

RISE OF THE SLAVS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. KURGAN- DAY. (439).

V.O.

Hermanaric also took arms against the Venethi... These people... have now three names, that is, Venethi, Antes and Sclaveni... yet at that time they were all obedient to Hermanaric's commands. *Jordanes*.

A PRIEST with Sclaveni men prepare wood for cremation fire on the kurgan. They place a dead warrior body on the firewood. The Priest starts the fire.

DAURITAS (7) and his mother (23) cry nearby the dead body. The Goths' king WANDALAR (64) and warriors watch the burial rite from a distance.

WANDALAR

An excellent scout. He speared us a dozen of warriors.

The body burns. The Priest collects the ashes and spreads them to the pit nearby. Dauritas's mother cries and falls to the pit embracing ashes. She wants to make a suicide by cutting herself throat by a knife.

Few women and the Priest halt her. Frightened Dauritas pulls his mother from the ashes. The priest covers the ashes with a upturned wooden vessel. People move to the Saint Oak.

EXT. SAINT OAK NEAR THE KURGAN- DAY.

The priest makes offering. He decapitates a cock on the altar near the Saint Oak. Priestesses put dry herbs to the saint fire. Smoke rises.

PRIEST

Slava Perun.

Sclaveni echo "*Slava Perun*".

According the Goth's POV only "slava Perun" sounds around, other words are indistinguishable.

The Goths see a lynx on the Saint Oak. The hungry lynx watches to the cock. He is afraid of human. It starts to rain. Lightning hits nearby the Saint Oak.

Sclaveni knee and repeat "slava Perun". Rain drops fall to the hot ashes and hiss.

Sclaveni see the clouds form The God Perun image with lightning spear in the hand. The lynx absorbs the lightning and transforms to the oak demon Zwid.

Goths' see simple clouds and lightning and a strange semi transparent lynx. The warriors anxious whispers each other and stare at Sclaveni reaction. Wandalar speaks in Gothic (East Germanic).

WANDALAR

"Wenden guda-laus", "abgud idol"
 (Wends are godless, a
 false god- English words
 echo)

PRIEST

Slava Perun.

Lightning makes some of them to flinch. They touch Christian crosses on the necks and repeat the king Wandalar who start to pray Wulfil's written Lord's Prayer in Gothic (the Mother of English):

WANDALAR

(English words echo)
*atta unsar thu in himinam,
 weihnae namo thein.
 qimai thiudinassus theins.
 wairthai wilja theins,
 swe in himina jah ana airthai.
 hlaif unsarana thana sinteinan gif
 uns himma daga.
 jah aflet uns thatei skulans
 sijaima,
 swaswe jah weis afletam thaim
 skulam unsaraim.
 jah ni briggais uns in
 fraistubnjai,
 ak lausei uns af thamma ubilin;
 unte theina ist thiudangardi jah
 mahts jah wulthus in aiwins.
 amen...*

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPE VILLAGE- DAY.

A train of a dozen of Goths warriors with their king Wandalar and his son THIUDIMIR (16) approaches Sclaveni village at the steppe- forest zone.

The early Slavic settlement consists of 32 huts on two levels, all of them sunken floor and with stone fireplaces.

There is a kurgan near the village. At its slope an oak forest thrives with an Old Saint Oak and stone altar nearby. The stone altar has a pit where the holy fire burns. The Priest and virgin priestesses keeps the fire.

Two Gothic lords ride on horses. Battered in the recent battle Goth warriors with shields follow the wagons on foot. Some tribute and booty are in the wagons. Few bound captives follow the line.

A badly wounded Sclaveni warrior lies in a wagon. Some light wounded Sclaveni recruits with pikes and without shields finish the train.

A Sclaveni peasant plugs a field with two oaks. Some women and children help him. They stop and stare at the convoy. Children run to the village.

SCLAVENI CHILDREN
Niemcy, Nemtsy.

The Priest steppes down the kurgan. The elders meet newcomers with bread and salt and a wooden jug with a drink.

PRIEST
Slava Wandalar.

Two languages - Gothic and Slavic interfere and transforms into English.

Wounded recruit's wife (23) embraces her husband. The recruit gives her some presents- red ribbons, a handsome of jewelry, some copper coins.

DAURITAS' FATHER
 (whispers)
 Antes village resisted to pay the tribute to the Goths and ambushed our train. The Goths prevailed.

The recruit's son runs to his father.

Recruit's wife takes care about her husband near their hut with the help of the Priest.

PRIEST
Veles, the god of the dead will take your husband soon.

A monster shape appears on the timber wall.

DAURITAS' FATHER
Darling, cut the son's hair and
give him the name Dauritas.

The Priest collects all the boys hair and says to his mother.

PRIEST
Hide them in the hut under the
protection of home spirit DOMOWOY.
The boy has the right to receive
the name now.

A vortex with a hardly recognizable ugly face runs on the roof of the hut.

Dauritas and the Priest shows the vortex to Thiudimir who stays in the yard.

Dauritas's mother is concerned and puts some milk to the wooden bowl.

The vortex spins again with a wail.

The milk disappears.

Goths' POV shows a shadow detaches the wall. Dauritas's POV shows ugly brownie Domowoy drinks the milk.

The scout dies moments later. Goths warriors put a shield and a spear near the body.

WANDALAR
Dauritas your father was the best
scout and helped to avoid the
ambush.

FADE TO:

EXT. SAINT OAK- DAY. TWO DAYS AFTER.

The Priest continues offering to the god Perun. The lynx-Zwid watches the dead cock.

Dauritas crosses forbidden line of stones, sticks the dead cock by the wooden rod from the fire and throws the offering to the hungry lynx.

Sclaveni POV shows menacing Oak's demon Zwid catches the kill. Sclaveni shout Zwid, Zwid.

Goths' POV shows the strange lynx catches the kill and hides in the Saint Oak.

The Priest announces God Perun has marked Dauritas. The Saint Oak's demon Zvid will protect him from now. Dauritas will find rout to the rich lands...

Sclaveni and the Goths mix and talk near the Saint Oak.

A strange woman, BABA YAGA, dressed with animal skins, hides behind the trees and watch the Goth warriors.

People shout "Baba Yaga - the old witch".

Wandalar follows her to the woods. His son wants to go together but he stops him.

WANDALAR
(following the witch)
Darling, wait.

Wandalar asks the woman to waiting calling her the darling. She turns and her face changes from old to young.

BABA YAGA
I have waited for years

WANDALAR
(embracing her, speaks in
German)
Maine liebe, wo ist maine Tochter?

The Priest watches them.

Thiudimir demonstrate to Dauritas his armor. He passes him father's shield and shows him hands with ten fingers.

THIUDIMIR
*Herman cen sommer- A warrior after
ten summers.*

Germanic and Sclaveni words mix.

DAURITAS
(to his mother)
I can't understand what do the
guests speak

DAURITAS' MOTHER
They are "Nemtsy", dumbs,
stammerers. They do not know
"slovo"- the word.

FADE TO:

INT. SCLAVENI HUT- NIGHT

Sunken- floor rectangle one room 4x4 house with the stone stove in the north corner opposite to the door.

Dauritas's mother and Dauritas sit at the table. A spill burns stuck between the wall timbers. A main corner has a little altar with a small wooden idol four-face sculpture. There is a baked turnip on the table and a wooden dish with porridge.

A shield hangs on the wall.

There are three bowls prepared on the table, including a bowl prepared for the dead father's spirit.

The mother throws some salt around the table in sake of spirits of the dead. Some noises and shadows runs each direction around the table and converge with the wall timbers. We hear the tread of bare footsteps.

The mother fills father's bowl with porridge, then Dauritas's bowl and at least her own. She throws some porridge to the domesticated grass- snake in the angle.

Little brownie- Domowoy, a spirit of the house in the shape of an old hairy man swings on the roof head down.

The family of two starts eating and do not pay attention to the usual spirits.

The porridge in the father's bowl diminishes. A twinkling form, a silhouette appears and disappears on the father's stool.

