PLANET OF THE APES!

A Toast! to the blood which shall soon flow from our enemies like coarse mead from a staved cask!!

SNOWDEATH!

See, Malagueña—? This feast wasn't such a bad idea, after all—was it?

Sorry, Malagueña, but I can't hear what you're saying—too much shouting in here.

I wish you'd take your hand off me, Jason.

Say, Eriko—You wouldn't happen to know gunpowder Julius and Steely Dan, would you—?
GUNPOWDER JULIUS AND STEELY DAN, EH? I LIKE THE SOUND OF THE NAMES, FRIEND JASON...

YOU REMIND ME OF THEM... IN CERTAIN WAYS...

WHAT'RE YOU MISSING ABOUT KEEPER?

THIS SAVAGERY... IT APPALLS ME! DISGUSTING!

...BUT TIS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THEM... OH, I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHY?

THE VERY ANTI-THESIS OF THE CULTURED SOCIETY OF THE PSYCHE-DROME! I--I CANNOT BEAR IT!!

OH... IS THAT ALL? WELL, SEE YA LATER, KEEPER...

THAT DOES IT, JASON! YOU DISGUST ME ALMOST AS MUCH AS THESE BARBARIANS DISGUST THE KEEPER!

COME ON NOTHING, JASON! YOU CAN STAY HERE AND DRINK ALL THE MEAD YOU WANT--UNTIL YOU DROWN, FOR ALL I CARE--!

AW, COME ON, MALAGUEÑA, DON'T START--

BUT GILBERT AND I ARE LEAVING TO FIND LIGHTSMITH!!
WAIT, MALA--

OH, WHAT'S THE USE? IT'S SETTLED NOW. THANKS FOR YOUR OFFER TO HELP, ERIKO, BUT ALEX AND I HAVE TO GO NOW. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FEAST TO END.

--OR WE'LL LOSE MALAGUENA AND GILBERT TOO.

WAIT, FRIEND JASON-- IT'S A DIFFICULT DECISION, BUT FIGHTING IS ALMOST AS MUCH FUN AS FEASTING...

STILL, I CAN'T END THE FEAST-- THEY'D PIN ME TO THE RAFTERS IF I TRIED IT-- BUT I'LL GET FLARN AND JARDO AND A FEW OTHERS.

WE'LL SLIP AWAY AND GUIDE YOU TO THE NESTS...

IT IS GOOD TO BE... IN A CAVE? WE'RE IN A CAVE, AREN'T WE? HARD TO... THINK...

BUT I AM A GOOD PERSON... I THINK.

IT'S GOOD TO BE... IN A CAVE? WE'RE IN A CAVE, AREN'T WE? HARD TO... THINK...

BUT I AM A GOOD PERSON... I THINK.

YES, YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON... I THINK...

BUT--

WHAT ARE THESE SNOW-SHAMBLERS LIKE, ANYWAY?

DUMB.

BUT THEY WERE BORN LONG AGO OF BOTH INTELLIGENT SPECIES-- MAN AND APE-- SO THEY SHOULD BE SMART. NO ONE KNOWS WHY THEY WERE DUMB, OR WHY THEY SOMETIMES CARRIED MEN AND APES IN THE NIGHT--

BUT IT'S PROBABLY TO EAT THEM, ANYWAY. WE'LL PUT AN END TO THAT TONIGHT--

SHOUTING OUR BATTLE CHANTS THE WHOLE TIME.

WE'LL, I HOPE SO. THE WAY MALAGUENA'S BEEN--

ERIKO-- CAVE AHEAD WITH SNOW-SHAMBLERS IN FRONT. COME QUIETLY...
CREEPING FORWARD, THEY HEAR ---

---A GOOD PERSON ALWAYS MUMBLING?

THAT'S HIS VOICE!

IN THAT CASE, FRIEND JASON ---

LET'S CHAAARRGE!!

IT IS SEALED, NOW.
FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD THE RECKoning IS INEVITABLE.

AND THE REAL CRIME LIES IN THE FACT THAT THE FOOLS WITH THEIR WEAPONS CANNOT SEE IT COMING.

...AND EVEN ONE WHO CAN BARELY THINK REALIZES THAT SHE MUST FLEE THIS HORRIBLE SCENE. IF SHE IS TO PROTECT THAT WHICH SHE LOVES.

THERE!!

THE SLAUGHTER IS INSTANTANEOUS -- THE EXPLODING CARNAGE OVERWHELMINGLY COMPLETE...

A SHAMBLER WITH A HAIRLESS ONE --!!
BACK, MONSTER--GET AWAY FROM THAT HELPLESS MAN!!

...BUT NOW SHE TURNS, HEARING A NEW THREAT.

LIGHTSMITH--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

JASON...WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...? WH-WHERE ARE WE...?

NO-NO!!

RUN, MONSTER!

RUN ALL YOU WANT--

NO-NO!!

NO-NO!!

SHE DROPS HER CHARGE, THE BETTER TO DEFEND HIM FROM THIS STRANGE AND REASONLESS THREAT...

--BUT JARPO'S GOT YOU NOW!!

NO--

NOOO-!!

BUCK!

EET-EET-!! THEY'VE KILLED YOU, EET-EET!! BUT WHY-??!

IN THE NAME OF THE GREAT PROGRESS LEADER--WHY HAVE THEY KILLED YOU??!

NOOOO.....

LIGHTSMITH'S MIND HAS JUST BEEN RESTORED.
But now that he can think again—now that the brainwashing spell imposed by the keepers of the psychedrome has been shattered by the shock of this gut-wrenching tragedy—Lightsmith wishes desperately that it were not so... and mourns the loss of mindless ignorance...

She was innocent... gave me nothing but love and comfort... only wanted to help me... and you've killed her... killed poor Eet-Eet...

You fools... you stupid, stupid...

Yes, fools... and they know it, but too late... much too late...

I... I never thought the day would come...

...when I would feel no better than Brutus...

The rest look down or away, blinding themselves to the sight of Lightsmith's emotional agony. It is nothing they wish to see.

Morning: But in many ways, darker than the night before...

Nothing but silence...

And a wary, embarrassed peace between repentant fools and uncomprehending innocents.
DON'T FEEL TOO BAD, ALEX. AT LEAST ONE GOOD THING HAS COME OF THIS...

LIGHTSMITH IS HIMSELF AGAIN.

...BUT I THINK HE'S LOST SOMETHING ELSE.

I KNOW YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND, EET-EET, BUT SOMETIMES A GOOD PERSON...

...DOES BAD THINGS.

Yeah, Jase... he's regained his mind...

EPILOGUE: THE FAREWELL IS SOLEMNLY LOW-KEY...

THANKS FOR GIVING US THE LONGSHIP, ERIKO-- WE APPRECIATE IT.

THE LEAST WE COULD DO, FRIEND JASON. GOOD LUCK IN FINDING THE WAY BACK TO YOUR CITY.

AND DON'T FORGET THE LESSON WE LEARNED LAST NIGHT.

--THE NORTH-APES ACKNOWLEDGE HIS EXISTENCE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

What are you doing? Let me pass!

You stay with us.

NO--!!
YOU MUST STAY WITH US! YOU ARE THE ORACLE WHO HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US--THE ONE WHO IS SUNG IN OUR BALLADS--WHOSE IMAGE IS CARVED ON OUR POLES--THE GREAT ORACLE WHO WOULD BRING US WISDOM!

NO! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE!
I COULDN'T STAND IT--COULDN'T BEAR THE FILTH--THE BARBARISM--!

YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM, ERIKO--? NOT THAT WE WANT TO KEEP HIM MIND YOU...

NO--! RELEASE ME!

TO BE SURE, FRIEND JASON, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF HIS COMING, WE RECEIVED GREAT WISDOM--THE WISDOM OF LAST NIGHT'S TRAGEDY...

AND SO, THE KEEPER WAITS ON THE SHORE, THE LONGSHIP GLIDES FROM THE FJORD...

YOU KNOW, FOR ALL MY BELIEF IN CHERISHED KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT, PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE SUPERSTITIONS OF FATE.

"THE KEEPER--HE AND HIS KIND IN THE PSYCHEDRONE PROGRAMMED ME TO SPREAD THEIR DOCTRINES OF SUBMISSIVENESS, TO BE THEIR MESSIAH...THEIR ORACLE...AND THE VERY THING WHICH BROKE THAT INDOCTRINATION--!"

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LIGHTSMITH?"

Yeah, I see what you mean, Lightsmith...

IT TURNED HIM INTO THEIR ORACLE.