PLANET OF THE APES

"TOMORROW'S TIDE"

Written by

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SECOND REVISED FINAL
September 4, 1974
CAST LIST

GALEN
PETE BURKE
ALAN VIRDON

GAHTO (HUMAN)
SOMA (HUMAN)
ROMAR (HUMAN)
HURTON (CHIMP)
HURTON'S AIDE (GORILLA)
BANDOR (APE)
ARMED GUARD (GORILLA)
APE DRAYMAN ONE
APE DRAYMAN TWO

Human Fishermen, Ape Patrol, Ape Guards
SET LIST

INTERIORS:
CAVE

EXTERIORS:
OCEAN BEACH
INLAND LAGOON - FISHING AREA
INLAND LAGOON - TEST AREA
WOODS
OCEAN FISHING POOL
VILLAGE
HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS
GAHTO'S HUT
CEREMONIAL SITE
CAVE AREA
"TOMORROW'S TIDE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

(NOTE TO DIRECTOR: PLEASE ALLOW 45 FEET OF SILENT
ACTION FOR SUPERIMPOSITION OF TITLES.)

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN 1
RUNNING - DAY

The two Astronauts, VIRDON and BURKE, with their
chimpanzee companion, GALEN, are running, apparently
in flight, along the hardpacked sand of the beach...
but on each incoming wave, Galen heads for the softer
sand, leaving tracks.

CLOSE SHOT - THE TRIO 2

as Virdon glances back to see Galen, behind, plodding
through the soft sand...and stops!...turns to Galen who
also now stops. Burke halts also, appearing thankful
for the breather, as:

VIRDON
(to Galen)
You're a big help!

Galen marches innocently up to him.

GALEN

Huh?

Virdon points back at the tracks.

VIRDON
We're trying not to leave tracks!
Stay closer to the water, get
your feet wet.

GALEN
(superior)
My tracks are not cause for
suspicion in this part of the
world. Besides, we are not
quite as fond of water as...
humans!

Burke glances in at the shore, inquisitively, paying no
mind to the exchange...as Virdon sighs patiently at their
friend, Galen.

Cont.
BURKE
Wonder if this is...Pismo Beach
...or Malibu...?

And he glances out to the water...noticing something, pointing.

BURKE
Hey...look!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST THEM TO THE OPEN WATER

A sizeable, bulky object, six or seven feet long, flat, floating in the water. As Virdon and Galen turn on Burke's cue:

VIRDON
What is it?
(excited)
Come on...!

And he races into the water, Burke right behind him. They dive into the surf, swimming toward the object.

ANGLE ON GALEN

as he watches them, with great curiosity. His expression changes to one of mild distaste...for the water.

GALEN
Ugh...getting all wet...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE SWIMMING

toward the object, which we can now see is a raft...only two or three logs lashed together, but something atop it.

VIRDON
There it is...over there...

ANGLE ON THE RAFT

as Virdon and Burke swim up to it, and with great surprise, see the prone form of old GAHTO, lashed to the raft with leather thongs. They grasp hold of the raft, look at the old man.

BURKE
Hey...it's an old man, Al...a survivor...you all right, fella?
CLOSE SHOT - GAHTO

His eyes, swollen from being lashed facing the sun, only blink. But he says nothing.

BACK TO SCENE

as we see the dorsal fin of a SHARK cut the water not far behind Burke.

VIRDON
This guy isn't a survivor...
He's a victim...Come on...
   (spotting shark fin)
Hey...Pete...shark!

Burke turns, looks around at the warning, sees the shark fin, circling now.

BURKE
Let's get out of here.

And they start to swim and tug the raft toward shore.

SWIMMING SHOT - CLOSE ON THE RAFT

Virdon and Burke towing the raft closer to shore. In the near b.g., the shark fin appears once more, circles, dives, both Astronauts eyeing it cautiously.

VIRDON
Watch him...he's getting closer...

BURKE
What do you want me to do...
Tell him there's nobody home?
Swim!

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - PAST GALEN TO RAFT

Virdon and Burke have towed the raft to shallow water now...and begin hauling it onto the sand of the beach.

ANGLE ON THE RAFT

Virdon kneels with Burke near the raft as Galen walks up to them. Spotting the leather thongs with which Gahto is bound to the raft, Virdon looks up at Galen, his hand out.

VIRDON
Give me the knife...

Cont.
A beat of hesitation as Galen hands Virdon a type of hunting knife. Virdon quickly cuts the thongs but the old man does not stir, even when freed. As he hands the knife back to Galen:

VIRDON
At least he's still breathing. Somebody must've put him on the outgoing tide...

BURKE
Let's get him out of here.

They lift Gahto and move o.s.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - DAY

as our trio carries Gahto into cave.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Gahto is placed gently on the floor of the cave.

BURKE
(to Gahto)
Hey...who are you...eh?

No reaction from Gahto and Burke snaps his fingers in front of the old man's face...for a reaction.

BURKE
Hey...You understand?
(to Virdon)
In shock -- or deaf?

VIRDON
Maybe he just doesn't understand us.

GAHTO
(weakly)
I...am...dead. Leave...me.

BURKE
He understands...I don't.

VIRDON
Old man...what is your name... where do you come from...?

GAHTO
I...am...dead...

He closes his eyes.
GALEN
You heard him. Let's go.

BURKE
You've got to be kidding. You can't just leave him.

Why not?

VIRDON
Who would do a thing like this...?

BURKE
Some early Indian tribes, Eskimos, a few ancient Chinese societies...

VIRDON
He doesn't qualify.

Galen is puzzled, concerned and a little annoyed.

GALEN
You ought to listen to him. You're just asking for trouble...

Virdon kneels by Gahto as latter opens his eyes, stares ahead.

VIRDON
Want to tell us your name, now? Huh?

GAHTO
I am dead. The gods have willed it.

Burke goes to join Virdon, by Gahto. A little impatient with the "story" Gahto is giving them, trying an angle.

BURKE
Look...you know you're dead... we know you're dead. All we want to know is...what was your name when you were still alive... right?

A long beat, just as Virdon is noticing the metal bracelet Gahto wears.

Cont.
GAHTO
Gahto...my name was...Gahto.

VIRDON
Gahto...well, that's a start.  
(showing Burke 
the bracelet)
Look, Pete...  

OUT 12-14

INSERT - THE BRACELET ON GAHTO'S ARM
A metal band, the figure of a fish stamped on it.

BURKE'S VOICE
(c.s.)  
For identification, maybe?  

BACK TO SCENE
as Virdon turns the bracelet slightly, seeing:

VIRDON
Yeah. This is fastened on  
for life.  

Galen stands, comes to them.

GALEN
It's the band of an enforced 
labor community. He'll be 
killed if he's found wandering 
outside the permitted area.

BURKE
What's a permitted area?

GALEN
It varies. A mile or two from 
the labor center. It's a method 
to keep humans from straying away.

ANGLE ON GAHTO
as he looks up with some fear at the chimpanzee, Galen, 
then curiosity at Virdon and Burke; the picture of 
humans friendly with an ape too confusing for him.

GAHTO
I am dead...leave me...the 
gods have willed it...
As Virdon and Burke stand, frustrated:

BURKE
Poor guy, somebody sure sold
him a bill of goods -- What's
the next move?

VIRDON
We're going to find whoever put
him there...sort them out...and
get him back home. Human beings
just can't...do this!

GALEN
May I ask a question?

Virdon and Burke turn to him, waiting for it.

GALEN
If he wants to be dead...why
can't he be dead?

On their look:

GALEN
I've known a lot of humans who
would be better off...if...

He halts on their look.

BURKE
Is that your question?

GALEN
Well?

VIRDON
The answer is...you stay here
and keep an eye on him. We'll
scout the area and see if we can
find who...Gahto here...belongs
to. Does that meet with your
approval?

On Galen's rather put-down look, Virdon turns to Burke:

VIRDON
Let's move...

And Virdon walks toward the mouth of the cave, as Burke
steps over, puts a reassuring hand on Galen's shoulder.
BURKE
Don't mind him...he just got up
on the wrong side of the cave...

And Burke follows Virdon out the entrance of the cave.
When they have left, Galen walks to Gahto, looks down
at him, testing.

GALEN
Gahto?
No response.

GALEN
Gahto!?
The old man just stares straight ahead. Galen gives up,
wants toward the mouth of the cave and stares out at the
increasing light of day, silhouetted against the opening.

CUT TO:

EXT. APPROACH TO BEACH - MOVING SHOT - VIRDON AND 18
BURKE - DAY

walking together. They look o.s.

OUT 19-
20

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN FISHING POOL - LONG P.O.V. SHOT - DAY 21

A sizeable cove, sheltered by rocks from the open sea, where
commercial spear fishing is done to supply raw material
for inland fertilizer factories. Several human spear
fishermen from this producing village are now engaged in
fishing. Armed Ape Guards stand by. We see a couple
emerge with fish on their spears and start for a half-filled
wooden wagon parked on the beach, horse-drawn and being
tended by two Ape Draymen. An Armed Ape Guard stands on
a rock overlooking the fishing pool.

ANGLE ON THE WATER 22

A flurry of excitement as TWO FISHERMEN, their heads just
out of water, let out sounds of alarm, and we see a
shark fin cut the water near them.

ANGLE ON THE ARMED APE GUARD 23

as he raises his gun and fires at the shark.
ANGLE ON THE FISHERMEN

as the rifle shot blips the water near the shark fin, and it disappears.

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM A SECLUDED SPOT ON SHORE TO THE SCENE

Virdon and Burke are watching this activity with interest, bewilderment.

BURKE
Man, if this is Paradise Cove, they've made some changes...

A beat, and Virdon points.

VIRDON
Pete...look...the bracelets...

And CAMERA ZOOMS IN on two Villager Fishermen standing at the wagon to unload their catch onto the pile of fish in the dray...the left arm of each of them bearing a bracelet identical to the one Gahto wears.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

as they exchange a look.

BURKE
What do you think?

VIRDON
I don't think we ought to go in there...with all that artillery around...

Their thoughts are cut short by a stern, loud COMMAND from behind them.

ARMED GUARD
You! What are you doing here?!

REVERSE ANGLE

as Virdon and Burke turn to see they're looking up the muzzle of a rifle held by a sinister Ape ARMED GUARD. The Guard cocks the rifle in a menacing metallic sound of readiness. Too startled to answer immediately, Virdon and Burke make a slight move.

ARMED GUARD
Stand! Slowly!
Virdon and Burke stand. The Ape studies them, glancing at their wrists...no bracelet.

ARMED GUARD
Who are you!? Where do you come from!?

BURKE
We're just sort of travelling through. If we're not supposed to be here, we'll --

ARMED GUARD
(overriding)
Silence!

Holding the gun on them, gesturing:

ARMED GUARD
This way...!

And he starts to march them in a direction that will take them past the group near the fishing area, to the village. Some Fishermen follow hesitantly, apprehensively.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Curiosity from inhabitants over these two strangers being led through by an Armed Guard. The humans murmur with AD-LIB curiosity as the Astronauts' captor marches them close by the other humans and orders them to:

ARMED GUARD
Stop! Stay!

While another Armed Guard trains his rifle on the pair, the Armed Guard in charge of Virdon and Burke steps away. Virdon and Burke scan the group inquisitively. Burke calls lowly to one of the male humans near him.

BURKE
You...do you know...Gahto?

The couple of Fishermen and a couple of others within earshot, turn their backs on Virdon and Burke.

VIRDON
Wait! Do you know if Gahto lives here?

As their captor is returning the few steps to them:

BURKE
Looks like old Gahto has a lot of acquaintances but no close friends...
CAMERA PANS to ROMAR, who turns his head from the group, watching the two strangers carrying Gahto's name, with some fear. His wife, SOMA, has nervously stepped out to join him, eyes wide in fear.

EXT. HURTON'S HUT - DAY

Armed Guard has entered Hurton's hut, the largest hut in the village.

OUT

INT. HURTON'S HUT - DAY

HURTON, a chimpanzee beset by irritations, is listening to the Armed Guard.

ARMED GUARD
Stray humans, sir. I found them hiding near the fishing area.
Probably waiting to steal fish.

HURTON
All right! Don't just stand there.
(to himself)
More problems!

Armed Guard moves to door to signal out.

ARMED GUARD
Bring them in.

Huron shuffles papers. Armed Guard steps away from door to permit entry of Virdon and Burke who, obviously, have been "urged" to enter Hurton's hut.

Huron steps to them, angrily. He starts pacing around them.

HURTON
Hah! That's all I need! Three wagonloads behind already this period! The fertilizer factories wanting more...more...more!

He steps in front of Burke, pokes his riding crop in Burke's stomach.

HURTON
(demanding)
And how many fish do you have in your gullet...eh?
Burke flinches from the jabbing of his middle.

VIRDON

We didn't steal any fish.

Hurton turns to him, now. He looks at Virdon's bare wrist, whacks it with his riding crop.

HURTEN

Hah! You wear no band of a fisherman. How else would you get fish to eat except to steal them!

VIRDON

If you'll let me explain...

ARMED GUARD

Silence!

Hurton steps back, gives the pair a fast objective appraisal of a weary bureaucrat.

HURTEN

(for the Guard)

If they're not fishermen, they're no use to me. Take them out and kill them...

And Hurton turns his back on them, starting back for his headquarters.

ARMED GUARD

Come!

BURKE

Hey, hold it! We're probably the best fishermen in this whole part of the world!

Hurton stops, turns with interest. As Virdon gives his pal a look, Hurton walks back to them, cautious, but interested.

HURTEN

If you lie, you die.

BURKE

No lie...hey, on the level... nobody, but nobody brings in the fish like we do.

Cont.
Hurton points with his riding crop.

**HURTON**
Then how is it you do not wear
the armband of a fisherman?
Eh? Eh?

With a superior shrug, as though he is about to "dismiss"
them again, until Virdon jumps in:

**VIRDON**
We were...farmers. We were...
released by one of the big farms
inland...

**BURKE**
Because all we wanted to do all
the time was...fish. We've been
practicing...

Hurton starts to pace around them again, considering. He
whacks their leg muscles with his crop, pinches their arm
muscles like he's examining livestock. In front of Burke
again, he presses a fist to his middle.

**HURTON**
You have good wind? To fish
long underwater?

**BURKE**
Oh yes, sir...

A beat of hesitation by Hurton.

**HURTON**
Do you have your 'release papers'?

**VIRDON**
(quickly)
No, sir...we lost them.

**BURKE**
While we were fishing.

Another beat as Hurton considers this technicality,
muttering somewhat to himself.

**HURTON**
I could use two more good producers...
have to discard the old ones...
takes forever to grow new ones...
(a decision,
to them)
We'll let the fire decide!
VIRDON

What?

Hurton, very matter-of-fact...doing them a favor.

HURTON

We'll test you tomorrow. If you can prove your swimming ability under the sheet of flame...

He grabs Virdon's arm and lifts it possessively.

HURTON

I'll band you myself. Two more producers in the prime... Bandor will be delighted...

BURKE

(doubtful)

Well, now...I'm just not too sure we're...ready...to go swimming under any...fire...

HURTON

(abruptly)

Then it's out of my hands, of course. You'll be killed immediately before the gods are offended...

(to Guard)

Guard them! And no food before the test. If we have to kill them...I don't want any fish ration wasted on them...

And he turns and stalks back to his headquarters, muttering.

HURTON

Quotas...quotas...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

as they exchange looks that say they're not exactly comfortable with this new, deadly dilemma.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - LONG SHOT - THE SCENE - DAY

Virdon and Burke stand amid several curious Villagers who have gathered to see these two "strangers" without arm-bands pass the test of swimming under fire which will qualify them to become producing spear fishermen. The water in the lagoon is quiet now. Hurton is present.

ANGLE ON ARMED GUARD

With a lighted torch...as he tosses it toward the oil-covered water...PANNING WITH ITS ARC...as it lights in the water...and suddenly ignites the surface into a sheet of flame.

WIDE ANGLE

Amid cheers of encouragement, a YOUNG HUMAN approaches the edge of the flaming lagoon. He turns to raise a clenched fist proudly to the crowd watching, takes a spear, then plunges into the water. He's a magnificent specimen who swims strongly to a point near the flames, then submerges.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

reacting.

VIRDON

Think he's got a chance?

BURKE

Probably been in training. We go that route without even a test run!

WIDE ANGLE

Young Human appears at the far side of the flames, swims triumphantly to the shore as the crowd cheers.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

watching.

VIRDON

He made it. It is possible.

CUT TO:
INT. CAVE - ANGLE ON GALEN AND GAHTO - DAY

Galen is just walking into the mouth of the cave to see old Gahto, still "dying" in his sitting-leanin g position. Galen munches on berries he has collected.

GALEN
Hah! Maybe you are not too dead to eat a few berries...?

Galen kneels, extends his handful of berries.

ANGLE ON GAHTO

He looks straight ahead... as if in shock.

GAHTO
I have failed the gods... I am dead.

GALEN
My friends have a saying... I think it goes like this... 'You are a pain in the neck.'

Galen stands... worried about something else.

GALEN
And if anything's happened to them... I will personally feed you to the sharks... piece by piece.

GAHTO
It is the will of the gods...

GALEN
Oh shut up! It is the will of Galen...

(jabbing his own chest)

... that you stay right here. My friends have been gone a day. I'm going to look for them. Do you understand?

No response from Gahto. In frustration, Galen turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - DAY

Hurton is standing near Virdon and Burke, accompanied by his Armed Aide. Hurton is aloof and superior...but showing a certain anticipation. He views his new "specimens"... tapping out physical attributes with his riding crop...
HURTON
Look at that. Limbs as strong as a young horse. Lungs like a whale.

He whacks Virdon on the chest. And says for the Aide to hear...one really does not talk to humans, as a rule.

HURTON
When the run of fish is good, they should produce an extra two, three hundred pounds a day!

Virdon and Burke exchange looks on this appraisal.

HURTON
Test them!

The Armed Aide steps forward, motioning with his gun.

ARMED AIDE
Come...

ANOTHER ANGLE - FROM THE WATER

We see the group of village men part and Virdon, Burke and Hurton walk toward the water and a cluster of spears stuck upright in the earth near the water. As they approach, another Armed Guard plucks out one of the spears and hands it to Virdon.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

as Virdon takes the spear.

BURKE
Good luck, buddy...you won the toss...

WIDER ANGLE - ON SCENE

as Virdon walks to the water. Village men approach, holding back with an uncertain curiosity. Virdon steps into the clear water, looks beyond to the flaming barrier he must swim under. A beat of hesitation...and the Guard raises his gun and fires a SHOT into the water near Virdon.

ANGLE ON BURKE

flinching, from the no-foolishness of these Apes.

BURKE
(concern)
I think that's the starting gun --
Virdon, spear in hand, plunges into the water, disappears under the surface. Hurton steps forward, crosses his arms... waits. Burke, silently, his fists clenched like he's urging his "team" to the goal line...the Villagers exchanging looks...when Virdon seems long in appearing. An extra long beat...Virdon is still under the water.

A look of disappointment, some anger...has he been duped?

Concern for his friend growing...straining for a look.

As everyone is just stirring with bewilderment, concern... we see Virdon emerge from the water on the far side of the flames...spear in hand...raising it...and he has a fish on it!

A cheer goes up from the Village humans...this is not an expected part of the test...here is a real fisherman who will help ease the pressure on them to continually increase production. Hurton has a pleased look. The Armed Aide expresses surprise...and all now turn to Burke.

looking across to Virdon...a resigned look...shaking his head.

You're a hard act to follow!

EXT. BEACH - ANGLE AT THE EMPTY RAFT - DAY

A Mounted Patrol, his horse standing near, is leaning over and examining the raft from which Gahto was taken. He examines the knife-sliced thongs. An expression of "official anger"...someone has defied the gods! He quickly mounts up and rides off...galloping down the beach.

EXT. LAGOON "TEST AREA" - AS BEFORE - DAY

Only Burke is now at water's edge with spear in hand. Virdon stands on the opposite side, another Guard in the b.g. As Burke steps into the water...takes a "whale's breath"... and dives in. Several long beats...not a ripple in the flaming water.
ANGLE ON HURTON
expectant…but concerned.

ANGLE ON VIRDON
looking back across the water, an anxious look when he
doesn't see his friend emerge...

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST VIRDON TO THE SCENE OF THE
LAGOON
The Village humans with Hurton on the far side. Another
long beat…and Burke emerges from the water…gasping for
breath…long held…and stands with his spear...containing
a larger fish! And he walks toward Virdon with a big smile...

BURKE
As one big producer to another, I
hope we graduated and don't have
to take any more tests.

Virdon smiles at his friend, proudly, as the Guard reminds
them where they are.

ARMED GUARD
Come! This way!

And he leads them off.

EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE LAGOON – ANGLE ON HURTON
AND AIDE
We see the Armed Guard approaching with Burke and Virdon,
coming toward the amazed and delighted group of Villagers
who offer restrained nods…smiles at these men...except
for Romar…who views them suspiciously.

Hurton walks to Virdon and Burke, examining them again in
this new and unexpected light.

HURTON
Bandor will arrive tomorrow with
new quotas, no doubt. He'll
expect me to squirm and complain…
he's always wanted to put his
nephew in charge here. I think I
will surprise Bandor with these
new fishermen. I want to see his
face.

(turning, deciding)
…bring them along!

Hurton strides off in the direction of the village, Virdon
and Burke following under rifle guard…and the Village
humans falling in behind.
EXT. THE VILLAGE - SHOOTING DOWN "STREET" - DAY

The procession is heading toward Hurton's headquarters. From first appearances, it would seem that Virdon and Burke are in serious trouble...guns pointed at them...in the custody of Apes as CAMERA PULLS BACK:

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST GALEN - TO THE SCENE

as he views it from a secluded hiding spot near the village, a look of concern as he turns toward CAMERA...and leaves hurriedly.

THE SCENE ON THE "STREET" - ANGLE NEAR ROMAR AND SOMA'S HUT

as the procession passes the hut belonging to Romar and Soma...Romar drops from the procession as Soma steps from the hut. Romar watches the others continue toward Hurton's headquarters.

ANGLE ON ROMAR AND SOMA

as she steps near her husband, a glance toward the departing Virdon and Burke.

SOMA
Did they say any more?

Romar does not look at his wife as he barks a firm denial.

ROMAR
They said nothing!

SOMA
I am sure they have seen my father. Gahto is alive!

ROMAR
(sternly)
Silence! If the gods hear you say his name...they will punish us all! The sea has taken him. It's the law. Be still!

A beat of obedience...but she walks away from him...to follow the others...and he joins her, somewhat fearfully.

THE SCENE IN FRONT OF HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS

as the procession, Hurton and his Aide leading, arrive...Hurton making up his mind about something as they halt there.

HURTON
They will occupy the hut of the old discarded fisherman.
as they exchange a glance on this overheard remark. A couple of Village humans stand near them to hear.

VIRDON

Hear that?

BURKE

I think we're getting old Gahto's old apartment.

On the mention of the name Gahto...Virdon sees the two Humans clap a hand to their mouths...just expressing curiosity about this as they both hear a familiar voice.

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Aha! Here you are!

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST GROUP TO GALEN

approaching Hurton and the rest from behind the headquarters structure. Hurton turns in surprise as Galen marches forward with a stern determination.

GALEN

(to Virdon, Burke)
I told you the next time you strayed off, you'd be punished severely. And I meant it. Now come along...!

Virdon and Burke, a brief glimpse of freedom, take a step but are stopped short by gunpoint prompted by an interjected command from the surprised and irritated Hurton.

HURTON

Wait! Stay!

(to Galen)

Who are you?

Galen takes a pose of innocent preoccupation. Even irritation.

GALEN

Permit me to speak to you...

He looks pointedly and in distaste at the gawking Humans. Hurton nods, leads Galen into his hut.
INT. HURTON'S HUT

as Galen and Hurton enter.

GALEN
My name is...Zooma. I am on an... expedition from Central City. You have found my two...rather ignorant slaves. They have a habit of wandering. I appreciate it. I'll take them now.

Galen makes a gesture as though this settles any problems.

HURTON
Hold on! This is all...very irregular.

He puzzles, glancing out the door.

HURTON
This is not the story they told me!

Galen improvises quickly again.

GALEN
Oh, they're such liars! They lie all the time...about everything. But they're good workers. I'll take them off your hands...

HURTON
It is out of my hands. (gesture to Virdon, Burke) Since they have lied...only the gods of the sea can decide their fate.

Galen is a little puzzled...but this may not be so bad.

GALEN
Well...that sounds reasonable. What are the...gods of the sea?

OUT
64-
65
66

ANGLE ON HURTON
rather disappointed...he hates to see two sturdy producers become shark bait...as he routinely announces:

HURTON
The sharks.

CLOSE ON GALEN
as he reacts.

B-543
EXT. OCEAN FISHING POOL - LONG SHOT - SCENE - DAY

We see Virdon and Burke being led across the open sand toward the water's edge at gunpoint by two of the Armed Guards. Slightly behind, Hurton, his Aide and Galen... followed by a group of Villagers to see the "gods" get their vengeance.

MOVING SHOT - WITH GALEN AND HURTON

Galen is protesting...Hurton remains adamant, just getting himself out of a sticky situation.

GALEN
I object. I will not have my private property...fed to the sharks to satisfy some...backwoods custom!

They stop, near enough now, as Hurton eyes the doomed Astronauts with detachment.

HURTON
I'm sorry, my friend...It may not appeal to your...sophisticated Central City tastes...but in production areas like this...with minimum security...it is the law.

(shouts to Guards)
Send them out...

Galen shouts to the Guards:

GALEN
Wait!

(the to Hurton)
At least give me the satisfaction of giving those two troublemakers a final piece of my mind!

WIDER ANGLE - THE SCENE

as Galen plods across the sand, past the Guards, toward Virdon and Burke. As he reaches them:

ANGLE ON GALEN, VIRDON, BURKE

Virdon and Burke look with some dissatisfaction at their young friend.

Cont.
VIRDON
Any way out of this?

Burke can tell differently from a look at Galen.

BURKE

No way...

Galen steps close to Virdon, slips the knife out, hands it to him.

GALEN

Here...take this...it may help.

BURKE

Remind me someday to tell you how grateful we are...liars, eh...
Zoome!

GALEN

It wasn't my idea to try and save that crazy old human.

And we hear Hurton's shouted voice:

HURTON'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Enough! Send them to the gods!

VIRDON

Watch it, Galen...I don't know if they're real particular who they shoot...

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST ARMED GUARDS - TO THE TRIO

We see the Guards raise their guns again. Galen steps to one side, Virdon and Burke turn to see the guns aimed at them. And they walk out into the water...the knife not visible.

LONG SHOT - THE SCENE

Drawn by curiosity now, Hurton and his Aide, followed by Villagers, edge toward the shore...the Armed Guards still aiming at Virdon and Burke who are now swimming.

CLOSE ON VIRDON AND BURKE, SWIMMING

Slow strokes, their eyes pealed on the water ahead.

VIRDON

If we could make it to those rocks, maybe...
But a shark fin SLICES the water almost within arm's reach...startling them.

BURKE

Forget it!

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE STRUGGLE

Virdon and Burke swim apart...the shark slices between them. There is a violent churning of water...the two alternately diving, emerging, going back under with AD-LIB instructions to each other: "Watch it"..."Draw him away"..."Here he comes"..."Decoy!... Decoy!"...

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - PAST HURTON, GALEN ET AL

All watching now as it is clear the shark attack has begun. Low sounds of fear and awe from the Villagers...who are seeing the "gods" at work.

CLOSE SHOT - THE WATER

No sign of shark or men...

ANGLE SHOOTING FROM SHORE - AS BEFORE

The spectators can see the water has stilled...the gods have had their say. Hurton, satisfied it's over, turns to his Aide.

HURTON
Well, that's that...get production started...

But the Aide, still looking out to the water, points with excited disbelief...

AIDE

Look!

ANGLE SHOOTING TOWARD WATER

We see signs of life...then Virdon and Burke emerge, wading through the shallower water now...and lift the slain shark over their heads in triumph. A CHEER goes up from the Villagers...Hurton amazed.

REVERSE ANGLE

As Virdon and Burke dump their "prize" on the beach, Hurton and Galen there now...Villagers just behind...craning for a look at the slain "god" of the sea.
GALEN
(to Hurton)
Well, I'd say that settles it.
Your law has been carried out...I'll
take my slaves and be on my way...

But Hurton's calculator mind is back at work...the
Astronauts' success is their own undoing...as he sees
quotas being filled by these two astounding "producers."

HURTON
I'm not too sure about that...

And we hear the thundering SOUND of an approaching horse!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Mounted Patrol who discovered the empty raft rides up,
directly into their midst, dismounts, and comes to Hurton.

MOUNTED PATROL
The float...carrying old Gahto to
the gods. On the beach...the
lashings cut...someone has defied
the gods.

The Villagers draw back in fear as Hurton is enraged at
this.

HURTON
This is sacrilege...high treason!

CLOSE ON ROMAR AND SOMA

Standing among the Villagers, she turns excitedly to her
husband...in a low whisper...

SOMA
I knew it...he's alive.

ROMAR
Be still...he'll hear you.

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST THEM TO HURTON

who now demands of the Villagers in general:

HURTON
Do any of you know about this!?

No response from the mute Villagers. Hurton barks an order
to the Mounted Patrol who has just reported the discovery.

HURTON
The old man cannot be far. Find
him!
Then Hurton sees Romar and Soma...and strides straight through the other Villagers to them. Virdon and Burke follow, slightly behind...as Hurton now faces the couple.

HURTON
Do you know anything about this?

No response.

HURTON
Speak!

They only shake their heads. But Soma seems to be exchanging a glance with the Astronauts behind Hurton. Hurton wheels on them...a questioning look for a tense beat. Then...looking at Virdon and Burke but directing his statement to Galen who stands with them:

HURTON
I don't think they will leave here just now. This is a matter for Bandor to decide! If Gahto lives... someone must die!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Galen moving quickly but cautiously, hurries toward the cave. He's nervous, fearful of being followed. He rushes into the cave...

INT. CAVE - DAY

as Galen ENTERS, looks around, seeing no one. He's angry and worried.

GALEN

Gahto? -- Gahto!

No response. Galen hurries out.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Galen exiting, looking around desperately. He calls out, but softly, not wanting to attract attention of any enemies who might be within earshot.

GALEN

Gahto -- ?

No response. Galen hurries off through the brush.

EXT. SECLUDED BEACH - DAY

A narrow beach bordered by brush or rocks. Gahto is a spindly figure slowly making his way to the sea. He is about to walk into the water and continue walking until he drowns...He reaches the water's edge, takes a step or two into the water. Galen bursts out of the brush, sees him.

GALEN

Gahto!

No reaction from Gahto who continues into water. Galen races dangerously close to water's edge, grabs Gahto and pulls him back. Very annoyed, he starts Gahto back toward cave. Gahto does not resist.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - DAY

Galen leads Gahto in.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Gahto slumps to the floor to Galen's disgust.

Cont.
GAHTO
Why stop me? Gahto is dead.

GALEN
Some of us would be better off
if you were, but you're not! Now,
you're going to stay out of sight!

GAHTO
I am dead.

GALEN
I am tempted, I am tempted!
Gahto, listen to me. Unless you
stay out of sight, others will be
killed. I'm sure you don't want
that to happen.

GAHTO
It does not matter.

GALEN
Not to you, perhaps, but most
humans don't share your enthusiasm
for dying. I promise you, sooner
or later you will be able to die.
In the meantime, stay in the cave!

Galen EXITS.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - LONG SHOT - DAY

We see several of the Village Human Males heading for work
at the fishing pool. CAMERA MOVES IN on Gahto's hut.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY

Virdon rubs a stiff neck, Burke stretching a kink out of
his back. They spent an uncomfortable night. Galen joins
them, conversation in low tones.

VIRDON
Did you find him?

GALEN
(nodding)
He was out on the beach.

VIRDON
Gahto?!

GALEN
Don't mention his name. Someone
might hear you.
BURKE

I wish I'd never heard it, believe me!

GALEN

I got him back in the cave. To stay, I hope.

BURKE

We forgot to thank you for rushing in and calling us liars like that... it was a big help.

GALEN

It was the only thing I could think of. Besides... if I hadn't found you... you would have been banded as fishermen for the rest of your lives.

BURKE

We've got to get out of here. Some big wheel is due here tomorrow...

GALEN

That will be Bandor. He's in charge of many producing communities. He presides over the ceremony for the banding of new fishermen...

BURKE

Yeah... well look, friend, we aren't going to hang around to become life members of a spear fishing union...

VIRDON

You're on speaking terms with Hurton. Can't you get us out of here?

GALEN

At the moment, I'm more concerned about Hurton's Patrols finding Gahto. If he points you out... you will be killed instantly.

A beat. Burke and Virdon turn to each other.

BURKE

Have a happy day...
ANOTHER ANGLE - ARMED GUARD

shoving his head in the door.

ARMED GUARD
Move along! Today you spear
fish! Move on!

A glance at the rifle he carries and Virdon and Burke rise
to exit.

EXT. BEACH AT THE FISHING POOL - CLOSE ON WAGON - DAY

nearly full of freshly caught fish. A couple of beats as
we see another fish, and another, being dumped into the
wagon.

WIDER ANGLE

Two Village Fishermen who have just emptied their spears
onto the horse-drawn wagon are heading back to the water
of the pool where several others are now swimming, diving,
spearfishing. This is obviously a slow, primitive process.
Two Apes, Draymen from the factory, idle by the wagon. On
a high rock near the pool, an Armed Guard stands with his
rifle, to ward off sharks which might "damage" the fish
catching "machines" now at work in the pool.

CLOSE SHOT - WATER AND FISHERMAN

He surfaces with his empty spear, glances around, catching
his breath, and a SHARK FIN passes by. We hear a SHOT and
see the water BLIP near the fin, as it disappears. The
fisherman looks up towards the rocks, CAMERA PANNING to the
Armed Guard, gun aimed, who has just performed his duty,
much like keeping the fox out of the chicken yard:
interesting, but very routine.

ANOTHER SHOT - FROM SHORE - SHOOTING TOWARD VIRDON AND BURKE

just wading in, each with a fish on his spear, glancing up
at the source of the shot. They wade through the water
TOWARD CAMERA, and we see that Burke's fish is much smaller
than Virdon's.

BURKE
(glancing up)
Where was he when we needed him
yesterday?

APE'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Come on you two!
REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD WAGON

We see one of the Ape Draymen motioning for them to come with their fish. Virdon and Burke walk to the wagon.

ANGLE AT WAGON

As Virdon and Burke unload their catches onto the full wagon, the Two Ape Draymen (plainclothes) start spreading what looks like a heavy rope cargo net over the load. Burke starts back toward the water but Virdon pauses a beat... his attention on what the Draymen are doing.

HIS P.O.V. - THE NET OVER THE WAGON

The big woven squares of rope, about a foot in size, being tightened over the load.

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON

A thought forming. Interrupted by the harsh voice of an Armed Guard:

ARMED GUARD'S VOICE

(o.s.)
Back in the water, you!

WIDER ANGLE

The Armed Guard waves for Virdon to move back into the fishing pool, then calling o.s.:

ARMED GUARD
Bring up the other wagon!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

ready to reenter the water.

BURKE
This is a great way to make a living.

VIRDON
That's exactly why you're doing it...to continue living.

BURKE
Go to school...study hard...wind up fishing for raw material... for a fertilizer factory!

CUT TO:
INT. HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS OFFICE - ANGLE ON
GALEN AND HURTON - DAY

Hurton is waving a sheaf of crude papers, emoting on the
demands made on him as head of a producing village.

HURTON
Year after year...they raise my
quotas!

(beat)
The law requires that I...discard...
worn-out producers like Gahto who
can no longer pass the test...even
before new offspring can be raised
to take their place!

GALEN
I can...appreciate your problem.
But the two slaves are mine.

HURTON
I'm not too sure the law of
possession holds...out here.

(beat, musing)
They came to me...asking to be
fishermen...

GALEN
They're liars...I told you that.

HURTON
Aha...but the gods of the seas
said differently. You saw for
yourself. The dead shark says
they spoke the truth.

GALEN
Maybe it only proves that they
could be dangerous to have around.

Hurton looks at his sheets.

HURTON
An extra two, three hundred pounds
a day. I can use the increase in
production.

GALEN
They will try to escape. I'm
sure of it.

HURTON
I am having them closely watched.
If they try to leave, they will
be shot.
Galen throws his hands up in frustration.

**GALEN**

Then you will have gained nothing... and I will be out two good slaves!

A beat. Hurton tosses the papers on his "desk"... not used to having his word questioned by strangers... not wanting to make the final decision himself, anyway... He moves over to look out a window.

**HURTON**

I told you... it is out of my hands. When Bandor comes for the ceremony of the bracelets... he will make the decision.

**GALEN**

And since... Bandor... is just as interested in production quotas as you are... you expect him to decide in your favor?

**HURTON** *(irritated)*

Are you questioning the... ethics of Bandor!? He has high connections at Central City.

Galen gets a slightly worried look at the mention of Central City.

**GALEN**

Oh?

Hurton throws this next piece of "name dropping" out to impress, not knowing Galen's exact predicament with the Ape government.

**HURTON**

He knows Urko himself!

**CLOSE SHOT - GALEN**

repeating, with an even more concerned look:

**GALEN**

Urko himself...

CUT TO:

**EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY**

An Armed Guard patrolling nearby.
as he is relaying the information to his friends, both
tired after a long day in the water.

    GALEN
    That's what he said.

WIDER ANGLE

Burke is turning a single fish on a spit over a small fire.

    VIRDON
    That's just great. Bandor
    knows Urko...and Urko knows us...
    all the more reason to split
    before the big man gets here.
    Right?

Burke glances o.s.

    BURKE
    I agree...only it looks like
    old Hurton has his...anti-split
    devices sitting all around the
    place.

    OUT  106  X

ANGLE ON THE THREE

as Galen glances out also.

    GALEN
    All this over old Gahto, who
    nobody wanted at all...

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST THEM TO SOMA

just stepping in to hear Galen give Virdon a cautionary:

    GALEN
    Shhhhh...

And they turn to see her, somewhat surprised. A beat
as Virdon and Burke exchange looks. Then Virdon turns to her

    VIRDON
    Hello...

    Cont.
No response. Then suddenly, she slumps quietly to her knees between Virdon and Burke, tears swelling in her eyes, as she forces out a low, choking:

SOMA
Gahto...is...my father.

She turns her face slowly toward Galen now, expecting the gods to strike her dead.

VIRDON
Don't worry about him. He's a friend...

BURKE
(lowly)
How could you let them do a thing like that to your father?

VIRDON
(looking out door)
Keep your voice low.

CLOSE SHOT - SOMA

as she stares tearfully.

SOMA

It is the law...

WIDER ANGLE

Galen is now crouched near the fire with Virdon and Burke.

VIRDON
That's why Hurton walked up to you after the rider came in with the news.

SOMA
Romar...my husband...is afraid we will both die...that we'll all be punished...

VIRDON
We saved your father...against his wishes. We took him to a hiding place...but he could die there if we don't find some way to help him.
SOMA
Take me to him.

VIRDON
Nothing we'd like more.
But we're guarded night and day.

GALEN
I can help.

They look to Galen with surprise, Soma with disbelief. Help from an Ape?

GALEN
You're prisoners here. But remember, I can come and go as I please...

BURKE
Yeah...

GALEN
If she's with me...we can just... casually walk out of the village... no one will stop us.

SOMA
Please take me to him. Please?

VIRDON
All right...leave like you're just taking a walk...

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - DAY

We see Galen and Soma casually walk away from the hut. The Armed Guard pays little attention; she's with an Ape.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT

as Burke raises the stick spit off the fire and looks at the fish with displeasure.

BURKE
Ready for din-din?

As Virdon gives him a look:

OUT

CUT TO:
EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - NIGHT

Romar hurries to hut, past Guard.

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - NIGHT

relaxing when Romar strides in, angrily.

ROMAR

Soma?

They turn to him, and his accusing stare.

VIRDON

Hey, settle down...
  (glances in direction
  Galen and Soma went)

Your wife is all right.

ROMAR

Where is Soma!?

BURKE

Quiet, will you? You'll wake
the gods' head rifleman back there...

VIRDON

Our friend has taken her to
see her father...now just take it
easy...

Romar is frightened for his wife, senses a trick.

ROMAR

It's a trick! The gods are
trying to trap her...

And he runs from the fire to the blackness of the surrounding
area, calling:

ROMAR

Soma...Soma...come back...
it's a trick!

Virdon and Burke spring to their feet but are unable to
stop him.

OUT

CUT TO:
EXT. WOODS - CLOSE ON ROMAR - NIGHT

running, looking into the blackness ahead of him, frantic.

ROMAR
Soma!? Soma...come back!

CLOSE SHOT - ARMED GUARD

Hearing Romar's voice close ahead, he steps out from behind a tree. He stops, raises his rifle, fires a SHOT!

ANGLE ON ROMAR

as he falls, stunned by the shot which has hit him in the arm. As he's scrambling to his feet...to resume running, we hear:

ARMED GUARD'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Stop!

Romar turns.

ANGLE ON ROMAR AND HIS P.O.V.

as he stares up at the Armed Guard, only a few feet away and advancing. Romar's head slumps in defeat.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROMAR'S HUT - LONG SHOT - NIGHT

We see Romar unceremoniously being led to his hut by the Armed Guard. Romar is clutching his arm, and CAMERA ZOOMS IN on Romar as he slumps to a helpless sitting position near his fire to hear the Armed Guard say:

ARMED GUARD

Stay here!

ANGLE AT FIRE

as the Armed Guard marches up to it to see the burned fish, kicks it from the coals.

ARMED GUARD

So! You'll get no ration at all tomorrow!

And he strides off, having performed his duty.

ANOTHER ANGLE - SHOOTING PAST ROMAR

clutching his arm in pain as Virdon and Burke come from behind his hut and hurry to his side.
CLOSE ON THE THREE

Virdon sees that Romar has been hurt, taking his hand gingerly from his wounded arm:

    VIRDON
    What happened...?  
       (seeing)
    Oh, oh...  
       (to Burke)
    He stopped one...

Burke, seeing, is already tearing a strip of cloth from his shirt, hands it to Virdon.

    BURKE
    Here...

As Virdon starts to fold and wrap it around the wound:

    ROMAR
    (in pain)
    I can't... move it.

    VIRDON
    Went clean through...It'll heal...

    ROMAR
    I won't be able to... pass the test... for Bandor!

    VIRDON
    What?

    ROMAR
    I knew it... I knew it! Now I will be given to the sea gods...
       just like Gahto.
       (a hateful look at them)
    I knew it was death to mention his name... You did this... you did this...

Virdon and Burke exchange a look of concerned frustration that their presence has brought this added grief to these humans.

    FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - DAY

We see the horse-drawn fish wagon, nearly full. Fishermen are emptying their catch into it.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - NEAR THE WAGON

DRAYMAN ONE looks under the wagon for the cargo net covering, sees that it's gone, yells to his co-worker:

DRAYMAN ONE
Hey...the wagon ropes are gone!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

as they exchange a look.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as DRAYMAN TWO expresses annoyance.

DRAYMAN TWO
Those workmen at the factory are getting worse and worse...not sending the wagon ropes back...get some from the storehouse!

Also annoyed, Drayman One starts toward the village, mumbling.

DRAYMAN ONE
You should have checked...

DRAYMAN TWO
I should have checked...how about you?

On this mild disagreement, Virdon and Burke, spears in hand, head back for the pool.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

Burke smiles, says lowly to Virdon:

BURKE
One of them should have checked.

Cont.
Virdon smiles back.

VIRDON

Check.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - SHOOTING PAST HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A flurry of excitement as BANDOR, an organutan, riding a proud, well-groomed horse and followed by a uniformed armed Chimp Valet, rides importantly down the main "street" of the village. Village women and a couple of their children come out of their huts, standing back in awe and fear as the horse clomps by. Bandor is an important ape politically and in charge of many producing communities.

ANGLE IN FRONT OF HURTON'S HEADQUARTERS

We see Hurton come out of his headquarters to greet Bandor. An Armed Guard rushes up to take the reins of Bandor's horse as Bandor dismounts. Bandor's Armed Valet dismounts and takes charge of his own horse. Bandor displays a certain superior aloofness. Hurton, politicking, greets him with effusive gusto, raising his hands in a gesture:

HURTON

Welcome...welcome, Bandor.
Did you have a good trip?

Bandor stretches.

BANDOR

Tiring.
(looking straight at Hurton)
Whenever you greet me with such big smiles...I have the feeling you are holding some bad news behind your back...

Hurton laughs nervously.

HURTON

Haha! Not so.
(a little smug)
In fact, I have a special surprise for you.

Cont.
Bandor calls to the Armed Guard who is taking his horse:

**BANDOR**
Take care he gets fresh grain.
None with this seashore mold!
(to Hurton)
Surprise? The only surprise you
could please me with is to tell
me you have exceeded your quota.

Hurton hedges on this.

**HURTON**
Well...not yet. But we will...
we will.

Hurton's Armed Aide comes from the headquarters now with an
earthen cup of refreshment for Bandor...walks to him with it.
As he's handing it to him:

**BANDOR**
I'm not interested in...
projections. I'm interested
in production.
(takes a sip,
smiles)
My nephew said that. Very
clever, eh?

A stab at Hurton...an old threat hanging over his head.

**HURTON**
Yes. Very clever. Unfortunately,
we cannot catch fish with...words.

**BANDOR**
Or promises! What is this great
news? You have three young ones
for me to band to replace the
old one you discarded?

**HURTON**
Only one has been raised to age
and size. But two full grown
fishermen have joined us...like
they were sent by the gods!

Bandor looks at Hurton with some suspicion at this.

**BANDOR**
Ha! Now Hurton is claiming
partnership with the gods.

Bandor laughs with some derision. Hurton calls o.s. to an
Armed Guard:
HURTON
You'll see. Two excellent recruits. They not only spear fish while swimming under the test of fire...they kill sharks with their bare hands! Two full-grown fishermen for you to band!

Bandor expresses surprise at this.

BANDOR
Sent...by the gods...you say?

HURTON
Well...actually...they are two runaway slaves...it seems. Once owned by a rather...irresponsible chimpanzee...Zooma...

BANDOR
I was afraid...some catch to it...

HURTON
I dispute his claim to them...

BANDOR
He's here? To claim them? Does he have papers...?

Hurton turns to his Armed Aide:

HURTON
I thought I asked you to summon Zooma...

The Aide steps forward, nervously.

ARMED AIDE
I...I only discovered...moments ago...

HURTON
Discovered what!?

ARMED AIDE
Zooma is missing. He left last night with Soma...mate of the wounded Romar...
Bandor is irritated by words like "missing"..."wounded"...

BANDOR
What is this!? Production quotas lagging...and now I hear about...wounded producers...missing mates.
The only surprise here is no surprise at all! You lack organization, Hurton...

But Hurton improvises quickly:

HURTON
I thought so...that Zoola was not to be trusted...

ANOTHER ANGLE - VIRDON AND BURKE
being led to the front of the headquarters by the Armed Guard.

HURTON
He has stolen a female slave in an effort to get back his own!

Bandor turns to see the two strange humans led to him.

EXT. FRONT OF HEADQUARTERS

as Virdon and Burke are ordered to stand for "inspection" in front of the powerful ape, Bandor. Hurton steps to them like proud possessions.

HURTON
Here...you see? Strong...many prime years of production in them.

Bandor walks to Virdon and Burke..."inspecting" them up and down.

BANDOR
You say this...Zoola...has no papers?

HURTON
None! Or why would he have stolen one of our female slaves?

Bandor pinches the skin on Virdon's arm.

BANDOR
Hmmm. These skins have not been long in the water.
HURTON
But they kill sharks...with
their bare hands...

As Bandor is now giving Burke the once-over...veiling his real
satisfaction with these two unusual producers with an
officious air:

BANDOR
I would say this...Zooma...has
made an unwise move.

Virdon and Burke give each other an uneasy look.

BANDOR
We will just let him...keep
his worthless female...

Bandor grabs the strong arm of Burke and holds it up.

BANDOR
Tomorrow...at the ceremony
I will band
these two myself!

Hurton rubs his hands in satisfaction.

HURTON
I knew you would decide
quickly and fairly...

ANOTHER ANGLE - PAST VIRDON AND BURKE TO HURTON

AND BANDOR

as Bandor starts toward the headquarters, Hurton at his
heels.

BANDOR
Someone has to keep these
producing villages going...

As Virdon and Burke watch the apes leave...their own fate
sealed if they can't think of something fast:

CUT TO:

EXT. GAHTO'S HUT - CLOSE SHOT - FIRE - NIGHT

A fish burning, unattended, over the fire as we WIDEN ON
SCENE to see that neither Virdon or Burke are there. But we
can hear...from inside the hut:

Cont.
VIRDON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
The fish is burning.

BURKE'S VOICE
(o.s.)
I don't care if I see another
fish the rest of my life!

CUT TO:

INT. GAHTO'S HUT - CLOSE SHOT - BURKE - NIGHT

A small bowl with an oil wick flickers for light. As we
see Burke unraveling a length of rope from a section of
the cargo net which lies on his lap.

BURKE
I'm not looking forward to
spearing fish and ducking sharks
the rest of my life. This had
better work, Al.

WIDE ANGLE - TO INCLUDE VIRDON

sitting to one side, busy on some kind of project, the nature
of which we cannot quite see.

CLOSE ON VIRDON

as he holds up the thin strand from the rope, looks at it.

VIRDON
It will, or we get fitted for
handcuffs!

CUT TO:

EXT. "CEREMONIAL SITE" NEAR VILLAGE - CLOSE ON
BANDING - DAY

The young Villager who successfully passed the test of
fire to the cheers of his friends earlier...is now being
"awarded" the bracelet of a fisherman. An Armed Guard
places the youth's wrist on a rock now; it has already
been fitted with a band, through the flange of which has
been placed the lifetime metal "rivet" which will seal the
band forever.

WIDE ANGLE

And we see the Villagers gathered for the ceremony which
is, for them, a rather festive occasion...a brief respite

Cont.
from work...a change of routine. With some ritual...another ARMED GUARD walks to the kneeling youth, carrying a long metal rod, to be used for sealing the rivet...and a heavy, crude sledge. They are preparing for Bandor to perform the actual ceremony of the banding. The Armed Guard readies the metal rod...and sledge...and waits...turning to the "officials"...who are taking their time, self-important.

ANGLE ON HURTON AND BANDOR standing to one side for the moment.

BANDOR
You've already had to discard the old Gahto...

HURTON
I have to discuss that with you later...it seems that...

BANDOR
(unheeding)
And now you will probably have to discard the wounded... what's his name...

HURTON
Romar. Of course, these things happen. Discipline must come first.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - ANGLE ON GALEN, SOMA AND GAHTO - DAY

They are returning to the village under the orders of Galen. Soma is apprehensive.

SOMA
Please...don't make us return...They will kill us...if you are a friend...please...

GALEN
I told you...not to worry. Everything has been...settled. You and your father have nothing to worry about...

As they plod on, Gahto puffing...CAMERA ZOOMS IN to CLOSE SHOT on Galen's hand...and we see him cross his fingers!

CUT TO:
EXT. "CEREMONIAL SITE" - CLOSE ON BANDOR - DAY

With ceremonial flourish...he raises the sledge...and brings it down with a ringing bang! And the young fisherman has been banded. ANGLE WIDENS...and we see the villagers raise their arms in cheers and approval...as the young man stands and proudly raises his banded arm for all to see...

ANGLE ON BANDOR

as he hands the sledge to an Armed Guard and steps to Hurton, standing nearby...continuing their discussion...this is business to them...not noticing as the young man now mingles with his fellow villagers, showing his band.

BANDOR

New areas are being opened for crops. More fertilizer is needed...which means more fish.

Hurton appears frustrated by this report.

HURTON

There must be a limit. We cannot just keep increasing production...

Bandor turns toward the villagers now, a smug smile of the bureaucrat.

BANDOR

Now, now...if you keep getting these...god-sent producers...

He looks out over the assembled humans, awaiting the signal for the ceremony to resume...a puzzled expression as he does not see Virdon and Burke.

BANDOR

Where are they?

Hurton now looks in the same direction.

HURTON

What?

BANDOR

I don't see your two new... surprises...who kill sharks with their bare hands...

Hurton is troubled...shouts to an Armed Guard:

HURTON

Guard! Where are the two new producers?
ANGLE ON GUARD

as he glances quickly at his sheet...then to the assembly of Humans.

ARMED GUARD

Sir! They're missing! They aren't here!

ANGLE ON BANDOR AND HURTON

as Bandor looks immediately displeased.

BANDOR

Your...surprises are getting tiresome, Hurton...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Hurton charges toward the assembly, his arms flailing an order to the guards as he commands:

HURTON

(shouting)

Send a guard! Sound the alarm!

And suddenly we hear a deep, loud, o.s. GONG...GONG...as everyone turns in the direction of the village...the command being carried out the instant it was issued coming as a bewildering surprise.

HURTON

 Guards...!

And Hurton, summoning the Guards, takes the lead with Bandor as the whole assembly moves in a surge toward the village, the Humans trailing obediently behind their superiors who stride with determination toward the sound of the continuing GONG...GONG.

CUT TO:

EXT. FISHING LAGOON - CLOSE ON BURKE AT ALARM - DAY

Burke, holding a large mallet, stands near a large suspended alarm disk of metal...banging it with some amount of fun. Wincing every time it goes GONG...glancing off.

ANOTHER ANGLE - BURKE'S P.O.V. - INLAND

As we suddenly see the approaching crowd, led by Hurton and Bandor. Burke gives the gong one last, vehement slam...as

Cont.
though to break it...throws the mallet aside.

BURKE
Okay...Al...let's go fishing!

And he runs toward the direction of the ocean and the fishing pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - THE AREA OF THE FISHING POOL - CLOSE 151
ON BURKE - DAY

as he tears across the beach and runs splashing into the water to join Virdon...who is already out in the water...waving Burke urgently to join him.

ANOTHER ANGLE - UP BEACH TOWARD APPROACHING CROWD 152

We see an angry Hurton and a pompous Bandor striding along the beach. Hurton points to the water...motions to an Armed Guard to take a position to fire...as they keep coming.

PANNING SHOT - WITH THE CROWD 153

Hurton, Bandor and their Armed Aides in the lead, followed by the crowd of barefoot Villagers, heading toward the beach.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - SHOOTING FROM BEACH TO OPEN WATER 154

wading toward shore, about twenty feet apart, tugging something between them (the net) which seems to be heavy.

ANGLE ON BANDOR AND HURTON - AT THE BEACH 155

as they reach the beach now...spotting the two "missing" Humans. Hurton raises his arm in a direction to an Armed Guard...incensed.

HURTON
There they are...shoot them!

But Bandor can now see flapping in the water as Virdon and Burke have reached the shallows. He raises his hand in countermand.

BANDOR
Wait!
ANGLE BEHIND ROCK AT BEACH - DAY

Galen, Soma and Gahto crouching, watching the activity on the beach, o.s.

GALEN
All right, Gahto. Here's where you stop being a dead discard and become a live hero. Go.

Gahto looks at Galen nervously, doesn't move.

GALEN
If you want your daughter to live, GO!

Gahto finally rises.

WIDE ANGLE

Gahto hurries toward the edge of the sea where Virdon and Burke are just about to make shore. He is unnoticed at first.

GAHTO
(calling instructions to Burke)
That's good. Bring it in.
Easy.

HURTON
Gahto!

An Armed Guard raises his rifle to shoot Gahto. Hurton waves him off, wanting to see what Gahto and the Astronauts are up to.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

Virdon and Burke slosh through the shallow water to shore now, with a sight magical for those on shore to behold: a whole net of fish! They haul it up onto the sand and drop it. Hurton and Bandor approach with a mixture of disbelieving delight and awe.

GAHTO
Very good...

BACK TO SCENE

The Humans, unrestrained now, rush to the net, fall to their knees at this "miracle"...touching the net, holding up the fish, examining the "magic mesh" which has trapped so many fish...Bandor viewing the sight with unabashed amazement.
What is this? Fish by the hundreds from some...

Virdon steps quickly forward with Burke to explain:

From a net...mighty Bandor! It can trap more fish...in a few hours...than all these men can spear in a year's time!

Hurton wastes no time in claiming credit. Still surprised by the sight before his eyes, he blurts out:

Just another of the...surprises I promised you...

Virdon and Burke give each other a look on this, but as Bandor walks to the net, they join him, elaborating.

Even old men...and females... can catch fish this way. You'll have all the fish you need... and the gods will be pleased to let the old...the injured...live peacefully on here in their village!

Standing near enough to hear this, looks for a reaction from Bandor.

Hmmm...that is so. That is certainly so.

All part of my plan. The producers will have all they want to eat...security problems will be...almost eliminated.
We see Soma and Galen walking to area.

ROMAR
(rushing to her)
Soma...Soma!

He clutches her to him. Bandor is suspicious.

BANDOR
What has this discard to do with your plan, Hurton?

Burke hastens to "explain."

BURKE
Aha, mighty Bandor...this is Hurton's biggest surprise of all...

Huron appears completely baffled as Bandor turns to him.

BURKE
Tell 'em...Zooma!

He points to Galen who takes his cue and steps to old Gahto, puts a hand on his shoulder.

GALEN
This...magic webbing...that brings in fish...is old Gahto's ideal! Hurton has saved Gahto to teach the others how to make and mend the webbing...

ANGLON GAHTO
as he kneels, fingers the netting.

GAHTO
Easy...

ANGLON BANDOR AND HURTON
as Bandor, finally forced to give a compliment, claps a hand on Hurton's back.

BANDOR
Huron...I knew you could to it! This is why I have kept you on here...despite all efforts of those higher up to replace you with my nephew...
HURTON
I appreciate it. I've done
my best...as you can see.
(to the crowd)
Extra rations for all...from
now on! A celebration! First let
us begin the banding ceremony.

BACK TO SCENE
The crowd of humans exchange vocal expressions of pleasure
at this.

ANOTHER ANGLE
Burke edges over to a pile of seaweed at the water's edge.
Galen moves with him. Burke pulls the seaweed off to
reveal a raft, complete with paddles and a large roll
of cord on a makeshift wooden reel. The cord will be
seen to have loops tied in it. Virdon steps to Bandor.

VIRDON
Will mighty Bandor give us the
honor of helping in the greatest
catch of all?

BANDOR
What's that?

VIRDON
Right this way...

He leads Bandor, Hurton, et al, to the raft.

VIRDON
It is not fitting for a mere
human to take the greatest
bounty from the sea.

He bows and hands the end of the cord to Bandor.

VIRDON
Zooma will hold the revolving rod.

BANDOR
I don't understand.

GALEN
The largest fish can break the
net but this cord entangles
them in its loops. Hold tight...

Cont.
Galen steps on the raft, holding the reel, standing proudly erect. Bandor waits at the edge of the sea, clutching the cord.

GALEN
(to Virdon and Burke)
Start! Don't keep Bandor waiting.

The raft is pushed off. Virdon and Burke paddle hard and the raft moves out to sea, angling slightly for a protective point. Bandor holds the cord tightly, expectantly.

ANGLE ON RAFT

Virdon and Burke are paddling like mad, Galen holding the reel as the cord spins off.

GALEN
End of the line.

The line has run out. Galen still stands on the raft.

BURKE
Grab a paddle!

GALEN
Me?

BURKE
Would you rather swim?

Galen tosses the reel away, ducks down and grabs paddle.

ANGLE ON BEACH

Bandor is holding the cord, beginning to get suspicious.

HIS P.O.V. - THE RAFT

Disappearing around a promontory.

ANGLE ON BEACH

Bandor realizes he's been had. He jerks the cord, and there's no tension of course. He drops it, shouting:

BANDOR
Shoot! Shoot!

Cont.
As Guards raise rifles:

HURTON

At what?

P.O.V. SHOT - THE SEA

Barren. The raft has disappeared.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

stepping off the raft, out of breath. A beat. They are free, pleased with themselves. Galen gives his friends a look, teasing.

GALEN

I said you were liars...I didn't know you were so good at it.

VIRDON

Soon as we get clear of this country...I want to talk to you about that...

BURKE

...and I'd like to...discuss this owner-slave business with you...eh?!

Galen notes the feisty tone, smiles at them both.

GALEN

Let's get going. I don't want to have to get you two out of another scrape right away...

Burke reaches for him but Galen is already running.

BURKE

Why you...!

LONG SHOT - TOWARD THE BEACH

as Galen takes off toward the beach again, Virdon and Burke on his heels now in good-natured pursuit, feigned anger, their voices covering SHOT as they run.

Cont.
BURKE
Bury him in the sand...

VIRDON
Throw him in the ocean...

And we can only hear Galen's playful cries of flight as he is being pursued by his friends down the beach, a picture of relief and freedom as they enjoy their reunion.

FADE OUT

THE END