The mother shows to Dauritas father's hair put into the red ribbon on the sacred angle altar of the hut. She spreads some grain as a offering to the Veles- spirit of the dead.

DAURITAS' MOTHER

Your father is happy now in the land of Veles. And tomorrow we go to gather berries and mushrooms.

DAURITAS

My father wanted me to be a scout and a warrior.

Father's shield falls down from the wall and his bowl cuts into two pieces.

Mother frightens and puts some bread to the milk and throws throw her right shoulder to the angle of the hut.

A grass- snake takes the bread. POV of the mother shows ugly Domowoy eating bread.

DAURITAS' MOTHER

People are not alone living on the Earth. Every stone, every tree and a river have their spirits. Dead people spirits watch and protect their families for many years. Your father will protect us.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE BATTLE OF NEDAO - MORNING. (FLASH TO THE FUTURE)

Three Goths kings VALAMIR, THIUDIMIR and VIDIMIR watch the battle from the hill. Valamir orders retreat to the Goths. They all have the same swards and shields as Thiudimir showed to the boy Dauritas. Dauritas' (20) shield has two strange letters YY.

THIUDIMIR

Slava, cover our retreat. Survivors become free.

The demon Zwid keeps behind Dauritas. The Goths and the Gepides do not see the demons. Enemy sword and pikes do not reach Dauritas because Zwid repels them away.

Dauritas with a demon Zwid nearby orders Sclaveni to regroup and to shield retreating Goths.

Sclaveni see the Zwid behind the Dauritas. Warriors great him with "Slava Dauritas".

Enemy attacks Sclaveni line.

Two enemy warriors throw spears simultaneously to Dauritas. Demon Zwid turns Dauritas's shield to meet the spears. The spears breaks to the shield knocking it with a big strength.

Dauritas flies out of his bed of straw due to the knock, and wakes up from his dream shouting.

His mother calms him.

DAURITAS

Mother, what are Slava people?

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dauritas and his mother gather mushrooms.

Dauritas's mother leaves an offering a piece of white cheese and an egg near the forest oak.

Mother sees a demon spirit Leshy catches the cheese. He disperses when reach a shadow and appears again on the sun.

Dauritas sees a hedgehog eats the cheese and the egg.

Mother starts to tell who the Leshy is.

DAURITAS' MOTHER

A Leshy usually appears as a tall man, but he is able to change his size from that of a blade of grass to a very tall tree.

He is the Forest Lord. He is really big, but to hide from people in the forest he turned into dwarf-like creatures.

DAURITAS

Do people have to hide from Leshies?

DAURITAS' MOTHER

Leshies aren't evil: although they enjoy misguiding humans and kidnapping young women.

In some places there are Leshy villages. Their women's bodies are hairy, shaggy heads, and breasts are so long that they have to put them on the shoulders when walk.

Dauritas sees the being twinkles and changes his appearance from the animal to the demon and back according to mother's telling.

They find a field of blueberries, put baskets in the grass and start to gather blueberries.

Some women with daughters from neighbor village gather blueberries too. Women start to talk.

A special red haired girl, Solovey girl (6), approaches to the Dauritas's basket full with mushrooms. Dauritas gives her the mushrooms. The girl gives him the blueberries. They walk and talk apart from their mothers.

Solovey shows they have to offer handsome of berries to the spirit of the forest stream.

The Spirit of stream Wodianoy takes berries to his underwater cave according to girl's POV.

Dauritas's POV shows berries are hidden in the black mud by the stream. The view twinkles. Dauritas argues there is no a spirit in the stream. Wodianoy face appears and disappears in the stream and in the mood.

WOMEN
(to Dauritas' mother)
Better avoid Solovey because she is
a daughter of the forest witch-
Baba Yaga.

Dauritas sees two roes peacefully eating grass. Dauritas puts the basket with berries on the grass. He shows to Solovey the animals and puts a finger to the lips.

Dauritas disappears in the high grass and crawls very close to the roes. Suddenly an arrow hits one of the roe. Another roe runs away. A HUNTER (33) from neighbor village approaches the kill.

