. Banner men 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? are cut down. Souls fight through. Distract the Shi renzu second line with a shining strike. Souls fade. Second waive collapses line.

General Cymoril, screams and leaps with horse. Melnibone Calvary line breaks through the distracted Shi renzu. Horde? front center line collapses.

Rotath ducks and Draws closer to YAN.

Chi sees Rotath move towards Yan. Slides through to men, then runs in persuit of ROTATH.

Zamora Cavalry flip their facial protection down and line their crossbows. Charge through left corner of the Shi renzu 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 SHI RENZU, motions his elite.

Dark lord? 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.

SHI RENZU LORD stands before Elric.

ELRIC
You are mine.

Pursues a fight in the center.

Rotath slithers sideways, bows and invites Elrik to the center for a one on one battle with the Dark Lord.

Set stands center with sword down, smiles, then circles left.

Elric circles, then fires forward.

Set parries off the attempt with little effort.

Elric attempts to strike again. Weak approach. Lord of the Shi renzu 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 Shi renzu steps left. Taps hands from sword, and strikes across Elrik? chest. Elric? body curls upon impact on the ground.

General Rockhir screams. Charges, as the perfect strike of the Lord of the Shi renzu spins Rockhir around to his knees. Blood pours from his neck as Rockhir gargles. SET stares into Conan? eyes and rips Rockhir? head off, tosses the head to the side.

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.

ROTATH heads for Conan.

Cymoril intercepts and takes the onslaught from Rotath. Cuts her across the chest. Wounded.

Chu charges forward. Rotath slithers towards CONAN.

ROTATH is intercepted by Chu. Yan steps aside and draws Gurkha. ROTATH drives forward and slides his fan up staff of Chu. Yan strikes and drives ROTATH aside.

Conan DRIVES forward. One elite steps in front. Drives his foot into the face. Lifts elite off feet and into the earth. Snaps neck upon the impact of the bloody ground.

Chu thrusts staff forward in and around the head of ROTATH.

Rotath slithers forward in a strong and power motion driving Chu back with fan.

Rotath waves Fan violently for an opening. Yan steps back. Looks to Chu. Chu thrust forward to take a strike. Rotath ducks and strikes Chu across the rib. Chu holds wounded rib and turns resolute in the direction of another stand-off.

Chu drives Rotath who slithers back into two guards. Chu Strikes both Guards down then spins staff and strikes Rotath across the face with staff. Rotath spins to his knees.

Chu? pony tale spins around his neck, as he looks to the Yan. Yan strikes Rotath across the throat.

Conan and the Dark Lord square off. Rotath? head pops and roles through the circle. Fire blazes from the forest, as Conan and Shi renzu Lord circle left.

Shi renzu Lord. Angry, thrusts forward then steps aside, leaving Conan exposed. Cuts Conan over his left chest. Above the heart.

Shi renzu Lord settles back. Licks blood from his blade. Rips the face off his right CHEST PLATE. Taps chest plate.

SHI RENZU LORD

You.

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

Shi renzu Lord thrust forward. Conan steps aside and cuts him across the RIGHT CHEST.

Lord looks down at open cut across his breast surprised.

Conan and Shi renzu Lord circle. Lord of the Shi renzu 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 Shi renzu Lord back. Shi renzu Lord smiles. Goes to a high guard and 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 Shi renzu draws back his sword with confidence.

Conan looks to Subotai.

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

Conan spins. Shi renzu Lord pulls back sword. SPINS. Conan taps Shi renzu Lord on the HEAD. Skull pops. Scalp flies in the air. Shi renzu Lord 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.

SUBOTAI

Flawless.

Flames burn in the Garden. Conan stands with the Shi renzu 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.

Shi renzu run away from Battle. Towards the burning forest. Run hard into the flames. Impaled by spikes. Sun peaks over the Great Hyborian Pass. Shi renzu 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 to his knees with sword in hand. High ground. Blood pours from 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 to break 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. Zane? 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? 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. 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? 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 new 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.

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.

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.

Hordes men startled. Killed as they try to respond. Subotai and Pallantides walk over the bodies.

Chu? 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 and set towers. 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, 54, 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.

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 into the POPPY FIELDS.

CONN (O.S.)
How did it come to this?

TROCERO
A path is prevalent with such a seed.

Trocero puts hand on Conn? 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.

INT. THRONE OF POWER. DAY

Pallantides stands before throne. Anger. Destroys throne with AX. Exits.

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. SAME

Throne Chamber is vacant.

EXT. STONE BED OF CONAN. SAME

FIRE upon the stone bed of CONAN begins to dwindle. Smoke blows out.

EXT. AQUILONIAN LOOKOUT. SAME

Zenobia stands in the WINDS of the Aquilonia lookout.

ZENOBIA

End it.

EXT. PASS.

Pallantides reaches the top of the pass. All watch from the pass. Trocero reaches the top. Turns.

EXT. FIELDS OF RUE. SAME

Viper exits down the back of the poppy fields.

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? hand. Both stop, turn, then walk over the pass.

Set towers and poppy field burn.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS. HOWARD MUSEUM. PRESENT DAY

CANDLE burns at the side of the UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER....

HORN from a DISTANT train BLOWS.

FADE TO BLACK: