

THE VAMURAI PROPHECY

by

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FADE IN

EXT. OUTER SPACE

A large, dark planet hangs in space. Surrounded by three moons and a small, bright sun in the distance. A WOMAN'S VOICE (KASHALA) narrates.

KASHALA (V.O.)

The planet Archaleon. Where daylight lasts for only a few short hours. And the nights, under three unblinking moons, seem to go on forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WORKROOM - NIGHT

A large, ancient-looking book lies open on a wooden desk. The pages are blank except for Kashala's previously-spoken words in Gothic-style lettering.

As her narration continues, the words magically burn into the pages.

KASHALA (V.O.)

Long ago, the peaceful native humans were conquered and enslaved by the Wizard Lords, seven immortal beings with magical powers and a thirst for human blood. They came to escape their sun, which was deadly to them. And to obtain Caldonium, a mysterious metal which enhanced their powers and strength. To control the populace, they created a hybrid race. Selected males and, on occasion, females, were turned into VAMURAI, loyal Undead warriors who served as armies and overseers. Others became VAMPIRISAS, providing both humans and inhumans the heights of sensual pleasure. For generations the humans suffered. Until Zan, the eldest Wizard Lord, fell in love with a human woman who changed his heart. He began a quest to unite the planet and bring peace and equality to all. But his siblings had other plans...

EXT. ABUKAR/BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

In the night sky, the three full moons of Archaleon slowly move toward conjunction with each other.

Below, a mighty battle takes place outside an imposing walled city filled with unusual architecture. A force field of shimmering light surrounds the tall, ornate palace in the city's center.

Three Wizard Lords stand on a nearby hill. Distinguished by their white skin and burning red eyes. They bombard the force field with magical blasts from their 2-foot long dark golden scepters, known as "Caldorums."

These three are--

LORD THULL (40's), tall, intimidating, dressed in black. Seems to be the leader.

LORD KRANG (40's), robust, barrel-chested, wearing blue garments.

And LORD RAUN (30's), thin but tautly-muscled. Handsome face and eyes filled with unquenched ambition. His robes are blood-red.

On the field below the Wizard Lords, an army of VAMURAI WARRIORS, wearing green tunics, struggles to defend the city against VAMURAI ARMIES clad in black, blue and red.

The Vamurai have white, translucent skin, but their eyes retain a hint of humanity. They fight with inhuman speed, strength and agility, using curved, short-handled swords and advanced martial arts.

At times they hurl their swords at their opponents. The sword stays connected to the Vamurai's hand via the "bladalink," a ribbon of red energy that allows him to control and manipulate the weapon from afar.

Superficial wounds heal instantly. A Vamurai dies and shrivels into a corpse only when beheaded or a sword gets driven through his heart.

As the battle rages, the number of Abukar Warriors dwindles under the enemy onslaught.

INT. ZAN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

A large, windowless room. Bookshelves filled with scrolls and ancient tomes line the walls. A bubbling cauldron hangs over a fire in the giant fireplace.

At a worktable in the center of the room stands LORD ZAN (50's), tall, regal, wearing green robes. His Caldorum hangs from a leather belt around his waist.

His glowing hands hover over another intricately-carved Caldonium scepter lying on the table.

A multifaceted crystal orb caps this scepter. A small medallion in the shape of a leering sun lies embedded in its shaft.

The door bursts open behind Zan. Two well-dressed women rush into the room in a panicked state. They are--

MORENA (50's), human, warm, still attractive though aged. She wears a Caldonium tiara in her coiffed hair. And--

KASHALA (20), half-human, half-Wizard. Light-skinned, beautiful, idealistic.

MORENA

My Lord, our city's about to fall!

ZAN

There is time yet, Morena. Once I activate the Solamortis, my brothers and their armies are doomed. No creature of darkness can withstand its power.

Zan picks up the Solamortis scepter from the table. Morena grabs his arm.

MORENA

Please, my love. End this. Surrender.

Zan touches her face tenderly.

ZAN

Would you not rather die free than live enslaved?

Tears fall from Morena's eyes. They share a quick but loving kiss.

Kashala touches Zan's other arm.

KASHALA

Father, what if the Solamortis falls into enemy hands?

ZAN

It will not. But should I fail, you must carry on my work. Stay alive no matter what. And I bequeath you this...

Zan puts his hand on Kashala's forehead. It glows for an instant, and her eyes glaze over. Then he releases her and disappears in a flash of light.

Morena shakes Kashala by the shoulders. Brings her back to the moment.

MORENA

Kashala! What did he do to you?

KASHALA

I... I'm not sure. Images, words.
They feel like... some sort of
prophecy.

They look at each other with amazement.

EXT. ZAN'S PALACE/PARAPET - NIGHT

Zan reappears on the highest parapet of his palace. He looks up and sees the three moons almost joined in the night sky. Their combined brilliance lights up the battle below.

The force field weakens from the magical bombardment. Zan ignores it. Raises up the Solamortis. Begins chanting an ancient spell.

EXT. ABUKAR/BATTLEFIELD/STREETS - NIGHT

CHANSZU (30), rugged, athletic, is the last Abukarian warrior standing. His green tunic is tipped in gold, denoting his status as General.

Chanszu battles three red-clad VAMURAI. A FOURTH, wearing black, skewers him through the chest from behind. Barely misses his heart. Chanszu falls, groaning in agony.

Enemy Vamurai break down Abukar's main gate and pour into the city streets.

They wreak havoc on the frantic HUMAN populace. Biting necks, drinking blood, pillaging, raping, burning.

EXT. ZAN'S PALACE/PARAPET - NIGHT

Zan finishes the spell. The moons move closer to full conjunction.

Suddenly the force field SHATTERS! An instant later Thull, Krang and Raun materialize on the parapet near Zan.

Sharp blades spring from the ends of their Caldorums.

THULL

Zan! Throw down your weapon or die.

In response, Zan pulls out his own Caldorum and activates the hidden blade. He attacks the others.

The four Wizard Lords engage in a fierce sword duel. Each clash of blades results in a powerful burst of energy.

Zan fends them off while keeping one eye on the moons. They join together to become one giant, sparkling orb, making the night sky almost as bright as daylight.

Zan raises the Solamortis. The Orb on top begins to glow.

But this tiny distraction allows Thull to make a deft move and drive his blade into Zan's chest.

Zan SCREAMS. He hurls the Solamortis into the air. Fires a bolt of energy at it with his Caldorum.

The orb and medallion magically break off from the scepter. All three begin to fall.

Raun steps up and decapitates Zan with one mighty swing of his Caldorum's blade. Zan's body EXPLODES in a burst of magical power.

At the same time, the falling pieces of the Solamortis disappear in a FLASH.

The remaining Wizard Lords all become racked with painful energy for a moment, especially Raun. Then it subsides. Leaving them to stare at each other with surprise and suspicion.

RAUN

Where is--

THULL

The Solamortis is gone. We shall never speak of it... or Zan... again.

KRANG

Agreed.

Raun nods at his brothers. But the wheels in his mind turn.

INT. ZAN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

Morena lies dead on the workroom floor. Her hand holds the hilt of a dagger that she's plunged into her breast.

Kashala kneels over her body. Crying her heart out.

Thull, Krang and Raun materialize into the room. Take in the scene.

Kashala senses them. Tries to control herself. Wipes away her tears. Stands and stares regally at the Wizard Lords.

KASHALA

You've defeated my father. My mother
took her own life. I submit myself
to your mercy.

Kashala prostrates herself before the Wizard Lords.

Thull and Krang share a quick glance. Both then look at
Raun.

THULL

My brother Raun. Since your previous
queen died in childbirth... Kashala
is yours if you desire.

Raun gazes at Kashala with pure lust.

RAUN

I desire.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: 25 YEARS LATER

EXT. ABUKAR - NIGHT

The ruins of Abukar lie still in the night, illuminated by
the three moons. The stone walls now crumbling and overgrown
with vegetation. Zan's once-magnificent palace barely stands.

Two VAMURAI WARRIORS wearing red tunics, swords strapped to
their backs, gallop toward the city. They ride ZETHERS,
large, striped four-legged beasts that look like a cross
between horse and camel.

The Vamurai charge through the city's main entrance, across
the fallen wooden gate. Pick their way through the deserted
streets.

They arrive at the palace and dismount. The taller warrior
is--

SHALIZAR (early 20's), flowing black hair, handsome, muscular,
shimmering white skin. A dark golden medallion hangs from a
leather strap around his neck.

The other is GORON (20's). Stockier than Shalizar, with a
bushy moustache, cruel eyes, long brown hair pulled into a
tight ponytail.

His tunic sports gold trim, signifying his status as a
General. He wears a leather pouch slung over his shoulder.

SHALIZAR

Where do we look, Sir?

GORON

The workroom. Lord Raun's convinced
a piece of the Solamortis is there.

Goron surveys the crumbling palace. Smiles wistfully.

GORON (CONT'D)

Feels like the battle was yesterday.
I can still taste the blood.

Shalizar seems a bit nervous.

SHALIZAR

Some say Zan's ghost haunts this
place.

GORON

(chuckles)

A myth to frighten away the curious.

INT. ZAN'S PALACE/HALLWAYS/WORKROOM - NIGHT

Shalizar and Goron skulk through dark hallways. Past torn-
up bedchambers and picked-over anterooms.

SHALIZAR'S POV

His Undead eyes allow him to see almost perfectly in the
near-darkness.

BACK TO SCENE

They ascend some steps and come to another hallway. A broken
door leads to a large room at the end.

Shalizar follows Goron toward the door. Shalizar suddenly
stops. Looks around as if he hears something - a moaning,
perhaps?

GORON

What is it?

SHALIZAR

Thought I heard something.

GORON

The wind. Come on.

They enter Zan's workroom.

The shelves are now mostly empty except for cobwebs and a
few dusty potions and talismans. The cauldron rusts inside
the cold fireplace. Rotting scrolls lie strewn about the
worktable.

GORON (CONT'D)
Check everywhere.

SHALIZAR
Yes, Sir.

They explore the room. Rummage through the shelves. Turn over furniture. Check inside pots and bottles.

Goron grows frustrated. Smashes some glassware off a particular shelf.

GORON
Where is the damned thing?

Shalizar passes by a seemingly empty spot on the floor. To his surprise, the medallion around his neck sparks a bit.

He senses something. Squats and feels around the space. His fingers touch something solid.

SHALIZAR
Sir? Something's here.

Goron moves next to him.

GORON
Ha! Invisibility spell. Good eyes,
Shalizar. Open it.

Shalizar finds the lid on the invisible box. Pulls it off.

He takes out the multifaceted crystal orb that once topped the Solamortis.

GORON (CONT'D)
This'll make Lord Raun very happy.
Quick, give it to me. Can't have
the other Wizard Lords sensing it.

Shalizar stands and hands Goron the orb. Goron stuffs it into his shoulder pouch. It's lined with Caldonium.

SHALIZAR
Why did Raun wait so long to search
for this?

GORON
He hoped Zan's death would change
things for him. But they've only
gotten worse. Let's go.

INT. ZAN'S PALACE - NIGHT

Shalizar and Goron hurry back the way they came. At a particular doorway to a large room, Shalizar hears something.

He peeks in to investigate. The space, once a grand throne room, lies empty and still. A low MOAN turns into words, spoken in Zan's deep, ghostly voice.

ZAN (O.S.)

Awaken. And avenge me!

Goron notices Shalizar standing at the throne room doorway. Runs back to him.

GORON

Now what?

SHALIZAR

Did you hear that?

GORON

No. Come on, I've got someone waiting.

Goron pulls a reluctant Shalizar toward the front door.

EXT. ZAN'S PALACE - NIGHT

Goron and Shalizar exit the palace. They're stunned to see a PEASANT MAN (30's) and a PEASANT BOY (13), both wearing raggedy clothes, trying to steal their zethers.

The Peasant Boy spots the Vamurai first.

PEASANT BOY

Father!

The Peasant Man glances up. Takes off on a dead run. The Boy follows him.

Goron grins at Shalizar.

GORON

I could use a drink before our journey home. Take the boy.

Goron races after the Peasants. Leaps high into the air. Lands in front of the Peasant Man.

He grabs the Peasant Man by the neck. The Man struggles, but it's useless.

Goron bares his fangs. Eagerly sinks them into the Man's neck.

The Peasant Boy keeps running. Ducks into an alley between two crumbling buildings near the palace. He pants, his heart races.

He stops. Doesn't hear anything, except his Father's death rattles as Goron drinks him dry.

The Boy starts to run again. Shalizar drops down out of the sky in front of him.

The Boy stumbles back. Falls. His face frozen in terror.

Shalizar gazes at the Boy with bloodlust. In one swift move, he's on the ground, the Boy's head in his iron grip.

The Boy's fear-filled eyes meet Shalizar's. And for just a moment, Shalizar softens. Hesitates. Tries to fight his urges.

But it's a losing battle. The Boy SCREAMS as the young Vamurai slakes his thirst.

EXT. GRAND TEMPLE - NIGHT

The scream echoes across the landscape. Dies out near a modest but intricate stone structure, standing alone in an open field.

THULL (O.S.)

I have created six new Vamurai, to
replace those lost in a recent
skirmish with human rebels.

INT. MEETING CHAMBER - NIGHT

A large, high-ceilinged chamber. A ball of light hovers in the center.

Seven ornately-decorated thrones encircle the light. Shimmering projections of the Wizard Lords fill six of the seven thrones.

Besides Thull, Krang and Raun, there sits--

MAL (40's), short, stocky, a cruel face, dressed in purple.

JUNA (40's), a statuesque, cold-featured woman, wearing silver.

And NARN (late 40's), more sinister-looking than all the others. His robes are shining white.

THULL

Therefore our numbers are once again
balanced.

The others nod.

KRANG

The monthly shipments of Caldonium
will be less than normal. Chanszu
claims he needs more workers.

THULL

Raun, send ten of your peasants.

RAUN

Why me? I donated not long ago.

Deathly silence. Raun grows angrier.

RAUN (CONT'D)

This is an outrage! My city is the
smallest. I have barely enough humans
to rule as it is.

JUNA

You think we treat you unfairly, my
young brother?

RAUN

Always. Remember, I was the one who
killed Zan!

THULL

After I paralyzed him with my blade.

MAL

And you were well-compensated for
the deed.

RAUN

I still think--

NARN

Raun! Obey your elders. Or suffer
the consequences. Again.

Raun goes quiet. His eyes still blaze with anger.

THULL

Then we are agreed. Any other
business?

The others shake their heads or keep silent.

THULL (CONT'D)

Council adjourned.

The images of the Wizard Lords fade away.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

Raun sits in a high-backed chair at a large stone table covered with ancient scrolls. Moonlight shines through a high window. His Caldorum lies on the table near him.

The space looks much like Zan's workroom. A cauldron bubbles in a large fireplace. Shelves overflow with books and artifacts.

Raun simmers with anger. With a YELL he fires a bolt of magical light at the wall, which EXPLODES in a shower of dust and stone.

The door to the room flies open. Kashala, now appearing to be in her 30's, but still beautiful and elegant, pokes her head in.

KASHALA

My Lord? I was passing by and--

Raun stands. Still seething.

RAUN

Centuries. Centuries I have suffered their abuse. All because I am the youngest. And weakest.

Kashala glides over to Raun. Puts a comforting arm around him.

KASHALA

You're still a Wizard Lord. You rule Hakorro. Your subjects honor and fear you.

RAUN

It will never be enough.

He turns to Kashala. Touches her face.

RAUN (CONT'D)

But things can change.

At that moment, TOZU (20's) enters. He's slim, boyishly handsome, strong resemblance to Raun, but half-human like Kashala. He carries a smaller Caldorum scepter.

TOZU

Your warriors have returned, Father.

RAUN

Did they succeed?

Tozu just smiles.

RAUN (CONT'D)
(to Kashala)
Go to your quarters, my love.

Kashala bows her head.

KASHALA
Of course.

Raun hurries out behind Tozu. Kashala casts a suspicious eye on them.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

A huge throne room. Gold and precious jewels line the walls and floor. Sculptures and busts of Raun everywhere. Floating, glowing yellow globes provide illumination.

Raun sits on a sparking silvery throne atop a raised platform. Holds the stolen orb, gazing at it like a kid in a candy store.

Goron and Shalizar stand before him. Tozu lounges on a slightly less ornate throne beside Raun. He can barely control his own excitement.

TOZU
The Orb of Illuminatis.

RAUN
Key to the Solamortis. And ultimate power.

He turns to Shalizar and Goron.

RAUN (CONT'D)
Well done, my warriors. Once I rule Archaleon, you will be rewarded. Especially you, General Goron.

GORON
Thank you, my Lord. But Shalizar deserves the credit.

Raun smiles at Shalizar.

RAUN
You have not long been a Vamurai, Shalizar. But you have accomplished much. I expect more greatness in your future.

SHALIZAR
I live to serve, my Lord.

TOZU
What now, Father?

RAUN
We must locate the Sol Medallion and
the scepter. And make sure our plans
stay hidden from my brethren.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/CORRIDORS - NIGHT

Shalizar and Goron walk through passageways lit by floating
globes. Pass an occasional HUMAN SERVANT or VAMURAI GUARD.

SHALIZAR
Sir, where do you think the other
pieces are?

GORON
Raun said they all just disappeared
when Zan died. But we found the
Orb, so they still exist somewhere.
We'll find them.

They stop outside the wooden door to Goron's quarters. Goron
slaps Shalizar's shoulder.

GORON (CONT'D)
Good work tonight. Have to say I
agree with Lord Raun. You're already
one of the best warriors I've ever
commanded.

SHALIZAR
A soldier's only as good as his
leader.

Goron laughs.

GORON
Better keep an eye on you. Might
have a fight for my job someday.

SHALIZAR
No, Sir. I'll be happy to serve you
and Lord Raun forever.

GORON
Spoken like a true Vamurai!

They grasp each other's arms in a warrior salute.

SHALIZAR AND GORON
Loyalty, blood and honor!

Goron opens his door. A SEDUCTIVE FEMALE VOICE emanates from Goron's chambers.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

There you are, Goron! You know I hate to be kept waiting.

Shalizar glances away, embarrassed. Goron shoots him a sly grin.

GORON

She has a friend, if you're interested?

SHALIZAR

Thank you, Sir. But I have studying to do before dawn.

GORON

Embrace your Vamurai gifts, youngling. More to them than just fighting.

SHALIZAR

Good night, Sir.

Shalizar hurries away. Goron enters his room, a look of hot lust on his face.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. HAKORRO/ORPHANAGE - DAY

YOUNG SHALIZAR (12), dark-haired human, and YOUNG MARUS (12), portly with curly blonde hair, play a game with a ball in the scraggly yard behind an imposing stone orphanage.

Young Shalizar wears the same medallion as his adult self.

Other poorly-dressed ORPHANS of various ages romp and play in the yard. Three heavyset, middle-aged human female ATTENDANTS watch them from the back door of the orphanage.

Young Shalizar keeps stealing glances at YOUNG ALLYRA (11), a gorgeous little girl with flowing, raven-black hair and piercing blue eyes. She and a group of GIRLS play with makeshift dolls.

Suddenly an OLDER BOY, along with some of his tough FRIENDS, rushes to Young Allyra's group and steals their dolls. Young Allyra tries to fight off the Older Boy, but he shoves her down.

Before Young Marus can stop him, Young Shalizar races over and jumps the Older Boy. Pummels him to the ground. His Friends attack Shalizar.

Quickly there's a grand melee of fighting children.

The Attendants charge in to break it up.

INT. ORPHANAGE/HALLWAY - DAY

Two of the Attendants wrestle a crying, bruised Young Shalizar down a cold, barren hallway. His bare torso reveals red welts on his back from a beating.

The Attendants pick up Young Shalizar. Stuff him in a small, coffin-like box with a few tiny air holes.

Young Shalizar screams and struggles as the Attendants close the lid on the box. They lock it with a padlock. Leave, shaking their heads.

Down the hallway, Young Marus watches his friend's plight, scared and sad. A worried Young Allyra joins him. Young Marus holds her hand to comfort her.

INT. ORPHANAGE/CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Young Shalizar, Young Marus and Young Allyra stand inside the cavernous, grungy dining room with the other Orphans. Boys in one line, girls in the other.

The Attendants dish out bowlfuls of mushy food to each child from a large pot.

Young Shalizar still looks traumatized from his earlier ordeal. Young Marus talks to him, but he doesn't respond.

In the girls' line, Young Allyra glances at the Attendants - they're not watching.

She jumps out of line. Plants a kiss on Young Shalizar's cheek. He's shocked out of his sad daze. She runs and gets back in her own line.

The GIRLS around her giggle. Young Marus and a couple other BOYS near Young Shalizar punch and tease him. But he just stares lovingly at Young Allyra.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - NIGHT

A husky, red-garbed VAMURAI SOLDIER forcibly escorts Young Shalizar and Young Marus out of the orphanage. One of the Attendants counts over a few coins in her hand.

Young Shalizar looks up. Sees Young Allyra standing in a high window of the orphanage. Tears stream down her face.

YOUNG SHALIZAR
(screams)
Allyra!

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/SHALIZAR'S QUARTERS - EVENING

A shirtless Shalizar starts awake.

He sits up on a hand-sewn down mattress. Runs his fingers through his hair.

His small, high-ceilinged room is sparsely furnished. Just the bed, a wooden table with chair, and a shelf filled with scrolls and ancient bound texts.

His sword and tunic hang on a hook by the door above his boots.

Shalizar looks up at a tiny window cut high in one wall. The sky is a deep purple, the sun just having set.

Someone KNOCKS on his door.

SHALIZAR
A moment!

He jumps up. Throws on his tunic and boots. Opens the door.

Kashala enters. Shalizar bows as he closes the door behind her.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)
My Queen.

KASHALA
We're friends, Shalizar. No need to bow when we're alone.

Shalizar straightens up. Kashala regards him intensely.

KASHALA (CONT'D)
Is it true you found the Orb of Illuminatis?

SHALIZAR
Yes. In your father's workroom. Sorry I couldn't tell you--

Kashala holds up her hand.

KASHALA
No need to apologize.
(MORE)

KASHALA (CONT'D)

You serve Raun.

(pause)

I've always feared he'd try to re-create the Solamortis.

SHALIZAR

If he does, he can complete your father's dream of uniting Archaleon.

Kashala laughs bitterly.

KASHALA

(sarcastically)

Yes, Archaleon will be so much better off under Raun's rule.

SHALIZAR

Watch your words, my Queen.

KASHALA

Raun's only cause is vengeance. He's tired of being the whipping boy for the other Wizard Lords. He cares nothing for the people.

SHALIZAR

That's never made sense to me. The Wizard Lords are all powerful, all rulers. They should be equal.

KASHALA

What about Vamurai? And humans? What should their status be?

Shalizar hesitates.

SHALIZAR

We... were created to serve the Wizard Lords.

KASHALA

Are you sure? You were human as a child. Knew little of the world. Didn't you cherish your freedom then?

SHALIZAR

No such thing as freedom at the orphanage.

Kashala grows sad at hearing this.

KASHALA

I'm sorry.

Painful silence. Kashala touches the medallion hanging around his neck.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

You never take this off, do you?

Shalizar shakes his head.

SHALIZAR

It's my most prized possession. My parents' legacy... as far as I know.

Kashala smiles to hide her troubled feelings.

KASHALA

Still dreaming of Allyra?

SHALIZAR

Every day.

KASHALA

It's strange for a Vamurai to dream like that. Your connection must have been strong.

SHALIZAR

I... yes.

There's a loud KNOCK at the door. Tozu barges in.

TOZU

Shalizar, I--

He sees Kashala. The air frosts between them.

TOZU (CONT'D)

Kashala.

KASHALA

I was just leaving.

(to Shalizar)

Stay well, my friend. Follow your heart.

Kashala avoids Tozu as she exits. Leaves Shalizar with a slightly perplexed look on his face.

Tozu goes back to business.

TOZU

I have an appointment in the city. General Goron ordered you to escort me.

SHALIZAR

I live to serve, my Lord.

EXT. HAKORRO/CITY STREETS - NIGHT

A mixture of exotic and simple architecture. Large buildings interspersed with small, poorly-constructed dwellings.

Tozu and Shalizar stride through the dirt and cobblestone streets. Shalizar's sword hangs on his back. Tozu's without his scepter.

A few PEASANTS and SHOPKEEPERS shoot them nasty looks, which get ignored.

They round a corner. A PEASANT MAN working on the broken wheel of a hay-filled cart blocks their way.

The Peasant Man sees Tozu. Struggles to drag the cart to the side of the street.

Tozu taps his foot impatiently.

TOZU

Move, you piece of garbage!

Tozu's hands glow. He fires a burst of energy at the Peasant Man's cart.

The cart EXPLODES. Debris everywhere. The Peasant Man crashes against the wall of a nearby building. Falls to the street. Moans in pain.

Tozu resumes walking. Shalizar follows dutifully. But gives a sympathetic glance at the Peasant Man.

They arrive at a two-story stone building in an old, dark section of the city. Tozu knocks on the wooden door in ritual fashion. It opens.

INT. BROTHEL/LOBBY - NIGHT

Tozu and Shalizar step into the elegantly decorated lobby of a popular brothel.

Around the candlelit room, gorgeous, scantily-clad VAMPIRISAS entertain human and Vamurai MEN. Feeding them, whispering naughty things, and more.

The MADAME (40's), a statuesque Vampirisa with a coldly attractive face, emerges from a back room. Sashays over to greet them.

MADAME

My Lord Tozu! Wonderful to see you!

The Madame kneels before Tozu. He lifts her up by the hand. Kisses the back of it.

TOZU

How is business this evening?

MADAME

Excellent. You'll be very happy with the night's receipts.

TOZU

Good, good. And the new girl?

MADAME

Absolutely exquisite. You've outdone yourself, my Lord. She'll make us a fortune.

TOZU

She cost a fortune, so she better. Bring her out.

The Madame claps her hands. Two loinclothed VAMURAI GUARDS, swords strapped to their naked backs, emerge from a nearby room.

Between them, her hands bound in front with heavy rope, wearing barely anything, walks the achingly beautiful but world-weary--

ALLYRA (early 20's). Still with her lustrous black hair and piercing blue eyes. Her white Vampirisa skin glimmers in the dim light of the lobby.

Shalizar recognizes her immediately. Can't believe his eyes.

Neither can Tozu, but for different reasons. He licks his lips. Breaks into a sweat of arousal.

The Guards escort Allyra up to Tozu. She keeps her head down. Tozu lifts her chin.

TOZU (CONT'D)

Now I understand why Lord Thull was so reluctant to give you up.

Tozu sniffs her neck. Inhales her perfume.

TOZU (CONT'D)

I cannot wait to sample your charms.

Allyra averts her eyes, disgusted. She sees the medallion around Shalizar's neck. They lock astonished eyes.

Allyra mouths "Shalizar?" He responds with a slight nod.

MADAME

(to Tozu)

Would your escort like a companion
this evening?

Tozu smirks at her. Runs his hands through Allyra's hair.

TOZU

No, Shalizar is a true warrior. He
cares nothing for the pleasures of
the flesh.

Tozu yanks hard on Allyra's hair. Brings her to her knees.

TOZU (CONT'D)

(to Allyra)

I have been told you can tolerate an
amazing amount of pain. That will
be tested tonight.

Allyra winces. Grits her fangs. Her desperate eyes never
leave Shalizar.

Shalizar glances between Allyra and Tozu. Time seems to
stop for this moment of decision.

Before anyone can react, the tip of Shalizar's sword pricks
Tozu's throat.

TOZU (CONT'D)

(stunned)

Shalizar?

SHALIZAR

Let her go.

The two Vamurai Guards whip out their swords. Tozu cuts his
eyes to Shalizar.

TOZU

You dare threaten your master?

SHALIZAR

I will not let you harm her.

Tozu sneers. His hands start to glow.

TOZU

Such insolence cannot--

Allyra grabs the blade of Shalizar's sword and slashes Tozu's
throat with it.

Tozu lets go of her hair and staggers back. Holds his
bleeding neck. The Madame SCREAMS. Runs to help Tozu.

Allyra slams an elbow into the midsection of the nearest Vamurai Guard. Snatches away his sword. Stabs him through the heart. The Guard shrivels into a dessicated corpse.

She yanks the sword out of the body. Blocks the other Guard from killing her.

Shalizar stands frozen. Sees Tozu's blood on his blade. Watches Allyra battle for her life.

Tozu's face contorts with blazing anger as his throat wound heals. He pushes the Madame away. His hands glow again. He's about to blast Allyra.

SHALIZAR

NO!

Shalizar leaps forward. Swings his sword.

And neatly separates Tozu's head from his shoulders!

Magical energy from Tozu's falling, headless body EXPLODES through the ceiling of the brothel.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

Raun sits in his workroom. A fire roars in the fireplace.

The Orb of Illuminatis lies on the stone table. Raun reads an ancient scroll.

Suddenly his whole body shudders with painful energy. He SCREAMS. Looks up.

RAUN

(softly)

Tozu?

Raun jumps to his feet. Runs to the door. Wrenches it open.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Warriors!

INT. BROTHEL/LOBBY - NIGHT

The Guard dueling Allyra gets the advantage. He's about to impale her. But Shalizar rams his sword through the Guard's heart from behind.

MADAME

Murderers! Stop them!

Vamurai and Vampirisas around the room try to rouse themselves to action.

Shalizar silences the Madame with a stab through the heart. She shrivels into a surprised corpse.

Allyra holds out her hands. Shalizar slices through the ropes binding them. They race for the door.

The other Vamurai and Vampirisas move too slow to stop them from disappearing out into the street.

EXT. HAKORRO/STREETS - NIGHT

Shalizar and Allyra dash through the city. They stick to the shadows. Duck in and out of alleys and darkened doorways.

Before they leave one door frame, Allyra grabs Shalizar.

ALLYRA
Shalizar! Why?

SHALIZAR
I... couldn't let him...

ALLYRA
You'll be executed for this.

SHALIZAR
Not before I help you escape.

He pulls her by the hand. They hurry down more streets.

They turn a corner. The main gate's in sight. They run for it as fast as they can.

A familiar voice calls out behind them.

GORON (O.S.)
Shalizar!

Shalizar turns. Sees Goron and three VAMURAI SOLDIERS galloping on zethers. He stops. Points at the gate.

SHALIZAR
(to Allyra)
Go!

Allyra halts. Readies her stolen sword. Goron gets a good look at her face.

ALLYRA
No! We'll die together.

Shalizar grabs Allyra's arm. Pulls her close. Stares into her soul.

SHALIZAR

If you ever loved me. Please. Run.

Allyra hesitates. Kisses him hard. Takes off for the gate.

Goron gestures to two of the Soldiers.

GORON

Stop her!

The two Soldiers spur their zethers.

Shalizar hurls his sword at the lead zether. Kills it instantly.

The Soldier riding it goes flying headfirst onto the street. Gets knocked unconscious.

Shalizar retrieves his sword with his bladelink. Leaps over the second zether as it passes him. Yanks the Second Soldier off his mount.

They crash to the ground, Shalizar on top. Shalizar grabs the Second Soldier's head. Slams it into the hard dirt a couple of times. The Second Soldier goes out like a light.

Just as Shalizar scrambles to his feet, Goron hurtles off his own zether. Tackles Shalizar.

They wrestle around. Struggle for control of each other's weapons. Goron rolls on top of Shalizar.

GORON (CONT'D)

Surrender! Now!

Shalizar sees the Third Soldier about to catch up to the fleeing Allyra.

He slams the hilt of his sword into Goron's nose, breaking it. Blood spatters both of them.

He kicks Goron off. Goron lands hard, dazed.

Shalizar gets to his knees. Throws his sword. It impales the Third Soldier between the shoulder blades.

Shalizar yanks him off the zether with his bladelink.

Allyra races through the gate into the darkness beyond.

Shalizar retracts his sword. Shoots Goron a forlorn look.

SHALIZAR

Forgive me, Sir.

Shalizar prepares to ram his sword into his own chest.

Goron's head clears. He sees what Shalizar intends to do. Hurls his sword in a spinning fashion. Knocks Shalizar's sword out of his hands.

Shalizar tries to retrieve his weapon. Goron whips his sword around with the bladelink. Slashes Shalizar across the neck.

Shalizar falls back in agony. Holds his bleeding neck.

Goron retracts his sword. Charges toward Shalizar.

Shalizar feebly tries to recall his own weapon again. Goron stomps on it to keep Shalizar from pulling it back with his bladelink.

Goron picks up Shalizar by the neck. Digs his fingers into his bleeding, still-open wound so it can't heal.

GORON

You've shamed all Vamurai, Shalizar.
Betrayed our oath. Loyalty, blood
and honor. Remember?

SHALIZAR

(gurgling)

Yes, Sir! I know. Please... Let
me keep my honor.

Goron squeezes his neck harder.

GORON

No.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Raun sits on his throne. Covers his tear-streaked face with his hands. Breathes deeply to stop sobbing.

Kashala sits next to him. Her face filled with concern.

Shalizar kneels on the floor before them. His neck healed but scarred. Hands tied behind his back with heavy chains.

Goron and the three Vamurai Soldiers, now recovered, stand guard around him. Goron holds Shalizar's sword.

Raun lowers his hands. His still-wet eyes flash with angry fire.

He moves down from his throne. Gives Shalizar a hard backhand SLAP. Knocks him to the floor.

RAUN

You murdered my son. My... son.

(pause)

What excuse do you give?

Shalizar gets back onto his knees. Keeps his head down.
Stays silent.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Indeed. There is no excuse for a
Vamurai to harm his master.

Goron nods in agreement.

RAUN (CONT'D)

You had such promise. This betrayal
is...

Raun shakes his head. Turns to Goron.

RAUN (CONT'D)

You said he was protecting someone.

GORON

A Vampirisa. She escaped.

Kashala tries to hide a slight smile.

SHALIZAR

She had nothing to do with it! Tozu
and I argued, and--

RAUN

The quick leap to her defense reveals
your lie. No matter. We will find
and punish her.

(pause)

As for you, Shalizar, I will torture
you for years. Decades. Pain will
be the only thing you know.

Kashala rises. Joins Raun. Glares down at Shalizar.

KASHALA

No, my Lord. He's not worth the
effort. There's only one punishment
for this crime. The Burning Death.

Raun throws her a suspicious smile.

RAUN

Strong words, my Queen. I know the
two of you were close.

Kashala stares into Raun's eyes.

KASHALA

I'm ashamed I ever called him friend.
Let's be done with him.

Shalizar remains stoic. Even though Kashala's betrayal cuts deeply.

RAUN

You speak wisely.
(to Goron)
The sun rises soon. Take him to the
Temple of the Moons.

GORON

Yes, my Lord.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/KASHALA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Kashala enters and locks the door to her well-appointed suite.
Plush bed, well-made furniture fit for royalty.

She hurries to a dresser. Pulls a smoked glass disc from a
secret compartment inside one of the drawers.

Holding the disc in one hand, she waves her other glowing
hand over it.

KASHALA

(whispers)

Dharvon. Dharvon. Dharvon.

The disc pulses with light. A deep, muffled voice speaks
from it.

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.)

Yes, my Queen?

Kashala paces around the room, worried. She speaks softly.

KASHALA

They're taking Shalizar to the Temple
of the Moons. The Burning Death.

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.)

No Vamurai can survive that.

KASHALA

You think I don't know?

She bites her lip to fight back tears.

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.)

Yet you've seen it. In your mind.

KASHALA

Yes. But not the outcome. What if
I did something wrong?

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.)

Trust your instincts, my love.
They've guided you this far.

Kashala takes a deep breath. Calms down.

KASHALA

I wish you were here.

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.)

I am. Always.

Kashala smiles, a bit relieved.

DHARVON (MUFFLED O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'll alert the tribe. We'll be ready
to help.

KASHALA

Stay well, my love.

The disc fades. Kashala closes her eyes and holds it against
her breast.

EXT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - DAWN

A marble temple stands in a secluded section of the city.
Surrounded by high stone walls.

A flat, rectangular altar made out of black stone sits on
the grounds in front of the temple.

Goron and the other Soldiers chain a spread-eagled Shalizar
onto the altar. He's been stripped to just a loincloth.

As they finish, Goron rips the medallion from Shalizar's
neck. Holds it up. He doesn't notice the markings on it
slowly start to change.

GORON

I'll keep this as a reminder of your
treason.

Kashala stands nearby, watching. She reacts with horror
when she sees Goron holding the medallion.

Goron and the Soldiers step back. Raun approaches the altar,
carrying Shalizar's sword.

RAUN

Less than a year ago on this altar,
I gave you eternal life. Today, for
the murder of my beloved son, I take
that life from you.

Raun holds Shalizar's sword between his hands over Shalizar's torso.

RAUN (CONT'D)

First, a taste of your ultimate
punishment.

Raun's hands glow. The sword turns red, then white-hot.
Shalizar writhes in pain on the altar.

The sword turns to molten metal. The flaming liquid falls
onto Shalizar's chest and stomach. Burns his flesh.

Shalizar hisses and gnashes his fangs. But he doesn't scream.

Kashala turns away. Unable to watch.

Goron ties Shalizar's medallion around his neck. Pained
anger on his face. The markings on the medallion continue
to subtly change.

Raun looks at the rapidly brightening sky.

RAUN (CONT'D)

The sun will finish what I have begun
here. You will die alone. To become
ashes, dust... And a hated memory.

He turns to Goron and the Others.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Let only the wind hear his death
screams.

Raun leads Goron and the Vamurai Soldiers from the temple
grounds. Kashala starts to follow them.

She stops. Glances back at Shalizar. Then turns her eyes
to the heavens.

KASHALA

(softly)
Please, Father.

A moment later, Shalizar lies totally alone.

The sky brightens to a crisp blue. Shadows shorten all
around.

SHALIZAR
(softly)
Remember me, my love.

He closes his eyes. Prepares to die.

Everything grows brighter. Brighter. The sun breaks over the outer wall of the temple grounds. Engulfs Shalizar's body with its powerful rays.

Shalizar begins to burn. He writhes in agony. His body bursts into flames. He SCREAMS.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)
ALLYRA!!!

Zan's ghostly voice wafts over the wind.

ZAN (V.O.)
Awaken! Avenge me!

FADE TO BLACK

(OVER BLACK, SILENCE. THEN SOUNDS OF LABORED BREATHING. A MOAN OF PAIN.)

EXT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - NIGHT

SHALIZAR'S POV

His eyes open. He gazes into Allyra's beautiful face, bathed in triple moonlight, framed by the stars above.

SHALIZAR
(painful whisper)
A-Allyra?

Tears form in Allyra's eyes. She breaks into a huge smile.

ALLYRA
Impossible!

KASHALA (O.S.)
No. I believe it's his destiny.

BACK TO SCENE

Shalizar still lies chained to the altar. His body horribly burned. His face barely recognizable. But he's alive.

Allyra caresses Shalizar's head. She's dressed for travel, the sword she took from the brothel strapped to her back.

Kashala, disguised in men's clothing, glances around furtively.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

We must hurry.

Kashala produces a jeweled dagger from her tunic. Holds her arm over Shalizar's mouth.

SHALIZAR

M-my... Queen. No.

KASHALA

You need your strength, Shalizar.
Drink.

Kashala slashes her arm with the dagger. Blood spills into Shalizar's mouth. He guzzles it thirstily.

His burns and wounds start to heal. Kashala waits a few moments. Then pulls her arm away. Hands the dagger to Allyra.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

Keep this. It's yours.

Allyra shoves the dagger into her belt. Kashala closes her cut magically with her other hand.

Shalizar's body restores itself with amazing speed. He's still weak, but looks almost back to normal. His skin now a shade darker than before.

Kashala holds her hands over Shalizar. Chants a spell.

Light flies from her hands to the chains binding Shalizar to the altar. The metal turns to cold liquid and melts from his body.

Allyra lifts Shalizar to a sitting position. Kashala pulls a cloak from a leather pack at her feet. Wraps it around Shalizar.

The two women help him off the altar. Kashala grabs the pack. Leads them toward the temple.

Shalizar walks unsteadily. Struggles to regain his strength. Kashala and Allyra speak in whispers.

ALLYRA

Where are we going?

KASHALA

There's a secret tunnel underneath
the temple. It runs from the palace
to beyond the city walls.

ALLYRA

Then what?

KASHALA

We'll discuss that when we're out of Hakorro.

EXT. HAKORRO OUTER WALL - NIGHT

Allyra, Kashala and Shalizar emerge from a disguised cave opening in a small hillside near the city walls. Archaleon's three moons shine brightly in the night sky.

KASHALA

It was too risky to steal a zether for you. But you can still get to the mountains before dawn. Rest there till nightfall.

They stop.

SHALIZAR

Why... are you helping--

KASHALA

Please forgive my words of betrayal last night.

Kashala touches Shalizar's face. Stares into his eyes.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

You had to endure the Burning Death to become immune to the sun's rays. And unlock your powers.

Shalizar's face is a mask of confusion.

Kashala pulls away from them. Allyra supports Shalizar alone.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

I'd not anticipated Goron stealing your lucky medallion. If I don't act soon, Raun will be even closer to re-creating the Solamortis.

SHALIZAR

I don't... understand.

KASHALA

You're the key to avenging my father, Shalizar. And possibly changing Archaleon's future.

SHALIZAR

In your father's palace. I heard...
a voice...

KASHALA

I always suspected Zan's spirit
lingered there, waiting for you. Go
to Abukar. Seek his help to find
the scepter. You must keep Raun
away from it.

ALLYRA

You don't know where it is?

KASHALA

No. He entrusted the Sol Medallion
to me, but made sure I knew nothing
of the other pieces. In case another
Wizard Lord tried to use me to find
them.

SHALIZAR

My Queen, please explain--

KASHALA

There's no time. I've told Allyra
what I could. Raun's already hunting
her. If he finds both of you...

(pause)

Your only chance at happiness together
is to destroy him. And if he gets
the Solamortis, that may be
impossible.

Kashala hands Allyra the leather pack. Starts back for the
tunnel entrance.

ALLYRA

You're not coming with us?

KASHALA

No. I must return to the palace and
make Raun believe Shalizar's dead.
But you'll not be alone in this quest.
I promise.

She disappears back into the tunnel.

Allyra slings the pack over her shoulder. Supports Shalizar
as they hurry toward the mountains beyond.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Raun sits on his throne, looking bored. Two HUMAN PEASANT
MEN kneel in front of him, wearing ragged clothes.

Guarded by two VAMURAI SOLDIERS.

PEASANT #1

My Lord, please! Our crops haven't
come in yet. We have no money.

RAUN

You know when the monthly tribute is
due. You should have prepared.

PEASANT #2

Yes, my Lord. We'll make it up to
you next month, after the harvest.

RAUN

No. I want something now. You have
children?

The Peasant Men share a frightened glance.

PEASANT #1

N-No, my Lord.

VAMURAI SOLDIER #1

He lies. I saw two children in his
house.

Raun blasts Peasant #1 with his Caldorum, sending him flying
across the room.

RAUN

Never lie to me.

He turns to the Vamurai Soldiers.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Take them home. Return with all
children you find.

PEASANT #2

Please my Lord! Spare our--

RAUN

Silence! That will be your tribute
this month.

Raun dismisses them with a wave of his hand. The Vamurai
Soldiers drag the two crying Peasant Men out of the throne
room, just as Goron enters.

Goron marches up to Raun.

RAUN (CONT'D)

What is it, General?

GORON

My Lord, I've come to ask you to let me go search for the Vampirisa who conspired in your son's death.

RAUN

A patrol has already been sent on that mission. They have your description of her. And I need you for more important things.

Goron bows.

GORON

I'm ready to serve, my Lord.

Shalizar's medallion slips out from beneath the open neck of Goron's tunic. Its face now reveals a leering sun - the second piece of the Solamortis!

Raun sees the medallion. His eyes go wide.

RAUN

That trinket around your neck. You took it from the traitor?

Goron nods.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Hidden under my nose, all this time.

Raun starts to laugh, then stops abruptly. His face grows dark. He almost looks as if he's about to cry.

GORON

My Lord?

Kashala enters from a side door, carrying a small jewel-encrusted box.

Raun gestures for Goron to hide the medallion. Goron stuffs it back into his tunic. Raun takes a deep breath to regain his composure.

Kashala approaches them.

KASHALA

I've collected the remains of Shal--

RAUN

Do not speak his name!

Kashala holds out the box to Raun. Lowers her head.

KASHALA

Forgive me. The remains of he who
betrayed you.

Kashala opens the box. It's filled with ashes and tiny flecks
of bone.

Raun examines the ashes. Grunts in satisfaction.

RAUN

Give the box to Goron. He will
scatter its contents.

Kashala closes the box. Hands it to Goron. Her gaze lingers
a little too long on the strap around Goron's neck.

Raun takes note of this. Gets an idea.

RAUN (CONT'D)

(to Goron)

You may go, General. I will send
for you later.

Goron bows his head. Leaves.

Raun regards Kashala warily.

RAUN (CONT'D)

What else, my Queen?

Kashala smiles. Moves next to him. Begins massaging his
shoulders.

KASHALA

Just to comfort you, my husband.

Raun closes his eyes. Allows himself to relax under Kashala's
talented fingers.

RAUN

You have always been good at
comforting me. I cherish our years
together.

Kashala doesn't respond. But the look on her face shows she
doesn't agree.

Raun takes one of Kashala's hands. Kisses it.

RAUN (CONT'D)

I often wonder. How you could love
me?

KASHALA

You've made it easy, my Lord.

Raun looks up at her. Studies her smiling face.

RAUN

Your love and loyalty will soon be rewarded.

Kashala continues to smile. But it's not easy.

INT. CAVE - DAWN

Allyra helps Shalizar into a small cave. They have to crouch a bit to walk. Outside, the sky brightens over the mountains.

They collapse on the dirt floor of the cave. Allyra drops the pack next to her. Exhausted.

Shalizar's still weak. He looks up at the low cave ceiling. His eyes fill with panic.

After a moment of rest, Allyra sits up. She looks tenderly at Shalizar.

ALLYRA

You need more blood.

Allyra wraps her arms around Shalizar's torso. Pulls him up so that his lips touch her neck. He resists.

SHALIZAR

N-no. You--

ALLYRA

Please. It's the least I can do.

Shalizar opens his mouth. Gently bites into Allyra's neck.

Her life-giving blood flows into him. Allyra closes her eyes. A look of rapture on her face.

After a moment, Shalizar releases. The wounds on Allyra's neck immediately close up.

Shalizar wipes his mouth. He seems stronger. He's still nervous, but tries to hide it.

SHALIZAR

Thank you.

ALLYRA

How far is Abukar?

SHALIZAR

About two nights' journey. One if we could find a zether.

ALLYRA
Then we should rest.

Allyra lies back down on the cave floor. Yawns.

SHALIZAR
What was Kashala talking about
earlier? About me being "the key"?
And immune to the sun?

ALLYRA
She told me about a prophecy. Made
by Lord Zan.

SHALIZAR
What did he say?

ALLYRA
That a Vamurai who walks in
daylight... would avenge his death...
and unite the people of Archaleon.

Allyra falls asleep as the sun breaks over the mountains
outside. They're safe inside the shadows.

Shalizar crawls closer to the cave entrance, but still stays
in darkness. He stares into space. Absorbing this news.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

The sun sets slowly behind the mountains.

Shalizar, now wearing a dark tunic, leggings and boots, stands
outside the cave. Bathing in the last rays of sunlight.
His eyes wet with tears of amazement.

Shadows fall over him. His face also darkens, with concern
and indecision.

He hears Allyra stirring inside the cave.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Allyra yawns and stretches.

Shalizar enters. Allyra smiles at him. Holds her stomach.

ALLYRA
Hungry.

SHALIZAR
We'll find something in the forest.

ALLYRA
Marmasol blood can be tasty.

SHALIZAR
So I've heard.

Allyra sits up. Shalizar kneels in front of her. Takes and stares at one of her hands.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)
Kashala was right.

ALLYRA
About what?

SHALIZAR
The sun doesn't hurt me anymore.

Allyra breaks into a joyful smile. But senses Shalizar's unease.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)
Allyra, do you... believe Kashala's prophecy?

ALLYRA
(pause)
I want to. When I turned eighteen, those horrible women at the orphanage sold me to Lord Thull. He made me a Vampirisa. And I was taught... the arts of love.

She turns away from Shalizar. Embarrassed. He gazes at her with sympathy.

ALLYRA (CONT'D)
I sought freedom every chance I got. I've been beaten, whipped, nearly killed. Many nights I planned to meet the dawn and end this.

Allyra wipes away tears forming in her eyes.

SHALIZAR
What stopped you?

She turns back to him.

ALLYRA
Remember the game we used to play as children? Where I was the beautiful princess, imprisoned in the tower--

SHALIZAR

And I was the dashing warrior who'd
rescue you.

They both smile at the memory. Allyra takes hold of
Shalizar's hands.

ALLYRA

I can't say why, but... I always
believed you would someday.

She moves to hug Shalizar. But he backs away.

SHALIZAR

Allyra, I... I don't know what to
do.

ALLYRA

What are you talking about?

SHALIZAR

I'm a Vamurai. It's all I know.
It's... it was all I wanted. Until
I saw you again.

ALLYRA

And now you're free!

SHALIZAR

Am I? The way you feel as a Vampirisa
was the way I felt at the orphanage.
Only you and Marus made life there
bearable.

Tears again well in Allyra's eyes.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

I felt reborn when Raun changed me.
My life finally had a purpose! To
serve him and the city of Hakorro.
Now I've betrayed that. And
everything I believe in.

He looks away from her.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Loyalty, blood, and honor...

ALLYRA

Shalizar, those words mean nothing
when used to oppress others. You've
been just as much a slave as I have.

Shalizar considers this.

ALLYRA (CONT'D)

Raun executed you. You don't owe him your allegiance anymore. If you must serve someone, choose Kashala. Or Zan. Make their dreams a reality.

SHALIZAR

(chuckling)

Were you always this brave? And smart?

Allyra smiles.

ALLYRA

And remember what Kashala said. It's our only chance at happiness together.

(pause)

Assuming... you do want to be with...

Their eyes lock. Years of torment melt away.

They come together in a desperate hug. Kiss like there's no tomorrow. Rip each other's clothes off as they give in to their pent-up love and lust.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/GORON'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room contains a simple bed, wardrobe, and several swords mounted as trophies on the walls.

Goron lies under a sheet on the bed. Naked except for the medallion around his neck.

A curvaceous, blonde VAMPIRISA (20's) throws on a slinky dress and fluffs her hair. Goron admires her figure.

VAMPIRISA

Same time tonight?

GORON

Depends on if Lord Raun gives me a mission. I'll come by your apartment if I'm free.

The Vampirisa shoots Goron a flirty look.

VAMPIRISA

Don't be surprised if I'm not alone.

GORON

Never am.

She blows him a kiss. Opens the door. Stunned to see Kashala standing in the hallway. She bows.

VAMPIRISA

My Queen!

The Vampirisa scurries away down the hall. Kashala steps into Goron's room. Shuts the door behind her.

Goron sits up, covering his privates with the sheet.

GORON

How can I serve you?

KASHALA

A small favor, General. You know I was friends with the traitor.

Goron nods. Kashala points to the medallion.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

He once told me that medallion was his most prized possession.

GORON

Interesting.

KASHALA

I'd be grateful to have it. Something to remember him by.

Goron leers at her.

GORON

How grateful?

KASHALA

I'd give you anything in my power.

GORON

Including yourself?

Kashala shoots him a seductive smile.

KASHALA

Gladly.

She starts to move toward Goron.

Suddenly Raun materializes into the room in a flash of light, holding his Caldorum.

Kashala jumps back. Tries to look innocent.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

My Lord!

Raun glares at her.

GORON
(to Raun)
Your suspicions were right.

Goron stands, holding the sheet around him. He takes off the medallion. Hands it to Raun.

Raun holds it up tauntingly to Kashala.

RAUN
You want this.

KASHALA
It belonged... to my friend.

RAUN
No. It belonged to Lord Zan. And you know its significance.

KASHALA
No, my Lord. I don't--

RAUN
Stop lying!

Raun stares at Kashala. Chest heaving with pain and anger.

RAUN (CONT'D)
I've loved you. Given you everything.
Has a single word of truth passed
your lips since the day we married?

Kashala realizes the game's over. She draws herself up regally.

KASHALA
How could you expect me to love my
father's murderer?

Raun struggles to keep his emotions in control.

RAUN
All I seek now... is to follow in
his footsteps and unite the planet
under my rule. Will you help me?

KASHALA
You don't believe in equality, Raun.
Power is all you seek. And revenge
on your elders.

RAUN
So you would work against me.

KASHALA

I don't need to. Events have been set in motion that will bring about your end.

RAUN

I should kill you for your betrayal.

KASHALA

Executing me would only alert the other Wizard Lords to your plans.

RAUN

For now, yes. But I can make you wish you were dead.

Raun fires a blast of mystical energy at Kashala from his Caldorum.

Kashala SCREAMS. Slumps to the floor, unconscious.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Shalizar and Allyra hurry hand-in-hand through a dense forest. Weird ANIMAL CALLS pierce the night. The moons cast swaying shadows through the tree branches.

Shalizar now wears the stolen sword on his back. Allyra's dagger is strapped to her hip.

Shalizar suddenly doubles over in agony.

ALLYRA

What's wrong?

He takes deep breaths. Slowly recovers.

SHALIZAR

Not sure. I just know... something bad's happened to Kashala.

ALLYRA

Maybe this is one of the powers she mentioned.

Shalizar shakes his head, confused. Pulls Allyra along even faster.

They enter a small clearing. Surrounded by dense brush.

ALLYRA (CONT'D)

Do you think Raun found out--

SHALIZAR

Shhh!

They both stop and go silent. Low GROWLING emanates from the bushes.

Shalizar quietly unsheathes his sword. Allyra tenses.

With a ROAR, a PANTHOID, a black, lion-like creature with a maned head, double-clawed toes and silvery fangs, leaps out of the bushes toward Allyra.

Shalizar catches the panthoid in mid-leap. Rams his sword into its side.

Shalizar and the panthoid tumble to the ground. The panthoid ROARS. Claws at Shalizar. Tears his tunic, arms and torso to shreds. Snaps at him.

Allyra whips out her dagger. Tries to figure out how to help.

Shalizar wrestles with the beast. Struggles to wrench his sword out of its torso - but it's stuck.

It takes all of Shalizar's strength and agility to keep from getting his head torn off.

The panthoid knocks Shalizar away with a swipe of its paw. Scrambles to its feet. Charges him.

Allyra leaps onto the panthoid's back. Drives her dagger deep between its shoulder blades. Slices backward.

The panthoid SCREAMS. Collapses to the ground. Its suddenly useless front paws wave and flop about.

Allyra yanks out her dagger. Flips it expertly. Jams it into the beast's chest.

Shalizar dives in. Pulls out his sword. Slices open the panthoid's neck.

The panthoid shudders and dies. Shalizar and Allyra gulp down the blood oozing from its neck. Shalizar's wounds heal.

Allyra hears something. Looks up.

Three HAKORRAN VAMURAI charge into the clearing astride zethers.

They surround Shalizar and Allyra. Point their swords threateningly.

The leader, PRADOR (20's), rugged, shouts at Allyra.

PRADOR

In the name of Lord Raun of Hakorro,
I arrest you for the death of his
son, Lord Tozu.

Shalizar stands from behind the panthoid. Glares at his former comrades.

SHALIZAR

No one's getting arrested tonight.

Prador and the other Vamurai are shocked to see him.

PRADOR

Shalizar? How can this be?

Shalizar tightens the grip on his sword.

Prador shakes his head. Lets out a chuckle.

PRADOR (CONT'D)

Doesn't matter. Give up. You can't
beat the three of us.

Without warning, Allyra hurls her dagger at the nearest Hakorran Vamurai. THUNK! Direct hit in the heart. His lifeless corpse falls to the ground.

ALLYRA

What about two?

Shalizar leaps into the air to engage the Vamurai closest to him. Prador wheels his zether and charges Allyra.

Shalizar and the second Hakorran battle fiercely. Shalizar succeeds in knocking him off his mount. They continue their duel on the ground.

Allyra deftly eludes Prador. She ducks in and out of the bushes around the clearing, and uses the riderless zether as cover.

Prador fires his sword at her, but she avoids it. Continues the cat-and-mouse game.

Shalizar and his opponent appear equally matched. Slashing and hacking each other for all their worth. Then Shalizar makes a clever move, ducking under a thrust.

He drives his sword into the Hakorran's heart, ending the duel.

Prador throws his sword again. Skewers Allyra through the calf. She CRIES OUT in pain. Prador drags her back toward him with his bladelink.

Shalizar starts to leap for Prador. But before he can, a steel-tipped crossbow bolt pierces Prador's heart from out of nowhere. He shrivels and dies, his bladelink dissipating.

Allyra yanks the sword out of her calf. Glances at Shalizar with alarm at this new threat.

Three peasant-garbed HUMAN MEN rush into the clearing.

Two of the Men keep Shalizar and Allyra covered with crude crossbow-style weapons, each loaded with four steel-tipped bolts.

The third Man holds a torch. He steps toward them. Meet--

MARUS (20's), muscular, with curly blonde hair.

MARUS

About time.

SHALIZAR

You know us?

Marus gestures to the other Men to lower their crossbows. They comply, and move to calm the confused zethers.

MARUS

Been searching for you since
nightfall. You're slower than we
thought.

ALLYRA

What do you mean?

MARUS

Kashala asked us to help you reach
Abukar as soon as possible.

SHALIZAR

Who are you?

Marus grins.

MARUS

Guess you don't remember me. The
orphanage in Hakorro?

Shalizar takes a good look at Marus. Recognition dawns.

SHALIZAR

Marus?

Marus nods. Allyra laughs. Shalizar breaks into an astonished grin.

ALLYRA

I don't believe it! Together again!

MARUS

Don't think for a minute it's just fate.

(to Shalizar)

You're not gonna make Abukar tonight.
Don't worry, we'll keep you safe for
the day at our camp.

EXT. FOREST/REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT

Shalizar and Allyra follow Marus and his Men, who lead the three zethers, into a large clearing. Allyra now wears the sword she took from the dead Prador.

The clearing's filled with animal-hide tents, small campfires, and about fifty HUMAN PEASANTS, a mixture of male and female adults and children.

The adults range in age from early 20's to mid-40's. The Women cook, clean and sew. The Men carve up a large dead cow-like animal for meat. The Children run around playing.

Several tamed zethers stand together, tied to trees at the edge of the camp. Nearby are some large carts for hauling.

Everyone stops what they're doing when Shalizar and Allyra come into view.

SHALIZAR'S POV

Beating hearts and pulsing blood surround him.

BACK TO SCENE

Shalizar's breathing quickens. His bloodlust rises. Allyra takes hold of his arm. Whispers in his ear.

ALLYRA

You can control it. They're our friends. You won't harm them.

He calms down. A few of the Children run to them. Touch Shalizar and Allyra with worshipping hands. The Adults bow or smile.

Allyra happily accepts the greetings. Shalizar's just stunned.

MARUS

(to Shalizar)

Not used to a warm welcome from humans, huh?

The two Men break off to put the zethers with the others. Marus escorts Shalizar and Allyra to one of the larger tents in the camp. Another tent made of heavier material sits beside it.

VARANNA (20's), pretty, earthy, emerges from the larger tent.

VARANNA
You found them!

MARUS
This is my wife, Varanna.

Varanna clasps Shalizar's hands.

VARANNA
Wonderful to meet both of you.
She turns and hugs an astonished Allyra.

VARANNA (CONT'D)
Marus has told me so much about you.

ALLYRA
Thank you.

Varanna moves to Marus' side. He points to the heavier tent.

MARUS
And here's the reason we don't fear
Vamurai.

The tent flap opens, and out steps--

DHARVON (40's). A rugged Vamurai, older than most. Character lines cut deep into his face. A few scars on his arms.

DHARVON
(to Shalizar)
What took you so long?

SHALIZAR
Who are you to question us?

MARUS
This is Dharvon. Our protector.

SHALIZAR
A Vamurai protecting humans? That's
insane.

Dharvon gets in Shalizar's face.

DHARVON
Not if you believe in something
greater.

SHALIZAR
Like what? Zan's Prophecy?

Dharvon takes a step back.

DHARVON
More than that. I serve Queen
Kashala. And yes, those who follow
her vision.

MARUS
And a grand vision it is! Vamurai
and humans, living together--

ALLYRA
Kashala's in danger.

Dharvon's face grows dark.

DHARVON
How do you know?

SHALIZAR
I... felt it.

Long silence.

DHARVON
I can check on her. But this makes
our quest even more urgent.

SHALIZAR
Our quest?

DHARVON
You're not going to Abukar without
me.

MARUS
Or me.

Shalizar grows agitated.

SHALIZAR
Why go there at all? Let Raun find
the Solamortis. Who cares if he
destroys the other Wizard Lords?
Better to serve one master than many.

Dharvon chuckles.

DHARVON

Guess all your training wasn't burned away by the sun.

ALLYRA

Shalizar, we talked about this. Raun'll never let us live.

MARUS

Especially if he gets the Solamortis. All Undead will be in danger.

DHARVON

Enough. We leave at dusk.

He storms back inside his tent. Uncomfortable silence.

VARANNA

Um, Shalizar needs a new tunic. Be right back.

Varanna hurries into her tent. Marus smiles at Shalizar and Allyra.

MARUS

Forgive Dharvon. He carries a lot of burdens. Believe it or not, he's very happy to see you.

Shalizar doesn't believe him.

ALLYRA

This is your home, Marus?

MARUS

Just for the night. We're nomads. Refugees and outcasts from cities all across Archaleon. Trying to live free, away from the rule of the Wizard Lords.

Varanna comes out of the tent holding a new tunic.

VARANNA

This should fit you.

Shalizar takes off what's left of his old tunic. Puts on the replacement.

Marus glances up at the brightening sky. The last moon is about to set.

MARUS

Almost dawn.

(MORE)

MARUS (CONT'D)

We'll talk more on the way to Abukar.
Take shelter, for Allyra's sake.

SHALIZAR

Why just Allyra?

MARUS

The sun doesn't bother you anymore,
does it?

Shalizar and Allyra share a look. Allyra can't help but smile. Marus laughs.

MARUS (CONT'D)

Don't worry, sooner or later we'll
get you to trust the prophecy.

Varanna points to a small tent with extra coverings nearby.

VARANNA

We set this up for you. Hope you
like it.

Shalizar eyes the tent nervously.

INT. TENT - DAWN

Shalizar and Allyra crawl into the dark tent. Shalizar immediately starts breathing hard. Panic in his eyes.

Allyra notices Shalizar's distress.

ALLYRA

What's wrong?

SHALIZAR

Don't like... small spaces.

Allyra realizes what's happening.

ALLYRA

The punishment box?

Shalizar nods.

Allyra puts her arms around his neck. Gives him a smoldering look.

ALLYRA (CONT'D)

Let's take your mind off it.

She kisses him passionately. Lust replaces Shalizar's fear. They tear into each other.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/DUNGEON CELL - DAWN

Kashala lies unconscious on the stone floor of a dark, dank cell. The first rays of dawn creep through a barred window high up on one wall.

She wakes. Moves with great pain. Manages to stand.

Kashala gets her bearings. Goes to a wall. Puts one hand on it. Chants a spell.

The outline of a doorway in the wall starts to glow around her hand. A sudden burst of energy jolts her back across the room. The outline fades.

Kashala collapses to the floor, frustrated. She notices a puddle of water nearby. Moves next to it. Passes her glowing hands over the puddle while softly speaking.

KASHALA

Dharvon. Dharvon. Dharvon.

The puddle pulses with light. Kashala whispers into it.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

My love? Can you hear me?

INT. DHARVON'S TENT - MORNING

Dharvon lies on his mat in the darkness, holding the disc. It glows weakly. He hears Kashala's muffled voice. Puts it up his mouth.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

DHARVON

I'm here, my Queen. Are you all right?

KASHALA

I'm locked in the dungeon. Raun caught me trying to get the Sol Medallion from General Goron.

DHARVON

As we feared, your masking spell must've broken when he took it from Shalizar.

KASHALA

Only a matter of time now till he locates the scepter.

DHARVON

Shalizar and Allyra just arrived.
We'll be in Abukar tomorrow night.

KASHALA

I pray you find the clues you need.

DHARVON

How many times have you told me?
Trust the prophecy. Any chance for
escape?

KASHALA

No. Raun's locked the entire cell
with his magic. I don't know how
much longer I'll be able to contact
you.

DHARVON

Stay strong. We've come this far.

KASHALA

My spirit will be with you.

Dharvon smiles.

DHARVON

It always is, my love.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLAINS - NIGHT

Shalizar, Allyra, Dharvon and Marus ride zethers out of the
forest and across a great, expansive plain. The three moons
ascend in the night sky.

Besides their riders, the zethers carry rolled-up tents and
supplies.

Shalizar and Allyra gallop alongside Marus. Dharvon's a
little ahead of them.

MARUS

...We avoid the Wizard Lords by
keeping a low profile and moving
constantly. Hide and sleep by day,
travel and live by night.

ALLYRA

Why night?

SHALIZAR

Vamurai patrols. Went on a couple
myself.

MARUS

Yep. Always looking for new slaves,
or food for their armies. Our tribe's
been lucky. Queen Kashala and Dharvon
have helped keep us safe.

ALLYRA

How'd you end up with them?

MARUS

(to Shalizar)

Remember when we were sold to Raun?

SHALIZAR

As if I could forget that day.

MARUS

Well, after Raun rejected me for
Vamurai service, I figured I'd end
up a fat feast for one of his
soldiers. But Kashala snuck me out
of Hakorro and brought me to the
tribe.

ALLYRA

Lucky.

MARUS

You could say that. Anyway, Dharvon
took a special interest in me.
Trained me, toughened me up. After
proving myself a few times, I was
chosen to be one of the leaders,
despite my youth.

ALLYRA

So that's why Varanna married you!

Marus laughs.

MARUS

Not quite. I had eyes on her almost
from the moment I arrived. Wooed
her for years. Finally wore her
down.

ALLYRA

Well, you make a beautiful couple.

Marus glances between Shalizar and Allyra.

MARUS

So do you.

Shalizar's growing antsy.

SHALIZAR

Where'd Dharvon come from?

MARUS

Don't know. He joined the tribe sometime before Varanna was born. He's helped protect us, taught us how to fight and survive. And he makes all our weapons. He invented those multi-crossbows we use.

SHALIZAR

How does he feed?

MARUS

He doesn't very much. Mostly takes blood from animals. And if he really needs it, one of us will donate to him.

Shalizar and Allyra look at each other, wide-eyed. Marus laughs.

MARUS (CONT'D)

Don't be so shocked. Undead and humans don't have to be enemies.

(grows serious)

We all live in fear of the Wizard Lords. And that's no way to live. Working together, maybe someday we can destroy them and be free. We can start with Raun.

Allyra gives Marus a hopeful smile.

ALLYRA

I want to believe as you do.

MARUS

To me, that's what Zan's prophecy is all about. Turning Archaleon into a paradise.

Shalizar's not so sure about this. He spurs his zether and catches up with Dharvon.

SHALIZAR

I need answers. How do you know Kashala?

Dharvon eyes Shalizar for a long moment. Turns his gaze back to the far horizon.

DHARVON

I'm from Hakorro. Served Raun as a swordsmith, best he'd ever seen. He didn't want to lose my skills as I got older. So he turned me into a Vamurai. Made me hate him even more.

Dharvon struggles with his next words.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

When Kashala arrived, we bonded through our shared hatred. She told me of Zan's prophecy and her visions of a free world. Eventually she helped me escape so I could spread the word.

SHALIZAR

Seems like you've served our Queen well.

Dharvon glares back at Shalizar.

DHARVON

I'd do anything for her.

He pulls away from a concerned Shalizar.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

A fire roars in the fireplace. The Orb of Illuminatis and the Sol Medallion lie on the worktable, next to Raun's Caldorum.

Raun searches through his bookshelves. Takes out and glances through several books and scrolls.

He finally finds the book he's looking for. Flips it open to a certain page.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

RAUN

(calls out)

Enter!

Goron steps into the room. Shuts the door behind him.

GORON

You sent for me, my Lord?

RAUN

I want you to witness this, General. I am about to divine the location of the Solamortis scepter.

GORON

I'm ready to retrieve it for you.

Raun gestures to the other side of the table.

RAUN

Stand there and watch.

Goron moves into place. Raun picks up his Caldorum. Reads out loud an ancient spell from the book. Makes gestures over the Solamortis objects with the now-glowing scepter.

The Orb and the medallion both begin to pulse with energy. Goron watches with excited anticipation.

Suddenly the objects' light fades. Raun stops the spell. Frustrated. He slams the book onto the table.

EXT. ABUKAR/ZAN'S PALACE - NIGHT

Shalizar, Dharvon, Allyra and Marus ride up to the palace entrance. They dismount and tie off their zethers to a nearby wall.

Shalizar glances around, clearly uncomfortable. Dharvon unsheathes his sword. Gestures for Shalizar and Allyra to do the same. They comply.

Marus has his multi-bow loaded and ready for action.

Dharvon's sword gleams a dark gold. Shalizar notices it.

SHALIZAR

A Caldonium sword?

DHARVON

Made it myself. Stronger than steel.

Shalizar's impressed.

INT. ZAN'S PALACE/HALLWAYS/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

They creep into the crumbling, deserted palace. Triple moonlight streams through the windows, casting eerie shadows everywhere.

SHALIZAR

Are you all right, Marus?

MARUS

I can see well enough. Not like you three, of course.

ALLYRA

Where'd you hear Zan's voice?

SHALIZAR

Follow me.

They make their way to the grand throne room. It's filled with crumbling furniture and rotting tapestries. A marble statue of Lord Zan stands at one end of the room.

They all look around. Waiting.

MARUS

Now what?

SHALIZAR

I don't know. It just happened before.

DHARVON

Speak to him. Call out Zan's spirit.

SHALIZAR

Why would he answer me?

DHARVON

Because... he's your grandfather.

Shalizar whirls and stares at Dharvon, shocked.

SHALIZAR

Kashala's my mother?

Dharvon nods. Allyra gives an astonished giggle.

ALLYRA

A Vamurai with Wizard Lord blood!

MARUS

That's how you survived the Burning Death.

Shalizar steps closer to Dharvon. Locks eyes with him.

SHALIZAR

There's more.

(pause)

You're my father.

Long pause.

DHARVON

I have that honor.

Shalizar's about to lose it. He stalks away.

SHALIZAR

What honor? You abandoned me! Left me to rot in the orphanage! Lied to me! Why?

DHARVON

To protect you.

SHALIZAR

So I was just bred to fulfill Kashala's damned prophecy?

Dharvon rushes over. Grabs Shalizar by the arm. Glares at him.

DHARVON

No! You're the product of a love that's endured pain and separation for over twenty years. Think you know how that feels.

Shalizar glances at Allyra. She gives him a calming smile.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

Yes, we want the Prophecy to come true. And to some extent it's guided our actions. But everything we've done... your very existence... grew out of my love for Kashala, and hers for me. You must believe that.

Dharvon lets go of Shalizar's arm. Shalizar takes a deep breath. Seems to accept this news.

SHALIZAR

So I do have some Wizard Lord powers.

DHARVON

Time to start learning how to use them. Call out Zan.

Shalizar hesitates. Allyra moves to him. Takes his hand to give him strength.

They walk to the center of the room. Shalizar looks up.

SHALIZAR

Lord Zan! Help me! I need the scepter for the Solamortis. To keep it away from your brother Raun!

Silence.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Lord Zan! Answer me!

More silence. Then a powerful wind sweeps through, nearly blowing everyone off their feet.

They brace against the wind as it swirls around the room. A MOANING sound begins. Tapestries tear. Furniture shakes and falls apart.

A GHOSTLY IMAGE OF ZAN forms within the wind and flies around as the MOANING grows louder.

Zan's Ghost makes a few more passes around them, then blasts into the marble statue. The wind dies down.

Zan's Ghost seems to be projected on the statue, almost making it come alive.

Shalizar lets go of Allyra's hand. Takes a couple of steps toward the statue.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Lord Zan!

Zan's Ghost looks down at Shalizar. Speaks in the same deep, eerie voice as before.

ZAN'S GHOST

Shalizar. You will avenge me.

Shalizar reacts. He's heard this voice before.

SHALIZAR

Where's the Solamortis scepter?

Long silence.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Where, my Lord?

ZAN'S GHOST

You have doubts. Only my avenger will know the secret.

SHALIZAR

Of course I have doubts! My whole life's been a lie.

ZAN'S GHOST

Your life has led you to this moment. And this purpose. To embrace who and what you are. To fight for your freedom and your loved ones. To unite Archaleon in the spirit of peace and prosperity.

Zan's Ghost's eyes bore into Shalizar.

ZAN'S GHOST (CONT'D)

You are a unique product of human,
wizard and Vamurai, Shalizar. Only
you have the power to do what I could
not.

(pause)

Will you avenge me? And take up my
cause?

Shalizar looks at Marus, Dharvon and Allyra in turn, lingering
on Allyra. She gives him a loving, strengthening smile.

He wrestles with this moment of truth decision. Then turns
and addresses Zan's Ghost.

SHALIZAR

Yes.

Zan's Ghost smiles.

ZAN

Then seek the scepter from whence it
came.

Zan's Ghost rises out of the statue. Flies through the
ceiling of the throne room, disappearing.

The statue of Zan shudders and crumbles to dust.

The whole palace begins to shake, as if in an earthquake.

ALLYRA

It's falling apart!

MARUS

Let's go!

The four of them dash out of the throne room. Evade falling
pillars and ceiling pieces.

They race through the hallways toward the entrance. The
entire building shakes apart around them.

At one point, Allyra yanks Marus away from a tumbling piece
of ceiling that would've crushed him. She drags him on
faster.

Dharvon and Shalizar use their swords to knock away plummeting
stones and debris. They see the palace entrance. Dodge and
weave as they run for it.

EXT. ABUKAR/ZAN'S PALACE - NIGHT

Shalizar and Dharvon rush through the doorway into the night.
Allyra and Marus leap out after them.

They all move away from the palace as it crumbles in on itself. Dust and debris litter the air.

MARUS

That was unexpected.

ALLYRA

Zan's spirit must've been holding it together.

DHARVON

His work's done. Now it's up to us.

Marus chuckles

MARUS

Could've made it easier by just telling us where it was.

DHARVON

There must be a reason he gave us the riddle.

SHALIZAR

A final test, maybe?

He thinks hard.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

"From whence it came." What could he have been talking about?

They all ponder the riddle.

ALLYRA

Didn't he create it in his workroom?

MARUS

Probably. But that's gone now.

Dharvon's face breaks into a hard smile.

DHARVON

Think I've got it. All the Wizard Lords' scepters are made of Caldonium. He means the Calдона mine.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/WORKROOM - NIGHT

Raun rummages through his library, muttering under his breath. Several books and scrolls lie on the table next to the Solamortis pieces.

Goron watches impatiently. Suddenly both the Orb and the medallion flash.

GORON

My Lord!

Raun sees the pieces rise into the air, pulsing with energy. He drops the book he's holding and rushes to the table.

He grabs his scepter. Points it at the pieces. Chants the first spell he tried.

Light bursts from both the Orb and the medallion, forming a translucent projection of a mountain between them. Raun laughs giddily.

RAUN

Caldona!

The moment he says it, the pieces stop floating and glowing. They fall to the table. The Orb bounces and starts to tumble to the stone floor. Raun barely catches it in time.

He breathes a sigh of relief. Turns to Goron.

RAUN (CONT'D)

You have your mission, General.

GORON

Yes, my Lord.

RAUN

And once you find it we will ensure the mine cannot be used against me.

EXT. ABUKAR/ZAN'S PALACE - NIGHT

Shalizar's eyes glaze over for a moment. He leans against his zether, looking like he's about to faint. Then he snaps back to reality.

SHALIZAR

Raun knows. The riddle was the last protection spell.

DHARVON

Then the race is on.

MARUS

They can't make Caldona tonight.

SHALIZAR

Neither can we. But we're closer. We'll have a head start.

DHARVON

Marus, Caldona's no place for a human.

MARUS

That's for sure.

DHARVON

Ride back to camp and prepare everyone for battle. Whether we succeed or not, Raun'll come after us.

MARUS

Right.

Marus grasps Dharvon's arm in a farewell gesture.

MARUS (CONT'D)

Good luck dealing with Chanszu.

He jumps onto his zether. Rides away.

ALLYRA

What did he mean by that?

They all mount their zethers.

DHARVON

Chanszu was Lord Zan's General, a great warrior. Somehow survived the siege of Abukar. Since he was masterless, the Wizard Lords gave him a choice. The throne of Caldona... or death.

ALLYRA

Easy choice.

DHARVON

And it helped make the mine neutral. Cut down on the infighting.

SHALIZAR

He'll still have loyalty to Zan, right?

DHARVON

Don't know. He's been the Wizard Lords' lackey for over twenty years. In my dealings with him he has no loyalty to anyone but himself. We'll probably have to negotiate with him for access to the mine.

The three warriors gallop out of Abukar.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/CORRIDORS - NIGHT

Raun stalks through the dark corridors of his palace. A couple of human SERVANTS move away and bow as he storms past them.

He hears a BELL-LIKE SOUND. Stops. Frustrated.

RAUN

Yes?

An astral projection of Thull appears before him. Thull glares at Raun.

THULL

You have not yet sent the peasants to Calдона.

RAUN

I will fulfill my obligation.

THULL

See that you do. Otherwise we will take them by force.

RAUN

Why do all of you hate me so?

THULL

We do not hate you, Raun. You are one of us. But comparatively you are still a child.

RAUN

I see.

THULL

Your slaves will be in Calдона within three days.

RAUN

Yes, my brother.

The image of Thull dissolves. Raun struggles to control his anger. He turns and hurries away in the opposite direction.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/DUNGEON CELL - NIGHT

Kashala meditates cross-legged on the dark, cold floor. Three bowls of untouched food lie near the door.

She hears a key turn in the lock. Her eyes flash open. She readies her hands to blast whomever enters.

Raun's Caldorum pokes through a crack in the cell door. It envelops Kashala in a ball of paralyzing energy. She struggles against it, to no avail.

Raun enters. He gazes at Kashala like a child needing validation.

KASHALA

What do you want?

He glances at the bowls of food.

RAUN

Why are you not eating? Surely you want to keep up your strength?

KASHALA

I have other ways.

RAUN

Your magic may sustain you for a few more days. But it will fade as your body grows weaker.

Raun pulls his sleeve back. Offers her his bare arm.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Take some blood. Please.

KASHALA

Never.

Raun lets his sleeve fall back down. Regards Kashala sadly.

RAUN

You indulge your human side too much.

KASHALA

Is this your idea of torture?

Raun forces a smile.

RAUN

The Solamortis will be mine in two nights. By perfect chance, a lunar conjunction occurs that same night, allowing me to activate it.

Kashala hides her panic at this news.

KASHALA

Why tell me this?

Raun's face softens.

RAUN

Because... Despite your betrayal,
and your hatred of me... it would
still please me to have you rule
Archaleon at my side.

Kashala's stunned. She stifles a laugh.

KASHALA

Very well. If you promise to free
all human slaves. Disband your
Vamurai army. Use your powers to
serve the people instead of forcing
them to serve you.

RAUN

You speak as insanely as your father
did. Humans and Vamurai are nothing
compared to my kind. The law of the
universe is that the strong always
rule the weak.

KASHALA

That may be true. But there's another
law you should remember. When the
weak and oppressed band together,
they become stronger than any tyrant.

They stare at each other for a moment. Raun shakes his head.

RAUN

It will pain me greatly to execute
you. But you leave me no choice.

Raun trudges out of the cell, locking the door behind him.

The paralyzing energy dissolves. Kashala slumps, exhausted.
Glances up at the brightening dawn sky through the tiny barred
window.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Almost dark. The first moon rises in the indigo sky.

Shalizar practices with his sword outside two small tents
under a dense forest canopy. The zethers stand tied to trees
nearby, munching on grass.

The dead carcasses of small, furry, weasel-like marmasols
lie outside each tent.

Dharvon emerges from one of the tents. He holds his glowing
communication disc in one hand.

Watches Shalizar silently for a moment.

DHARVON

You're good. But you'll need to get better.

Shalizar ignores him.

Allyra crawls out of the other tent. Stands and stretches. Smiles and picks up the marmasol at her feet. Sinks her fangs into its neck.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

(to Shalizar)

Kashala needs to talk to you.

Shalizar keeps practicing.

SHALIZAR

I'm not ready.

Dharvon exchanges a quick glance with Allyra. Moves closer to Shalizar.

DHARVON

Then just listen.

He holds up the disc. Kashala's voice emanates weakly from it.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)

I'm so proud of you, Shalizar.

Shalizar stops. Glares at Dharvon.

SHALIZAR

Proud? Just because I'm serving your vision once again?

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)

It doesn't work that way. My father imprinted a jumble of images and events into my mind. I recognize when I see one happen in reality, and try to interpret how to bring about the next logical one in the chain.

Allyra finishes her marmasol. Moves to join Shalizar. They both listen intently to the disc.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.) (CONT'D)

Always with one goal in mind. Freedom for our people. For all of us.

(MORE)

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.) (CONT'D)
But I've made mistakes. Painful
ones.
(pause)
Like giving you up as a child.

Shalizar's face softens.

SHALIZAR
I can understand why you did. Raun
would've killed you. But all those
years during my training. Or even
the past few nights. Why didn't you
say anything to me?

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)
I couldn't risk it! As long as you
were in Hakorro and under Raun's
influence, the truth could never
come out.

Dharvon nods in agreement.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.) (CONT'D)
You've no idea what I went through
to hide my pregnancy. Or the
sacrifices Dharvon and I have made
to preserve our secret.

Shalizar senses Dharvon's inner anguish at Kashala's words.
A thought strikes him.

SHALIZAR
Was my reunion with Allyra mere
chance?

Long pause.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)
No.

SHALIZAR
How did you know my feelings for her
would break my conditioning?

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)
One of my visions was of the two of
you together. And I believe in the
power of love to conquer anything.

Allyra and Shalizar share a smile as she wraps Shalizar in a
hug. Dharvon can't help but be moved.

Shalizar looks back at the disc.

SHALIZAR

Mother... Are you certain I can bring about this prophecy?

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)

No, Shalizar. Nothing is certain. All you can do is focus on the task at hand and hope it leads to our desired outcome. Stopping Raun will be a significant step. But how that happens... and what comes next... I don't yet know.

Shalizar locks eyes with Dharvon.

SHALIZAR

As soon as we have the scepter, we'll come rescue you.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.)

If that's where your path leads you. But don't take any unnecessary chances for me. Please. Your survival's more important.

The disc begins to fade. Kashala's voice grows weaker.

KASHALA (MUFFLED O.S.) (CONT'D)

I doubt I can contact you again. My heart and spirit will be with all of you.

Dharvon pulls the disc closer to his mouth.

DHARVON

Stay strong, my love.

The disc goes dark. He replaces inside his tunic.

Shalizar nods at him. Sheathes his sword.

SHALIZAR

Let's get to Calдона.

EXT. CALDONA/GATE - NIGHT

Shalizar, Allyra and Dharvon ride up to the main gate of a small walled village, nestled against a huge mountain surrounded by lesser peaks.

Two hulking, scarred CALDONIAN GUARDS, both Vamurai, stand on either side of the gate.

CALDONIAN GUARD #1

Halt! What's your business here?

They rein in their zethers.

DHARVON
We need to speak to Chanszu.

CALDONIAN GUARD #2
Who's "we"?

DHARVON
I'm Dharvon. He knows me well.

Dharvon gestures to Shalizar and Allyra.

DHARVON (CONT'D)
These are refugees from Hakorro.
They've come to tell Chanszu about a
plot against him.

The Caldonian Guards whisper to each other. Eye Shalizar and Allyra skeptically. Guard #1 nods. Turns back to Dharvon.

CALDONIAN GUARD #1
I know your name, and recognize you.
Since you vouch for these two, go on
in.

The Guards stand aside. Dharvon leads Shalizar and Allyra into the village.

EXT. CALDONA/STREETS/CORRAL - NIGHT

Shalizar, Allyra and Dharvon ride slowly along the main thoroughfare. They take in ramshackle mud and wood dwellings, lit by torches and fires.

VAMURAI and VAMPIRISAS roam about. Some of the males chase after the females. Others talk in quiet corners. A few couples make love in the shadows.

Down one street, they see two Vamurai engaged in a vicious swordfight. Other Vamurai watch and cheer on the combatants, making and taking bets.

The whole village reeks of lawlessness and decadence. Allyra's not happy to be there.

SHALIZAR
(to Dharvon)
How do you know Chanszu?

DHARVON
I've forged weapons for him. Used
the money to help Marus' tribe.

SHALIZAR

So that's how you got the Caldonium
to make your sword.

Dharvon nods.

ALLYRA

Did he know you were helping humans?

DHARVON

Didn't need to.

They approach an ornate, three-story castle made out of marble and jeweled stones, which stands at the end of the dirt road. It looks out of place with the otherwise poor surroundings.

In front of the castle, off to one side, there's a large fenced-in area with a couple dozen wooden huts and a field filled with small, tilled gardens. A corral for human cattle.

A few HUMANS wearing rags work in the field. A CALDONIAN GATE GUARD stands at the gate to the fence, holding a growling, semi-tame panthoid by a leash.

Shalizar, Allyra and Dharvon dismount their zethers. Tie them to a hitching post next to the corral.

Allyra stares forlornly at the doomed humans. Shalizar puts his arm around her.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

We can do nothing for them right
now. Come on.

Dharvon leads them toward the castle entrance.

INT. CHANSZU'S CASTLE/RECEPTION HALL

A large, dark chamber, lit by hanging torches. A dozen menacing VAMURAI sit at tables around the room.

Some converse, some get serviced by scantily-clad VAMPIRISAS. Most drink blood from wooden cups.

Two dead Human Men hang upside down in a corner of the room. The Vamurai refresh their cups from small wounds in the Men's necks.

In the middle of the room a beautiful VAMPIRISA DANCER sways to woodwind music played by a couple of pale, battered-looking HUMAN SLAVES.

CHANSZU (late 20's) sits on a crudely-made jeweled throne at one end of the room. A once-mighty warrior grown soft and lazy with power. He's bloated with blood.

His sullen gaze reflects decadence and boredom.

Chanszu keeps one eye on the sultry Vampirisa Dancer while ELARA (early 20's) talks quietly to him. She's a tall, athletic, dark-skinned female Vamurai with a scar running down her left cheek.

Dharvon enters the room with Shalizar and Allyra. They approach Chanszu's throne. Shalizar and Allyra both react at seeing a female Vamurai for the first time.

CHANSZU

Dharvon! What brings you here?

Dharvon gives a quick bow of the head.

DHARVON

My lord Chanszu. I have news and a request.

Chanszu eyes Allyra. Licks his fangs.

CHANSZU

And a very lovely guest.

Elara eyes Allyra with a touch of jealousy.

DHARVON

Her name is Allyra.

He indicates Shalizar.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

And this is Shalizar of Hakorro. A former member of Lord Raun's army.

Slight MURMURING among the Vamurai in the room. Chanszu and Elara share a surprised look.

CHANSZU

(to Shalizar)

Huh. So you're Tozu's murderer. Thought you'd been executed.

SHALIZAR

I was.

Chanszu raises an eyebrow. Elara can't believe what he just heard.

DHARVON

Raun's trying to re-create the Solamortis. He's got two of the pieces.

(MORE)

DHARVON (CONT'D)

The third's hidden somewhere in your mine, and he's on his way to get it.

Chanszu leans back on his throne. Bored.

CHANSZU

Fascinating.

SHALIZAR

We ask permission to go in and try to find it first.

CHANSZU

Why do I care who gets it?

DHARVON

Because if Raun becomes the sole ruler of Archaleon... he won't need you anymore.

Chanszu considers this. Elara moves toward Shalizar.

ELARA

Are you the Daywalker from the Prophecy?

Shalizar hesitates. Allyra jumps in.

ALLYRA

He is.

Elara turns to Chanszu.

ELARA

This could be our chance! To finally serve ourselves, not the Wizard Lords!

Chanszu smirks.

CHANSZU

He's just a youngling. I want proof before I let you into the mine.

DHARVON

Can't wait till daylight to prove he's immune to the sun.

CHANSZU

All right. Fighting skills, then. Test of combat.

Allyra looks fearfully at Shalizar. Dharvon just nods grimly at him. Shalizar heaves an annoyed sigh.

SHALIZAR

Fine.

ELARA

I'll challenge him.

CHANSZU

No, Elara. I honestly think you'd
let him win.

Chanszu stands. Scans the room. Locks in on a huge,
powerful, nasty-looking Vamurai warrior named YOJURO (late
20's).

CHANSZU (CONT'D)

Yojuro!

Yojuro knocks back the rest of his cup of blood. Unfolds
himself from his chair. Lusters toward the throne.

CHANSZU (CONT'D)

Let's see how well this youngling
can fight.

Chanszu claps his hands. The music stops. The Vampirisa
Dancer scurries off to a corner.

The whole room goes silent. Everyone watches with lustful
anticipation.

SHALIZAR

(to Chanszu)

My sword's borrowed. No bladelink.

CHANSZU

Hear that, Yojuro?

Yojuro unsheathes his wicked-looking sword.

YOJURO

Don't need bladelink.

Shalizar takes out his own sword. Dharvon pulls Allyra back
toward the wall. She gives him a fearful look.

DHARVON

(quietly)

No choice. Got to trust his skills.

Shalizar and Yojuro both move to the middle of the room.
Twirl their swords expertly.

Chanszu plops back down on his throne. Waves his hand.

CHANSZU

Begin!

Shalizar and Yojuro circle warily. Feel each other out.

Yojuro spins his sword again. Tries to intimidate Shalizar. Shalizar grips his sword tightly.

Yojuro fakes a thrust. Shalizar leaps back. They resume circling.

Shalizar charges in. Their blades flash in the firelight. Steel CLANGS on steel.

Yojuro's stronger, but Shalizar's faster. Both men get sliced, but their wounds quickly heal.

They break. Yojuro's not quite as confident now. He growls. Races at Shalizar, flashing his sword through the air.

Shalizar parries the thrusts and blows. Backs across the floor. Yojuro tries to maneuver Shalizar into a corner.

Shalizar risks a glance behind him. Sees the wall and an empty chair nearby.

He turns. Jumps onto the chair. Uses it to catapult himself into a backflip over Yojuro. Tries to swipe his sword across Yojuro's head as he passes over. Yojuro barely evades it.

Shalizar lands behind Yojuro. Yojuro whirls around in time to block Shalizar's thrust.

They engage again, more fiercely than before. Their blades CLASH with incredible speed and power.

Yojuro thrusts a leg out. Tries to sweep Shalizar off his feet. Shalizar dodges it with a spinning leap into the air. Delivers a hard kick to Yojuro's face.

Yojuro staggers back. Now he's really mad. He charges.

Shalizar deftly blocks the powerful slashes and thrusts. Waits for an opening.

Allyra can barely watch. Dharvon wears a grim look.

Suddenly Shalizar dives to the floor. Does a somersault under a sweeping slash by Yojuro.

He pops up behind the giant warrior and delivers a deep, bloody gash across Yojuro's back.

ALLYRA

Yes!

Yojuro CRIES OUT in pain. Sinks to his knees. Shalizar aims his sword at Yojuro's back. Looks at Chanszu.

CHANSZU

Enough! Yojuro's too valuable to lose.

Allyra breathes a sigh of relief. Shalizar relaxes. Holds out his hand to help Yojuro up.

SHALIZAR

You fought well.

Yojuro takes Shalizar's hand. Gets to his feet. Gives Shalizar a begrudging nod. He stalks out of the chamber, the cut on his back slowly healing.

Shalizar returns to Chanszu, Elara, Dharvon and Allyra.

CHANSZU

Not bad. Very well, you can search the mine.

SHALIZAR

Thank you.

CHANSZU

One thing, however. I need collateral. In case something goes wrong.

DHARVON

What collateral?

Chanszu points to Allyra.

CHANSZU

She stays with me.

Shalizar's hand tightens on his sword. He's about had enough of this arrogant Vamurai. Chanszu grins.

Dharvon shakes his head.

DHARVON

Chanszu--

CHANSZU

Don't worry. I promise nothing will happen to her. 'Long as you come back alive.

Allyra puts her hand on Shalizar's chest.

ALLYRA

You'll find it. I'll be fine.

SHALIZAR

I'm not losing you again.

She kisses him softly.

ALLYRA

You won't.

DHARVON

Wasting time. Raun's men could be here any minute.

Shalizar glares at Chanszu.

SHALIZAR

Touch one hair on her head...

Chanszu just laughs.

EXT. CALDONA/MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Elara leads Shalizar and Dharvon toward the cave-like entrance to the mine, carved into the side of the giant mountain overlooking Calдона.

ELARA

You're sure the scepter's in the mine?

SHALIZAR

Yes. But we don't know where.

DHARVON

How'd you find the Orb?

SHALIZAR

We were searching Zan's workroom. And I just... sensed it.

DHARVON

Your powers are stronger now. Use them.

They reach the mine entrance. It's guarded by three muscular CALDONIAN VAMURAI GUARDS.

ELARA

(to Guards)

Anyone in the mine?

CALDONIAN GUARD #3

No, Ma'am. First shift just ended.

ELARA

These men need to search in there.
Don't let anyone in till they're
done.

The Guards nod to Elara and move aside. She offers her hand to Shalizar, smiling.

ELARA (CONT'D)

Good luck. And don't worry. I'll
keep your mate safe.

Shalizar shakes her hand and arm in the traditional Vamurai greeting. Then he and Dharvon enter the mine. Elara starts back towards the castle.

INT. MINE - NIGHT

Shalizar and Dharvon step through the cramped carved-out interior of the mine. Torches attached to the walls cast flickering shadows over them.

Shalizar tries to control his rising claustrophobia.

SHALIZAR

It could be anywhere.

DHARVON

Relax. Concentrate on the scepter.

They halt. Shalizar takes a deep breath. Closes his eyes. Calms down. Concentrates.

His eyes open. He gestures toward a connecting tunnel.

SHALIZAR

This way, maybe.

Dharvon follows him into the tunnel.

EXT. CALDONA/MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The three Guards pace in front of the entrance.

They hear a COMMOTION coming from the village's main gate. SHOUTS, SCREAMS, SWORDS CLASHING. ZETHERS CHARGING.

They all look at each other. Whip out their swords.

The zether FOOTBEATS grow closer. The Guards ready their swords for action.

Goron charges around a corner in the road, heading for the mine.

He leads a squadron of 20 Vamurai warriors, all mounted on armored zethers. They're dressed in ragged tunics to look like brigands.

CALDONIAN GUARD #3
ALARM! ALARM!

The three Guards engage the onrushing Vamurai. A fierce but fairly one-sided battle ensues.

INT. MINE - NIGHT

Deep inside the mine, Shalizar and Dharvon hear the faint SOUNDS OF BATTLE. They stop and listen for a moment.

DHARVON
Fighting. The Hakorrans are here.

SHALIZAR
What should we do?

DHARVON
Forget them. Focus on the scepter.

They continue on.

INT. CHANSZU'S CASTLE/HALLWAY/RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Elara glances out one of the castle's windows. Sees the attacking force battling the three Guards at the mine.

Shee races down the hallway into the Reception Hall.

Allyra sits next to Chanszu. She tries to look interested as he regales her with a story.

ELARA
Chanszu! We're under attack!

Chanszu vaults from his throne.

CHANSZU
Who dares?

Allyra leaps to her feet.

ALLYRA
The Hakorran army. They're here for the scepter.

Chanszu grabs his sword, which was resting against his throne. Unsheathes it.

CHANSZU

(shouting)

Are we going to let this insult pass?

The Warriors in the room, including the returned Yojuro, respond with a resounding roar. All pull out their swords.

CHANSZU (CONT'D)

Then let's give them some Caldonian hospitality!

With a yell, Chanszu charges out of the hall, followed by Elara, Yojuro, Allyra, and the other Vamurai.

INT. MINE - NIGHT

Shalizar and Dharvon creep through a tiny, dark tunnel. The light from a torch outside barely makes a dent in the darkness.

DHARVON

Anything?

SHALIZAR

Think we're close. Not sure.

Shalizar stops. Closes his eyes. Takes a couple of deep breaths.

He kneels on the floor of the tunnel. Crawls to a certain spot, where the wall juts out, creating a low overhang.

He takes another breath. Gets a grip on his rising panic.

Shalizar crawls under the overhang. Feels around. He's shocked as a weak ribbon of energy passes from his hand to something invisible.

He grabs the invisible scepter. Scrambles out from under the rock.

As Shalizar emerges, the Solamortis scepter materializes in his hand.

The cradle for the Orb sits at one end. A round space for the medallion carved in the middle.

DHARVON

Nice work. Let's go.

Shalizar gets to his feet. Still a bit amazed at what just happened. They start hurrying back through the tunnels.

EXT. CALDONA/MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Chanszu, Elara, Yojuro and 10 CALDONIAN VAMURAI charge in to attack Goron's army. Other VAMURAI from around the village join in the battle.

The mounted Hakorran Vamurai press their advantage. Swing their swords around using their bladelinks to keep the Caldonians at bay.

Spikes jutting out from their zethers' armor keeps attackers from getting too close.

Allyra hangs back from the battle. Watches nervously.

Goron maneuvers his zether to the mine entrance. Jumps off, followed by two nearby HAKORRAN VAMURAI. He pulls the Sol Medallion out of his tunic. Surprised to see it crackling with energy.

GORON

It's close!

Goron leads the other two Hakorrans into the mine.

INT. CALDONA/MINE - NIGHT

Goron and his Men have barely entered the mine when they spot Shalizar and Dharvon rushing toward them.

Shalizar and Dharvon see them. Stop.

GORON

Shalizar?! How...?

DHARVON

Shalizar survived the Burning Death.
He's the daywalker from Zan's
Prophecy.

Goron hesitates. His face grows dark. The battle rages on outside.

GORON

You lie. Kashala kept both of you
alive to do her bidding.

SHALIZAR

No, General. The sun no longer
affects me, I swear. The Prophecy--

GORON

Doesn't matter. You're nothing but
a filthy traitor. A failure as a
Vamurai.

He points to the scepter in Shalizar's hand.

GORON (CONT'D)

And you have what we came for.

DHARVON

If Raun gains the Solamortis, all
Archaleon is doomed.

GORON

Only those who oppose him.

Goron hurls his sword at Shalizar. Shalizar dodges it, but the blade slices his arm, causing him to drop the scepter. It bounces and rolls a few feet away from him.

Dharvon whips out his sword and charges Goron. Goron yanks his weapon back with his bladelink and engages Dharvon.

Shalizar's arm heals. He pulls out his own sword.

The other two Hakorran Vamurai race toward him. One of them dives for the scepter, while the other squares off with Shalizar.

The cramped quarters of the mine hinder all the Vamurai as they duel.

Dharvon barely holds his own against Goron. He's not a natural warrior, but his Caldonium sword and fierceness keep him alive.

The first Hakorran Vamurai grabs the scepter. Takes off for the mine entrance.

Shalizar viciously duels the other Hakorran Vamurai. Finally succeeds in stabbing the Hakorran through the heart.

He yanks his sword out of the shriveled corpse. Hurls it at the other Hakorran Vamurai. The blade skewers the Hakorran right through the heart.

The Hakorran falls and dies. The scepter tumbles to the ground and rolls near Dharvon.

Dharvon and Goron both struggle to maneuver toward the scepter while trying to kill each other.

Shalizar rushes to retrieve his sword from the dead Hakorran. Dharvon kicks Goron away. Snatches up the scepter.

DHARVON

Shalizar! Here!

He starts to toss the scepter the Shalizar. Goron takes advantage of the distraction. Leaps forward. Rams his sword into Dharvon's chest.

But Dharvon twists at the last second, so the blade misses his heart.

Dharvon SCREAMS. Drops both his sword and the scepter. Passes out from the pain. Goron yanks his sword out. Prepares to deal Dharvon the killing blow.

Shalizar races toward Goron.

SHALIZAR

No!

Goron turns and throws his sword at the onrushing Shalizar.

Shalizar leaps to avoid it, but his foot hits a slippery spot on the ground.

He flies off-balance. Hits his head hard on a nearby rock. Drops his sword. Lies on the ground, dazed, bleeding, barely conscious.

Goron reels his sword back in. Picks up the scepter. Glares at Shalizar.

GORON

I should just kill both of you. But
you'll suffer more being buried alive
in here.

Goron stalks back to the entrance. Shalizar tries to clear his head as his wound disappears.

He crawls and stumbles toward Dharvon's unconscious body. Dharvon's chest wound heals very slowly.

Outside, the battle continues. Many dead Caldonian Vamurai litter the street, along with a couple of Hakorran corpses.

Just inside the mine entrance, Goron stops.

He pulls a baseball-sized metallic sphere from inside his tunic. Presses a small, hidden button on it. The sphere pulses with energy.

He glances back. Shalizar's almost reached Dharvon.

GORON (CONT'D)

Goodbye again, traitor.

Goron lays the sphere on the ground. Rushes out into the night.

The sphere pulses faster. Faster.

Shalizar reaches Dharvon. Sees the sphere. His eyes go wide, then he closes them tight. Covers Dharvon with his body.

BAWHOOM!!!

The sphere explodes.

EXT. CALDONA/MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The mountain and surrounding ground shake. All non-mounted Vamurai, including Chanszu, Elara and Yojuro, get knocked to the ground.

Boulders and debris tumble down both inside and outside the mountain. The entrance gets sealed by tons of rocky debris.

Allyra barely keeps her feet. She watches the scene, horrified.

ALLYRA

Shalizar!

Goron stuffs the scepter inside his tunic. Grabs his panicked zether. Swings up onto it. Shouts at his troops, waving his sword.

GORON

Away! Away!

The sixteen remaining Hakorran Vamurai break off the fighting. Gallop back toward the village gate.

Goron starts after his Men. He glances back. Spots Allyra. His face lights up with recognition.

He wheels his zether toward her. She sees him. Takes off for the castle.

Chanszu rushes to intercept Goron. Raises his sword and gives a loud WAR CRY.

Goron blocks Chanszu's sword. Slashes back and nearly severs Chanszu's arm from his shoulder.

Chanszu collapses in agony, bleeding. Elara dashes over to protect him.

Goron chases Allyra. Hurls his sword like a javelin.

The blade plunges through Allyra's abdomen. She SCREAMS in pain. Falls to the ground. She tries to get back up, but Goron uses his bladeline to keep her down.

He pulls up his zether beside Allyra. Grabs the hilt of his sword. Uses it to lift her up onto the zether, draping her in front of him.

Allyra writhes in pain. Tries to fight, but she's too weak.

GORON (CONT'D)
Another prize for Lord Raun. He'll
plan a special death for you.

Goron punches Allyra in the face. Knocks her out cold.

He spurs his zether. Gallops past Chanszu and Elara.

GORON (CONT'D)
Your sorry reign is over, Chanszu!

Goron races away, laughing.

Yojuro flings his sword futilely at Goron. Reels it back in with his bladeline. Curses under his breath.

With Elara's help, Chanszu struggles to his feet. His arm heals slowly.

The eight other surviving Caldonian Vamurai approach them, looking confused and concerned.

ELARA
(to Chanszu)
My Lord, we should notify the other
Wizard Lords.

CHANSZU
Why bother? They'll just kill me
for letting this happen.

ELARA
So what now?

Chanszu sighs. Flexes his now-healed arm. Sheathes his sword.

CHANSZU
We wait for the end.

INT. CALDONA/MINE - NIGHT

Rocks and rubble litter the inside of the mine. Most of the tunnels have collapsed. Around the entrance, there's not even room to stand.

A large pile of rocky debris lies near the entrance. It starts to tremble. Rocks fall off.

Shalizar lies under the pile on top of Dharvon, both protected by a glowing ball of energy. Once Shalizar's shaken off enough rocks, he sits up beside Dharvon. The energy fades.

Dharvon's chest wound has almost completely closed. Shalizar looks around at their desperate situation.

Panic starts to rise within him. He grits his fangs. Struggles to calm himself.

Dharvon's eyes open. He coughs and raises himself on his arms.

DHARVON
Thought I was done.

SHALIZAR
We... we may still be.

Dharvon gets his bearings. Sits up.

DHARVON
How'd the mine collapse?

SHALIZAR
Goron. Some sort of... magical device. Exploded.

DHARVON
Raun's trying to cut off the Caldonium supply. Smart.

SHALIZAR
We're trapped. No way out.

Dharvon sees Shalizar struggling to keep control. He puts a calming hand on his son's shoulder.

DHARVON
Don't believe that. Your powers saved us. And they can get us out of here.

SHALIZAR
I don't think... I can...

Dharvon pulls his Caldonium sword out from under the rubble. Holds the hilt close to Shalizar's hand.

Shalizar's shocked as a weak bladelink forms.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)
How?

DHARVON

You share my blood. The Caldonium
strengthens it.

SHALIZAR

Same thing happened... with the
Solamortis scepter.

DHARVON

Not surprised. Zan would've infused
it with his own blood.

(pause)

Let's make this one completely yours.

Dharvon makes a small slash on Shalizar's arm with his sword.
Holds his arm so that the blood drips onto the blade.

Shalizar's bladelink firms up. Grows brighter. Dharvon
hands the sword to him.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

The Caldonium will help you focus
your magic.

Shalizar stares at the sword in wonder. His claustrophobia
starts to recede.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's find a weak spot.

They crawl over and around the rubble leading to the mine
entrance. Pull off a few smaller boulders and rocks where
they can.

Dharvon notices an area near the top of the pile where the
rubble seems thinnest. Points.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

Might be able to cut through up there.

Shalizar makes his way up to the spot. Braces himself on
his knees. Rears back. Gives a YELL. Slashes the sword
against a large rock.

It breaks in two, tumbling down the pile of debris. Dharvon
barely dodges the pieces.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

That's a start. Keep going.

Shalizar focuses himself. Attacks the rubble pile feverishly,
slashing and hacking the best he can in the tight space.

As he cuts through the debris, his sword begins to pulse
with energy. The effort becomes easier.

Rocks break and fall away at his onslaught.

Dharvon watches him proudly.

Soon Shalizar's cut enough space to stand. With more leverage, his attack grows even more frenzied. His whole body starts to radiate power.

EXT. CALDONA/MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Chanszu, Elara, Yojuro, and the remaining Caldonian Vamurai trudge away from the mine.

Behind them, a magical glow rises from part of the buried entrance to the mine. It grows brighter. Rocks and debris tumble down the pile.

Elara's the first to hear it. She turns. Her mouth drops as she sees the glow.

ELARA

They're alive!

Elara races back toward the mine. Chanszu and the others follow, shock and awe on their faces.

Suddenly the glow EXPLODES outward, sending rocks and debris raining down.

Shalizar emerges from the hole he's cut in the entrance. Dirty, tired, but still pulsing with energy. Dharvon crawls out after him.

Shalizar's glow fades as they climb down to the ground. He looks like he's coming out of a trance.

An excited Elara kneels before Shalizar.

ELARA (CONT'D)

I've waited for this day all my life.
My sword is yours.

Shalizar's not sure how to respond. Dharvon helps Elara back to her feet.

DHARVON

Thank you, Elara. But we'll need
more than that.

He turns to Chanszu and the others, all still wide-eyed with wonder.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

You've all now seen what Shalizar can do. The time for rebellion has come. Will you join us?

Before anyone can respond, Shalizar glances around. Senses something's wrong.

SHALIZAR

Where's Allyra?

Elara gazes at Shalizar with shame.

ELARA

Captured by the Hakorrans.

CHANSZU

They're taking her back to Raun.

Shalizar's face grows dark. He leaps at Chanszu, slashing his sword. Chanszu barely blocks the deadly blow.

SHALIZAR

You bastard! You said no harm would come to her!

They duel ferociously. Elara and the others watch, unsure what to do.

CHANSZU

I tried to stop them! I swear!

Shalizar's rage grows. He begins to radiate energy. Chanszu looks doomed.

DHARVON

Shalizar! Enough!

Shalizar pays no attention to Dharvon. Hell-bent on destroying Chanszu.

Dharvon rushes over. Grabs Shalizar from behind. Hurls him backwards. Stands between Shalizar and Chanszu.

Shalizar YELLS. Thrusts his sword at Dharvon's chest. Stops just as the tip of the blade pierces the skin, drawing a trickle of blood.

Shalizar's chest heaves. Dharvon grabs Shalizar's blade. Engages him in a staredown.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

You have a choice to make.

(MORE)

DHARVON (CONT'D)

(pause)

Let your anger consume you. Let
Raun murder Kashala and Allyra, and
enslave Archaleon. Or channel it.
Use it to save them. And maybe all
of us.

Shalizar slowly calms down. His glow fades. He pulls his
sword back.

SHALIZAR

I'll stop at nothing to save Allyra.

DHARVON

Remember that.

Shalizar looks at Chanszu. Extends his hand.

SHALIZAR

Forgive me.

Chanszu hesitates. Then grasps Shalizar's hand and arm.

CHANSZU

I'm the one who needs forgiving. I
didn't believe you. And I let your
woman get captured.

Shalizar nods as they release each other's arms.

SHALIZAR

We'll need an army to attack Hakorro.
Will you help us?

Chanszu glances at Elara and the others. Chuckles.

CHANSZU

We're dead either way. Might as
well go out like warriors.

Elara and the remaining Vamurai thrust their swords in the
air. Give a SHOUT of support. Shalizar smiles his thanks.

Dharvon moves toward Chanszu.

DHARVON

Your humans can give us better
numbers. Let them join us.

Chanszu looks at him like he's crazy.

CHANSZU

Release my slaves?

SHALIZAR

This is their fight too. Humans and Vamurai are all slaves under the Wizard Lords.

CHANSZU

Now you're starting to sound like Zan.

Shalizar and Dharvon share a wry smile.

SHALIZAR

Thank you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - NIGHT

Goron and his men camp in a cave-ridden pass in the mountains. The victorious Hakorran Vamurai joke and roughhouse with each other.

A few feed on the blood of marmasols or other freshly-killed animals.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - NIGHT

Allyra lies on the ground inside a cave. Her hands tied over her head to a heavy rock. Her legs spread apart and bound to other rocks. The sword wound in her stomach has healed.

Goron enters the cave. Gazes down at her lustfully. She glares up at him.

GORON

I can almost see why the traitor threw away everything for you.

Goron removes the belt from his tunic.

GORON (CONT'D)

I know you'll try to hurt me. In fact, I hope you do. Makes it more fun.

He cracks the belt like a whip in the air a couple of times. Grins sadistically.

Allyra steels herself for what's about to happen.

EXT. FOREST/REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT

The camp buzzes with activity. Marus' people sharpen swords, make arrows for the multi-bows, get ready for action.

A ragged group of 50 HUMANS, Caldonian refugees, wolf down food and get cared for by some of Marus' Women, including Varanna.

Chanszu, Elara, Yojuro, and 20 more CALDONIAN VAMURAI sit by themselves around a fire, psyching up for the battle, watching the humans warily. And a little hungrily.

At Marus' tent, Shalizar, Marus and Dharvon talk. Dharvon sharpens the steel blade on a new sword for himself.

DHARVON

Getting into Hakorro won't be a problem. Once inside, we should round up as much help--

Suddenly Shalizar doubles over in pain.

MARUS

What is it?

Shalizar recovers. Grits his fangs.

SHALIZAR

Allyra.

He jumps to his feet and runs to where the zethers are tied up. Marus and Dharvon race after him.

MARUS

Shalizar! Wait!

Shalizar starts untying a zether. Dharvon grabs the reins to stop him.

DHARVON

You can't help her alone. And we can't spare anyone.

SHALIZAR

It'll be daylight. They won't be able to stop me. I'll kill them all and bring her back here.

MARUS

But Allyra can't survive the sun either. Think, Shalizar.

Dharvon shakes his head.

DHARVON

Probably all sleeping in caves. In that darkness, they'll be more than a match for you.

Shalizar pauses. Struggles with his feelings.

SHALIZAR

How can I let her suffer?

MARUS

Focus on the good. You know she's alive.

DHARVON

And she believes in our cause. She'd want you to honor that.

Shalizar realizes they're right. He lets go of the zether. Stalks away.

DHARVON (CONT'D)

He's learning. But I still wonder if he fully understands what we fight for.

Marus smiles.

MARUS

What better reason to fight than love?

Shalizar squats next to his tent. Emotions roiling. He looks at the camp around him.

Varanna and a few HUMAN WOMEN present new tunics and other gifts to Chanszu, Elara and their fellow Vamurai.

Elara warmly thanks Varanna. They talk as new friends.

Shalizar's anger turns to amazement. A smile creeps across his face as he begins to understand.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/DUNGEON CELL - DAY

Early morning sunlight shines through the tiny barred window in Kashala's cell.

She stares up at it. Her face streaked with tears.

A bowl of food gets shoved through a small hatchway in the cell door. It's quickly closed and locked.

Kashala rubs her empty stomach. Looks like she's about to pass out. Thinks for a moment.

KASHALA

(softly)

Please give me strength for tonight.

She crawls over to the bowl. Begins devouring the morsels of meat and bread.

EXT. FOREST/REFUGEE CAMP - EVENING

As the sun sets, Marus' tribe pack up their tents and load their zethers and wagons, getting ready for the journey. The Caldonian Refugees help where they can.

Alone, Shalizar practices with his Caldonium sword. Slings it around with his bladalink. Chops a small tree in half.

He reels it back in. Stares into the glistening blade.

EXT. PLAINS OUTSIDE HAKORRO - NIGHT

Goron leads his galloping army toward the walls of Hakorro.

Allyra, her clothes torn to shreds, a look of numbed pain on her face, lies tied to the back of a zether pulled along by Goron.

She closes her eyes. Mumbles a silent prayer.

EXT. FOREST/FIELDS - NIGHT

Shalizar rides a zether next to Dharvon, in front of their army of Vamurai and Humans, racing to Hakorro. They break out of the forest and start to cross a vast field.

Shalizar senses Allyra's pain. His face grows hard with anger and determination. He spurs his zether on faster.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Raun sits on his throne. Confers with two human LACKEYS over some business.

The main doors swing open. Goron marches in, carrying the Solamortis scepter. The Sol Medallion's already attached to its rightful place.

Behind him, two HAKORRAN VAMURAI drag Allyra into the room.

Raun smiles at the Lackeys. Indicates their meeting's done. They leave through a side exit.

Raun rises to greet Goron.

RAUN
Well done, General.

Goron kneels before him. Raun takes the Solamortis scepter from his outstretched hand.

RAUN (CONT'D)
Any trouble retrieving it?

GORON
Chanszu and his men put up a fight.
We lost four warriors. But I brought
you more than just the scepter.

Goron gestures to his Men. They push Allyra next to Goron.

GORON (CONT'D)
Meet the Vampirisa who conspired in
Lord Tozu's death.

Raun raises an eyebrow in surprise. He steps down off his throne platform. Examines Allyra closely. She glares at him through half-lidded eyes.

RAUN
Exquisite.

GORON
My Lord, there's more. Her traitor
lover didn't die as we thought.
Queen Kashala helped him escape. He
was protecting the scepter.

Raun's face fills with rage.

RAUN
Where is he?

GORON
After I took it from him, I left him
buried inside the Caldonga mine. To
suffer forever.

RAUN
Some day I want to make sure of his
fate. But not tonight. The moons
converge soon. I will activate the
Solamortis, and use it to execute
this pathetic woman and my traitorous
queen.

Raun stalks toward a side door. Raises the scepter above his head.

RAUN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Then begins my conquest of Archaleon.

EXT. HAKORRO OUTER WALL - NIGHT

Shalizar and Dharvon lead their army toward the disguised cave opening near Hakorro's outer wall.

Marus and several of the MALE HUMANS carry multi-crossbows. Each has a bundle of short wooden arrows tied to his waist. They wear swords as well.

Everyone dismounts. They let their zethers go to graze nearby.

Shalizar addresses his followers.

SHALIZAR

This leads to a secret tunnel running under Hakorro. Women and children will exit in the Temple of the Moons. Get the children to safety, then go recruit others to fight with us. The men will make for Raun's palace.

CHANSZU

You're sure Raun doesn't know about this tunnel?

DHARVON

Kashala's worked a spell for many years to hide it from him.

ELARA

What if she's dead?

SHALIZAR

She's not.

Marus glances up at the night sky. The three moons are moving close to conjunction.

MARUS

The moons are almost together. We don't have much time. But before we go in, all Vamurai should feed. We need you at full strength.

Marus gestures to several of the Women in his tribe. They each move next to one of the 25 Vamurai warriors. Varanna picks Shalizar.

SHALIZAR

Marus? Are you--

MARUS

If we're going to fight together, we need to trust each other.

Shalizar smiles. Turns to the other Vamurai.

SHALIZAR

Only a few sips. They need their
strength as well.

Chanszu shakes his head in amazement. Goes to bite his
surprisingly willing victim.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

A breeze blows dust through the ancient temple. Faded
paintings of glorious battles hang on the walls.

A stone on the floor moves. Gets gently pushed away.

Shalizar emerges from the hole. Sword ready. He glances
around. All quiet.

He helps Varanna and the rest of the Women and Children,
about 30 in all, up through the hole and into the temple.
Dharvon climbs out behind them, wielding his new sword.

Varanna gathers the Women and Children together in front of
Shalizar. Dharvon keeps a watchful eye for trouble.

SHALIZAR

(to the Women)

Spread through the city. Tell
everyone the time of Zan's prophecy
has come, and freedom is theirs for
the taking. When you hear sounds of
battle, attack the palace.

Varanna nods. Touches Shalizar on the arm.

VARANNA

Allyra will be in your arms again
soon.

She gives Dharvon a quick peck on the cheek.

VARANNA (CONT'D)

Be careful, Dharvon.

He cracks a slight smile.

Varanna leads the Women and Children out of the temple.

EXT. RAUN'S PALACE/COURTYARD - NIGHT

Raun stands in the middle of a walled courtyard in front of
the palace, wearing gaudy red robes. He carries both his
Caldorum and the restored Solamortis, along with an ancient
scroll.

Goron stands at attention nearby, in front of a squadron of fifty HAKORRAN VAMURAI WARRIORS, dressed in their red tunics.

Across the courtyard, Allyra and Kashala stand bound to wooden posts with heavy chains. Allyra looks even worse than before, but glares at Raun with unquenched defiance.

An undulating mass of energy envelops Kashala, keeping her barely conscious and unable to focus.

Above them, the three moons of Archaelon move in the sky to form one giant, glowing mass lighting up the night.

Raun unfurls his scroll. Begins reading the ancient spell.

Goron watches excitedly.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/CORRIDORS - NIGHT

Shalizar leads his army of Men and Vamurai quietly through the corridors of Raun's palace. Weapons ready for anything.

But they see no one. Not even servants.

CHANSZU

This is too easy.

MARUS

Where is everyone?

DHARVON

Watching the Solamortis ceremony.

SHALIZAR

Then we'd better hurry.

Dharvon grabs Shalizar by the arm to stop him. Looks him in the eye.

DHARVON

Shalizar, I want you to know. I meant
what I said in Abukar. It's an
honor... to call you my Son.

Shalizar smiles, fighting back tears. The warriors quicken their pace through the palace halls.

EXT. RAUN'S PALACE/COURTYARD - NIGHT

Raun raises the Solamortis high as he finishes reading the scroll.

The Orb of Illuminatis glows. For the first time, fear flickers across Allyra's face. Kashala watches with half-conscious horror.

Intense beams of light burst directly from the conjoined moons and focus themselves into the Orb. The whole scene goes almost white from the brightness of the beams.

Allyra shuts her eyes. The light causes all Vamurai to grimace in pain.

Raun struggles to hold the Solamortis. Grits his teeth. Sweats profusely. Smoke rises from his hand holding the scepter.

The Orb draws in more beams from the moons. Glows white-hot.

Raun can barely keep the Solamortis aloft. His arm shakes as it vibrates. The flesh on his hand sizzles.

He drops the scroll and his Caldorum. Holds the Solamortis with both hands. Falls to his knees. SCREAMS.

Finally the light show ends. The moons move slowly apart. Everything goes back to normal.

Raun recovers. Gets to his feet. His hands heal quickly.

He gazes in wonder at his new weapon.

RAUN

Behold! The Solamortis!

Goron leads the Hakorran Vamurai in a loud cheer of "Raun! Raun!"

Raun picks up his Caldorum. Takes a few steps toward Allyra and Kashala. Regards them with contempt.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Now you will each pay the price for
defying me.

At that moment, the doors of the palace burst open. A yelling Shalizar leads his ragtag army charging into the courtyard.

Goron can't believe his eyes.

The Hakorran Vamurai get taken by surprise. A couple die instantly from crossbow bolts. Goron shakes off his shock.

GORON

Attack!

The two armies clash. The Humans' multi-bows create havoc among the Hakorran Vamurai troops.

Chanszu, Dharvon, Elara and the Caldonian Vamurai engage the Hakorrans with their swords. The battle is on!

EXT. HAKORRO/STREETS - NIGHT

Varanna leads her group of Women and a crowd of about a hundred adult HAKORRANS of all ages through the streets.

They're armed with swords, pitchforks, knives and any other weapons they could find. The SOUNDS of battle can be heard coming from the palace.

VARANNA

Hurry! Tonight we fight for freedom!

They race forward, yelling.

EXT. RAUN'S PALACE/COURTYARD - NIGHT

Raun growls with rage. He turns back to Allyra and Kashala.

RAUN

They cannot save you.

He raises the Solamortis. Aims the Orb at Allyra.

Shalizar sees them. Takes a huge flying leap across the courtyard.

He lands in front of Allyra just as Raun presses the medallion on the Solamortis. Spreads out his arms.

A beam of intense light blasts from the Solamortis. Hits Shalizar square in the back. He grimaces at the intense warmth. But suffers no ill effects.

Raun's stunned. He fires again. Still no effect on Shalizar.

RAUN (CONT'D)

Impossible! You should be dust!

Shalizar slashes his sword through the chains binding Allyra, freeing her. She hides behind him as he turns to face Raun.

SHALIZAR

(to Raun)

I am the Daywalker. As foretold in
Lord Zan's prophecy. And your nights
of rule are over.

In the thick of the battle, Goron rams his sword through a Caldonian Vamurai's heart. Sees Shalizar facing off against Raun.

He dashes toward them, slashing and killing a Human Warrior on the way. With a running jump, Goron lands between Shalizar and Raun. He attacks Shalizar, who parries his blows.

Dharvon fights his way to help Shalizar. Barely avoids getting killed a couple of times.

Chanszu beheads a Hakorran Vamurai. He breaks away from the fighting. Swings his sword around with his bladelink and launches it at Raun.

Raun sees the deadly blade flying toward him out of the corner of his eye. Narrowly evades it.

Chanszu keeps up his attack on Raun. Yojuro jumps in to help him. They evade Raun's blasts from the Solamortis while flinging their swords at him.

With Raun distracted, Kashala struggles to focus her powers. She closes her eyes, silently chants a spell.

The chains binding her to the post melt away. The paralyzing glow around her fades. She collapses to the ground, unconscious.

Dueling Goron, Shalizar sees Kashala fall. He yells behind him to Allyra.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Get Kashala to safety!

Allyra springs into action. She scoops up Kashala and races toward the palace.

At the same moment, Dharvon attacks Goron from behind. Goron fends him off, and takes on both Shalizar and Dharvon.

The main fighting continues. The Caldonian Vamurai are outnumbered, but hold their own.

Marus and his Human Warriors battle bravely, but the Hakorran Vamurai have too much speed and skill. Many Humans fall, though Marus fights amazingly well with his multi-bow and sword.

Allyra weaves her way through the melee and carries Kashala into the relative safety of the palace.

Shalizar, Dharvon and Goron go at it fang and nail. Their swords slice through the air. Metal CLANGS on metal. Goron has greater skills, but facing two opponents makes it even.

At one point Goron leaps back. Uses his bladelink to whip his sword at Shalizar's head.

Dharvon jumps in to block the blow. Shalizar hurls his own sword at Goron, manipulating his bladeline so that it slashes Goron across the leg.

Goron grimaces. Redoubles his attack as his leg heals.

Chanszu and Yojuro continue fighting Raun. One of Yojuro's sword throws succeeds in slashing Raun across the stomach.

Raun YELLS in pain.

RAUN

Enough!

He starts picking off other enemy Vamurai with the Solamortis, while firing his Caldorum at Chanszu and Yojuro.

With every direct hit from the Solamortis, a Caldonian Vamurai explodes into vaporous dust.

Others get limbs burned off, making them easy prey for the Hakorran Warriors. Their numbers dwindle fast.

Chanszu and Yojuro try hard to distract Raun's aim, while the main battle rages around them.

Shalizar, Dharvon and Goron duel all around the courtyard. Display dazzling swordsmanship. Avoid the other combatants as they focus on each other.

Marus uses the last bolt from his multi-bow to impale a Hakorran Vamurai about to behead Elara from behind.

Elara dispatches an Opponent, then dodges a blast from the Solamortis. She waves thanks at Marus before engaging another Hakorran.

Marus tosses his multi-bow aside and rushes to help her.

Above the din of RINGING STEEL and SCREAMS of the fallen, there's a POUNDING on the main gate to the courtyard. After a few blows, the gate crashes open.

Varanna and the Hakorran Peasants charge in. They join the attack on the remains of Raun's army.

Their sheer numbers turn the tide of the battle. Hakorran Vamurai begin to die rapidly.

The few remaining Caldonian Vamurai grow more successful at avoiding Raun's Solamortis blasts.

Allyra and a revived Kashala emerge from the palace, Allyra now wearing a Hakorran tunic to cover herself. Kashala sees Raun battling Chanszu and Yojuro. Dashes toward them.

A blast from Raun's Caldorum severs Yojuro's bladelink. His sword flies away and tumbles to the ground.

Raun blocks Chanszu's flying sword with his Caldorum. Fires the Solamortis at Yojuro. The blaze of light takes Yojuro's head off. His lifeless body falls to the ground.

Chanszu YELLS in anger. Retracts his sword. Charges Raun. Raun readies both the Solamortis and his Caldorum for a double-barreled killing blast.

But a powerful burst of energy from Kashala knocks Raun off his feet! The Solamortis flies from his hand, tumbling through the air.

Chanszu changes course. Leaps up. Grabs the Solamortis. Lands near Raun.

Behind Raun, Shalizar, Dharvon and Goron slash and hack at each other.

Chanszu turns to blast Raun with the Solamortis. Just as he fires, Raun raises his arms and disappears in a flash of light.

The burst from the Solamortis hits Dharvon in the right leg, turning it to dust. He SCREAMS in agony.

Before he can recover, Goron pierces Dharvon's heart with his sword.

KASHALA

Nooo!

Dharvon casts a longing glance at Kashala, which freezes as he shrivels into a corpse.

Shalizar attacks Goron with renewed fury. Chanszu tries to aim the Solamortis at Goron.

Suddenly Raun reappears behind Chanszu. Aims his Caldorum.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

Chanszu! Watch out!

Chanszu barely dodges Raun's blast. Fires back with the Solamortis, but misses. Kashala waves to him.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

This way!

Chanszu races away toward the palace. Trading bursts with an enraged Raun.

He dashes into the palace. Kashala blocks a final energy blast from Raun before following him inside. Raun disappears in a flash of light.

Raun's army, now greatly outnumbered, battles on. But it's almost over.

Allyra and Marus dispatch another Hakorran Vamurai. Then Allyra takes off to help Shalizar.

Shalizar and Goron continue their bloody duel. Ignoring slashes and cuts.

Shalizar blocks a blow from Goron. Goron slams his elbow into Shalizar's head. Shalizar goes down, dazed.

Goron raises his sword for the kill.

GORON

Die, traitor!

Allyra jumps onto Goron's back. Bites into his neck and slurps his blood.

Goron flails his sword, trying to fight Allyra off. She hangs on, clawing bloody gashes in Goron's face and torso.

Shalizar's head clears. He sees Allyra attacking Goron.

Allyra manages to grab Goron's sword arm. Bites into it with her fangs. Goron ROARS with pain and anger.

His torso's exposed. Shalizar leaps for them.

Allyra swings herself away just as Shalizar buries his sword into Goron's heart!

Goron stares at Shalizar with stunned eyes. Blood drips from his mouth.

GORON (CONT'D)

L-loyalty... blood... h-honor?

Allyra moves to Shalizar's side. He puts his arm around her.

SHALIZAR

Those words mean nothing when used
to oppress others.

Goron's body shrivels into a dessicated corpse. He falls to the ground, truly dead.

Shalizar takes a deep breath. Gives Allyra a powerful kiss.

ALLYRA

Told you you wouldn't lose me.

Shalizar smiles in relief.

They survey the courtyard. Elara, Marus, Varanna, the last three Caldonian Vamurai, and two dozen Hakorran Peasants surround the four survivors of Raun's army.

Raun's Vamurai drop their weapons. Raise their hands in surrender.

Shalizar pulls his sword from Goron's dead body. Senses something.

Marus calls out to him.

MARUS

We've won, Shalizar!

SHALIZAR

Not yet. Raun still lives.

He turns to Allyra.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

Stay here. Please.

She nods reluctantly.

Shalizar kisses her hard. Then races out of the courtyard and into the palace.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/CORRIDORS - NIGHT

Kashala and Chanszu dash through the palace corridors. Chanszu clutches the Solamortis and his sword.

They round a corner. Raun appears in a burst of light. Fires energy beams at them from his Caldorum.

Kashala blocks them with her magic. Chanszu sends a burst from the Solamortis. Raun disappears before it reaches him.

They turn and run down another corridor. Raun materializes again. Rains blasts of energy at them. Chanszu dodges. Kashala barely blocks the deadly beams.

Chanszu fires a blast from the Solamortis. This one hits Raun in side, burning him and his clothing. He disappears in a flash.

Chanszu breathes hard. Looks exhausted.

CHANSZU

This is... getting us... nowhere.

Kashala thinks fast. Touches a nearby wall. A doorway appears, revealing a staircase leading up. She pulls Chanszu into the stairway.

Shalizar races down a different corridor. Stops at an intersection of hallways. He closes his eyes. Concentrates.

His eyes flash open.

SHALIZAR

I'm coming, Kashala.

He takes off at high speed.

EXT. RAUN'S PALACE/ROOF - NIGHT

Kashala and Chanszu emerge from a doorway onto a rooftop parapet of the palace, between two of the turrets.

High battlements protect against outside assaults. Triple moonlight floods the scene.

Kashala leads Chanszu toward the battlements.

KASHALA

Chanszu, jump! I'll hold off Raun as long as I can.

CHANSZU

No! I couldn't save your father. I'll not leave you here to die.

KASHALA

You must keep the Solamortis away from Raun! And if my death can aid the liberation of Archaleon, so be it!

Raun materializes right next to them. He grabs the Solamortis away from Chanszu. Slams his Caldorum against Chanszu's head.

Chanszu flies back and nearly falls off the parapet. Grabs onto a battlement edge at the last instant.

Kashala hits Raun with a magical burst that stuns him long enough for her to run away. Chanszu pulls himself back onto the parapet.

Raun starts blasting at both of them, Kashala with his Caldorum, Chanszu with the Solamortis.

They barely dodge Raun's attack. Kashala magically shields herself and retaliates when she can. But Raun easily blocks her bursts with his Caldorum.

Suddenly, instead of blocking it, he absorbs one of Kashala's bursts with the Caldorum. Fires it back at her, doubled with his own magic.

The powerful beam shatters Kashala's magical shield. Knocks her unconscious.

Raun turns his full attention to Chanszu. Gets closer and closer to frying him with the Solamortis.

Shalizar charges onto the parapet.

A burst from the Solamortis catches Chanszu's leg as he tries to leap away. He tumbles to the floor near Kashala. Grimaces in pain, his leg half-burned off.

Raun bears down on him.

RAUN

Now to correct the mistake we made
by letting you live.

Raun aims the Solamortis at Chanszu.

Shalizar throws his sword end-over-end at Raun. Knocks the Solamortis out of his hand. It tumbles to the parapet a few feet away from Raun.

Shalizar guides his sword with the bladelink and slices open a huge gash in Raun's back. Raun roars in pain and staggers away from Chanszu.

Kashala stirs. Sees Shalizar taking on Raun.

Shalizar recalls his sword. Charges Raun. Yells at Chanszu and Kashala.

SHALIZAR

Both of you! Get out of here!

Raun blasts Shalizar with his Caldorum as his back wound heals. To his surprise, Shalizar deflects the energy with his Caldonium sword.

Kashala supports the limping Chanszu as they hurry for the safety of the parapet door. Chanszu's leg heals slowly.

Raun fires again and again at the onrushing Shalizar. But Shalizar's too fast for him, deflecting or absorbing each burst with his sword.

Raun backs away from Shalizar, his anger growing.

RAUN
Caldonium blade. How clever.

SHALIZAR
Your reign is over. Zan's prophecy--

RAUN
Be damned! I gave you immortal life.
You swore loyalty to me. Surrender
and face your death like a true
Vamurai.

SHALIZAR
That loyalty ended with the Burning
Death. I owe allegiance to no one
now. Except those I love.

RAUN
Then I will make sure they suffer
after I destroy you.

Raun touches the secret button on his Caldorum. A sharp
Caldonium blade springs out from the end of it. He attacks
Shalizar.

Their blades flash through the air. Raun slashes Shalizar's
arm. Shalizar backs off to let it heal.

RAUN (CONT'D)
You and Kashala have taken everything
from me. All because you believe
Zan's lies.

SHALIZAR
We believe in freedom. And equality.
Things you'll never understand.

They clash again. Fight all around the parapet with
superhuman speed and agility.

Kashala and Chanszu watch the duel from the safety of the
doorway. A worried Allyra, Marus and Elara join them.

Shalizar breaks through Raun's defenses. Makes several nasty
cuts on his arms and stomach. But they quickly heal.

They fence and parry some more. Raun launches a withering
attack. Forces Shalizar back to the edge of the parapet.

Shalizar fights for his life. He lashes out a leg. Catches
Raun full-on in the chest. Sends him flying back against
the far wall. He crashes hard.

Raun's slightly dazed. Before he can gather himself, Shalizar hurls his sword blade-first at Raun's head.

Raun dodges at the last second. The blade buries itself into the wall.

Shalizar realizes he's made a fatal error. Raun smiles. Grabs Shalizar's bladelink. Uses it to yank Shalizar through the air toward him.

Raun catches him by the neck. And rams his scepter-blade through Shalizar's heart!

KASHALA AND ALLYRA

Shalizar!

Kashala and Allyra run back out onto the parapet, despite Chanszu's efforts to stop them. He limps out to help, followed by Marus and Elara.

With a sweep of his free hand, Raun sends a magical blast at all of them. Kashala partially blocks it, but the force is still enough to knock them down, stunned.

Shalizar's bladelink dissipates. He coughs up blood. His body starts to shrivel up, but much more slowly than a normal Vamurai.

Raun stares at him in triumph.

RAUN

Now your "loved ones" will watch you die. You could never defeat me. I created you from nothing.

Raun puts his face close to Shalizar's.

RAUN (CONT'D)

You are still nothing!

Shalizar struggles to stay conscious. Somewhere in the back of his mind, he hears Zan's voice.

ZAN (V.O.)

Do not forget who you are. Do not forget what you are.

Shalizar glares at Raun.

SHALIZAR

No. I... am... a Vamurai!

Shalizar bares his fangs. Rips Raun's hand away from his neck. And sinks his teeth into Raun's jugular!

Raun fights to push Shalizar off him. But Shalizar holds on. Drinks greedily. He grows stronger. His body starts to revert to normal.

Raun blasts him back. Shalizar lands on the parapet near the Solamortis.

Raun staggers away, gasping. Clutches his bleeding throat. Tries to use his magic to heal himself.

Kashala sits up, her head clearing. Allyra and the others are slower to recover.

Shalizar gets an idea. He extends his hand toward the Solamortis. A weak bladelink forms.

RAUN

No! How--?

Kashala locks eyes with Raun.

KASHALA

He's my son!

Raun can't believe what he just heard. Kashala fires a burst at him. He reels in pain.

Shalizar drags the Solamortis into his hand with the bladelink. Aims it at Raun. Presses the medallion.

Raun disappears in a incredible explosion of dust and light, his SCREAM echoing into the night.

REACTION MONTAGE

- 1) Lord Thull senses Raun's death with pain and surprise.
- 2) Lord Krang reacts with anger.
- 3) Lord Mal recovers, a stunned look on his face.
- 4) Lord Juna actually sheds a tear.
- 5) Lord Narn's face grows dark with concern.

END MONTAGE

EXT. RAUN'S PALACE/ROOF - NIGHT

Shalizar drops the Solamortis. Collapses back, trying to hang on to life.

Allyra and the others run to Shalizar. Allyra cradles his head while Kashala pulls out the scepter-blade.

Chanszu falls to his knees. Bows his head to Shalizar.

CHANSZU

Lord Zan is avenged.

Shalizar pulls Allyra down for a powerful kiss. Then turns his head and sinks his fangs into her neck.

Tears fall from Allyra's eyes as Shalizar takes her life-giving blood. Their bodies both glow, and Shalizar's chest wound closes up.

Kashala watches, amazed. Marus, Elara and Chanszu reverently take in the scene.

Shalizar releases Allyra's neck. Touches it gently with his hand to heal it. They share an incredible look of love and connection.

ALLYRA

Nothing can separate us.

SHALIZAR

Nothing.

Shalizar picks up the Solamortis. Allyra helps him to his feet. Kashala retracts the blade in Raun's scepter. Hands it to him.

Marus raises his sword.

MARUS

Hail Shalizar, ruler of Hakorro!

Elara and Chanszu echo Marus. The chant gets picked up down in the courtyard. "Hail Shalizar" resounds into the night.

Shalizar smiles at Allyra and Kashala. Steps over to the edge of the parapet. Shouts down to his new followers.

SHALIZAR

No! No! Stop!

The chanting ceases. The Hakorrans and Vamurai look up at him with worshipful eyes.

SHALIZAR (CONT'D)

I will not rule you! We are all equal! Humans and Vamurai! We will live in peace together! And we dare any other Wizard Lord to try and take this from us!

Everyone in the courtyard and on the parapet begin to cheer even more loudly. Allyra rushes over.

Hugs Shalizar with all her might.

Kashala regards her son proudly through tear-filled eyes.

KASHALA (V.O.)

I lost Dharvon, my love, tonight.
But I found my son.

INT. RAUN'S PALACE/THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Shalizar and Allyra, dressed in fine clothes and standing on the throne platform, kiss passionately. Gaze out at the APPLAUDING THRONG of people, which includes all their friends.

KASHALA (V.O.)

Shalizar appointed a ruling council consisting of himself, Allyra, Marus, and two human leaders from Hakorro. Chanszu and Elara were made generals, and the remains of Raun's army swore fealty to the council.

Thull, Juna, Krang, Narn and Mal stand in back of the audience. Applauding but not very happy.

KASHALA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

With the threat of the Solamortis hanging over them, the remaining Wizard Lords had no choice but to accept the new order in Hakorro. They agreed to keep the peace... for the time being.

Kashala, overseeing the ceremony, makes a magical gesture. Miniature fireworks explode above the crowd, showering them with golden sparks.

Shalizar and Allyra share a loving look.

KASHALA (CONT'D)

Thus the first part of my father's prophecy was fulfilled. But our real dream... and our real quest... was just beginning.

Kashala gazes at Shalizar, Allyra and the Wizard Lords. An enigmatic smile on her face.

FADE OUT

THE END