THE HUNTER
You have a stalker talent. You were
three steps from the animals. The
roes did not see and smell you.
Neither me noticed you.

The Hunter's son ARDAGASTUS (7) steps out from bushes.

ARDAGASTUS
Hi stalker, what beast and demon is
your protector? My protector is
Perun's falcon Rarug.

Dauritas sees a falcon cries and transforms to a demon Rarug between the trees.

DAURITAS
The lynx- Zwid protects me after
father's death.

ARDAGASTUS
Can you swim? I will show you how
to dive under the water.

Dauritas's mother approaches and takes the son. The Hunter stares at the beautiful young mother. She also looks at the Hunter too long...

THE HUNTER
(cutting the kill)
Lets change your mushrooms and
blueberries to the half of the
kill.

Dauritas' mother smiles and agrees.

Solovey approaches and puts her basket with berries and takes a piece of meat with two big burdock's leaves.

Dauritas and Ardagastus jump angry to protect their meat. The Hunter stops them.

THE HUNTER
It is a gift to her mother- Baba
Yaga, half a woman, half a witch.
She under special protection of the
Leshy. It is the same to whom make
an offering- to Leshy or to Baba
Yaga.

And he adds one more piece of the kill to Solovey
A chilling laughter bursts in the forest.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST- DAY.

Dauritas, Ardagastus and Solovey climb the trees. They see The Hunter and Dauritas' mother walk near the forest and quarrel for something. The quarrel turns into the tenderness.

Some moments later the couples appears from the hay cock happy embracing each other, laughing.

DAURITAS
Say your father do not visit us.
Our Domowoy will stifle him.

ARDAGASTUS
My father will shoot your Domowoy
and bring our Domowoy.

Dauritas and Ardagastus fight with each other. Solovey stops them. The day goes to the end and the darkness approaches. A beast howls. The boys decide to take Solovey girl home.

Suddenly a wolf jumps with saliva dripping from the open big red mouth. The beast downs nearest boy Dauritas and bites the shoulder of Ardagastus. Blood flushes.

Boys cry in shock. The wolf turns back for the second attack. Solovey fills the gap between the boys and the beast. The wolf oddly avoids Solovey. The smart beast makes little step to the right, then to the left and right again bypassing Solovey. The jump and blood flushes from Dauritas breast. The wolf turns for the third attack. Solovey steps between the beast and the boys. She brings two fingers of every hand to the mouth and whistles very high note. The wolf stops and shoves the tail between his legs.

The boys return from the shock, gain courage and rage. They arm with sticks.

The whistle invites somebody. The air twinkles and Zwid materializes in the shape of a lynx and turns into the demon. Falcon Rarug lands from the air and turns into the winged monster. Zwid roars and Rarug screams.

The two characteristic sounds become the sonic signs of Dauritas and Ardagastus. The screams mixed with a music follow two heroes and tell about appearance of them and their demon protectors.

The boys attack the wolf with sticks. Solovey whistles. The wolf panics. Dauritas drives the stick to the wolf's mouth. The wolf keeps the stick and his tooth are occupied. Ardagastus impales his sharp stick to the belly of the wolf.

Rarug sits on the neck of the wolf and stifles the beast. Zwid cuts the belly from the stomach to the tail. The guts tip out. The boys enraged tumble the guts by hands away from the belly.

Zwid catches the hart and roaring disappears. Rarug floes out with lever in his neck. The boys exhausted fell on the guts all in blood. Their blood mixes with the wolf blood. The boys faint.

It gets darker. Solovey whimpers and hardly finds suitable herbs. She chews the grass for disinfection. Then she spits the green grass on Dauritas's wounded breast. Again she chews the grass and spits on Ardagastus's shoulder.

Solovey chews the grass again. She closes Dauritas' nose. The boy opens mouth catching the air. Solovey kisses him and spits green saliva to his mouth. Dauritas opens his eyes and coughs. Solovey closes his mouth.

SOLOVEY
Swallow the herbs.

Dauritas sits down and watch. Solovey chews the herbs and kisses Ardagastus spitting him to mouth a portion of chewed herbs. Ardagastus coughs and awakes.

SOLOVEY

Eat. Look, your wounds, your blood
mixed with the wolf's blood. You
have become wolf's brothers and
blood brothers of each other.

Baba Yaga appears from nowhere. Dogs bark. Village people shout. Baba Yaga touch the boys' necks with fingers. She checks the wolf's jaw.

BABA YAGA

A bad wolf.

She takes some herbs from her apron. But Solovey gives her a tuft of the herbs.

BABA YAGA

Have they ate?

Solovey opens the boys' mouths full of green foam.

Barking dogs appear. At the site of baba Yaga and Solovey the dogs calms and hove the tails between legs. Mother and daughter disappear in bushes. The dogs start to bark on the dead wolf.

Village people with torches walk in. Mother embraces Dauritas. The Hunter embraces Ardagastus. The Priest examines the wolf.

THE PRIEST

Keep the dogs away. The beast was
mad and ill. We have to make
offerings to Perun to save the boys
from canine madness.

The Priest notices green foam on the wounds.

DAURITAS

Solovey did it.

The people admires the size of the wolf. The Hunter examines the beast.

THE HUNTER

Where are the beast's heart and
lever? Who did cut the belly?

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI FOREST- STEPPE VILLAGE- DAY.

Sleepy Dauritas steps from the hut. Frightened mother embraces him. The Priest enters and checks the wounds.

THE PRIEST
She is a witch like her mother. The
wounds are healed so fast.

The Hunter comes with Ardagastus and throws the wolf's fur to the legs of Dauritas.

THE HUNTER
My son recovered.

DAURITAS' MOTHER
So-called witch saved the boys
lives.

The Hunter puts wolf tooth necklace on the Dauritas's neck. Ardagastus shows his covered scar and the same necklace.

THE HUNTER
You both are little wolves.

ARDAGASTUS
(whispers to Dauritas)
Do not disclose we are the blood
brothers.

DAURITAS
Solovey put chewed herbs to our
wounds and spit to the mouths.

PRIEST
The daughter of a witch is a witch
too. Baba Yaga took care about
eternal fireplace as a virgin
priestess in the holy Oaks forest.
But she fell in love with a
foreigner the Goth.

DAURITAS' MOTHER
Is it bad?

PRIEST
She has betrayed her faith. The
Goth took her away during the
Summer solstice feast Kupala. One
year later she returned with the
baby. Her daughter aka Solovey is
the Goths' bastard.

Dauritas's mother looks at The Hunter and they smile.

THE HUNTER
 I do not understand who did scarf
 the wolf?

The Hunter takes from a sack a squirrel and an ermine furs
 and covers Dauritas and his mother with the furs.

THE PRIEST
 The Hunter, you will lack squirrel
 furs to pay the tribute.

THE HUNTER
 You will receive the same for the
 special service and the special
 offering to the Perun.

He takes by the hand Dauritas mother.

THE HUNTER
 We invite you to our wedding, two
 widower wedding. The sons, we will
 go together to hunt boars to make
 a big feast to the villagers.

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPE VILLAGE- EVENING

The Priest announces wedding of the widower The Hunter from
 the neighbor village and Dauritas's mother. He prays to the
 love goddess Lada and sacrifices a pig near the Saint Oak.

People dance around the fire, some jump upon it. Boars cut in
 pieces grills on the fire. People eat and drink in the middle
 of the village. Some pat The Hunter on the back.

The hosts and few guests from neighbor village drink honey
 drink medos and kamos barley beer.

The guests from two villages gossip.

FIRST VILLAGER
 The young widow has a son and the
 widower has a son. Her dead husband
 was elder of the village and an
 good scout. He should not drink
 medos before scouting for the
 Goths...

SECOND VILLAGER
 The Hunter came as a refugee to our
 village when he was a boy. The
 Hunter is not Sclaveni.

FIRST VILLAGER

Goddess Lada needs a fat pig offering because Dauritas's mother mourned her husband too short only few months.

SECOND VILLAGER

Her husband was a scout for Goths and showed the way to rebel villages for punitive expedition. Thus he was deadly wounded in the ambush.

FIRST VILLAGER

Look at the wolf's necklaces of Dauritas and Ardagastus. They are famous now these young wolves. Except a little girl Solovey killed the wolf.

Laughter.

The boys quit drunk villagers and find Dauritas' mother and the Hunter

DAURITAS

Mother, is it truth my father drunk medos before scouting and got wounded?

ARDAGASTUS

(interrupts)
Dauritas, look

Lada, the Goddess of love, glides in the crowd covered with a fog. Lada approaches the newlyweds and twinkles and turns for a moment into Baba Yaga. The woman stares the couple and moans terribly. Villagers frightened fall silent but moments later restart the feast.

They boys are afraid of the Goddess and run. They meet Solovey.

SOLOVEY

Did you see my mother? She is attacked by madness.

ARDAGASTUS

We saw the goddess Lada turned into your mother.

SOLOVEY

Lada personates into a woman which suffers from the love much.

The three separate. Dauritas angry kicks away a wooden cup full of medos.

FADE TO:

INT. SUNKEN FLOOR HOUSE- NIGHT

Dauritas's mother and the Hunter make love behind the linen screen. Two boys smile laying on the other side of the screen.

Hairy Domowoy looks through the hole in the roof and pops an ugly finger through the hole.

The boys hide their heads under the wrap.

EXT. FIELD IN THE FOREST- DAY. (444)

The Hunter, his sons and village people cut the trees to expand a field for agriculture, a slash-and- burn technique. At first they pray to the spirit of the bog and throw a handsome of grains and put some eggs under the biggest oak.

Dauritas (12) Ardagastus (12) notice Leshy which sends birds to pick up the grain and two snakes to take the eggs.

Few bulls tear stumps bonded with a rope.

THE HUNTER

We leave the trees to dry for a year. Then we wild burn the trees and ashes will make the soil fertile. We will built new huts nearby the new land.

They come to the field in the forest where trees are already cut half a year ago and are dry. They burn dried trees and stumps.

THE HUNTER

(Joking)

I Better like hunting rather then to plough but we need a bread and porridge.

FADE TO:

EXT. A LAKE SHORE - DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus silently wade to the water between reeds.

Ardagastus throws a handful of grain to the water.

ARDAGASTUS
Water spirits Wodianoy and Rusalki
will not touch us.

Village girls make much noise and laugh, swim and splash in the lake beyond the reed.

Ardagastus takes a piece of reed and shows Dauritas how to breath under the water. The boys dive under the water slowly into the direction of girls breathing through piece of reed.

At the end of the reed they show their faces from the water and watch nude teen girls swimming and shouting.

They do not notice an odd man watching the nudes from the reeds too. Wodianoy has a structure of the reeds and mimicries with the plants.

The boys dive again and approach the girls' clothes left on the shore.

They suddenly jump from water and catch the girls' clothes shouting.

The odd man frightens and immerses.

Girls scream and crouch in the water.

Boys put the clothes on the tree branch and stand by. Ardagastus proposes girls to come and take the dresses..

Solovey girl (11) wades out nude from the water, passes silent boys and sorts her dress from the tree branch...

Two big fishlike tails glide between legs of the girls and two green haired heads of Rusalki expose from the water.

A dozen of teenage girls become mad of fear. The oldest girls lead them.

They rush nude from the water and plump the boys with their bodies. They press boys' heads and feet with their butts. Others strip the boys and beat them with nettles...

Rusalki swim circles in shallow water and laugh. The same odd man Wodianoy shuts up them by the splash to the water of his fishtail.

Girls convoy Dauritas and Ardagastus bind with their pants to the village.

People of the village stop working on the field and laugh from the procession.

The Hunter Meets them.

THE HUNTER
You boys better show your stalker
talents against the Huns and the
Goths.

Dauritas's mother with a little baby turns away and says nothing.

FADE TO:

EXT. LAKE SHORE - DAY. (446).

The Hunter and sons make a dug-out boat (lat. monoxyle) and try it in the lake.

Dauritas's mother with the little son brings food to her men. She brings a red ribbon. They throw some grain to the Wodianoy- the spirit of the lake.

Nude mermaids-Rusalki catch the grains but angry refuse of it. Fishes comes and swallow the grain. The Hunter smiles and takes a red ribbon from his wife and throws it to the water. Rusalki fight for the present and dive deep under the water..

Three men try the dugout boat.

Lake- some time later.

Dauritas and Ardagastus make racing with village boys with raft and monoxyles.

They play a war with three monoxyles attacking one raft protected by few boys. The boys use wooden swords, pikes and shields.

The monoxyles reach the speed. Two boys raw paddles and Dauritas targets pike to the rivals on the raft. Ardagastus sits in another monoxyle. Three pikes reach the target at the same time from three sides. The boys from the raft fall to the water...

Nude Rusalki watch the boys from the deep. One of Them has a red ribbon on the neck.

EXT. FOREST- DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus watch and learn from The Hunter how to make a noose loop for hares.

The three dig a pitfall on the forest path for a moose. At the bottom of the pit they fix a sharp stick. They mark the trees nearby the path for villagers to know the trap.

The three men go in the line and make noise yelling. They frighten few moos to run to the direction of trap. A beautiful moose runs the path directly to the hidden pitfall.

Suddenly bushes twinkle in the right. Leshy materializes for a while and makes a pushing gesture forcing the moose to jump above the pitfall.

Three hunters check the moose prints and reveal the moose made an impossibly long jump upon the pit.

THE HUNTER
We forgot the offering to the
Leshy.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI FOREST VILLAGE- DAY. (448).

Village men keep a meeting and discuss their problems in democratic unorganized way. The Hunter drinks a big cup of medos and joins the meeting.

Old Roman and Goth captives, one eye GOT (40) and one leg lame ROMAN (50) are equal villagers and take part in discussion. Their Sclaveni wives interfere shouting loudly and turn the meeting into bazar. Nobody cares The Hunter's authority as the elder.

A VILLAGER
The Hunter drinks too much. We need
another elder. The priest have to
ask Perun.

The mob shouts in approve.

The Priest watches from a distance at the Saint Oak near the eternal fire and smiles.

Dauritas and Ardagastus are unhappy.

DAURITAS

When I be the elder, I beat all who disobey me. And I will never newer drink medos and kamos.

ARDAGASTUS

They must respect my father. I will drink medos like my father does.

The boys catch old "Nemtsy" Got and Roman.

GOT

I was captured by villagers some twenty years ago. And Roman came to the village as a fugitive. I have lost an eye in a battle, the Roman became one leg lame.

Few boys run close and embrace their grandfathers.

ROMAN

He jokes, I am not a fugitive. We pursued a robbers band north the Danube. Sclaveni band took to the right, then to the right again and ambushed our chasing group from behind. The band took us as injured captives and left in your village.

Old Roman captive has a copper coin hanging on his neck.

DAURITAS

What do the strange signs mean?

ROMAN

It is the Latin letters meaning the Rome emperor name Constantinus Maximus.

DAURITAS

What are the letters and how can one draw a man's name?

ROMAN

As the most Roman legionaries I knew reading and writing but I have almost forgot the Latin during twenty years between the Sclaveni.

DAURITAS

How to draw Dauritas and Ardagastus names in Latin?

The old Roman writes, clears, sweats and writes again for several times with a stick on the path but unsuccessfully.

GOT

You boys have new names as Wolves.
Once I was taught the Christian
bible written by little Wolf-
Wulfila in my language. I remember
His name was drawn starting like
this.

Got cuts two Y-shape sticks from the hazelnut tree and gives them two the boys.

GOT

Two little wolves, two *Wulfila*,
little Sclaveni wolves.

Two Y-shaped sticks become a signature of Dauritas and Ardagastus in future adventures. (Followed by the sound of lynx and falcon).

A hut

Dauritas and Ardagastus bear on the door with a stick of enemy boys' house. The boy can get out only with the help of neighbors. They find two Y-shape sticks on the ground as a signature.

A lake coast

Dauritas and Ardagastus cut the Y-shape signs YY on their dug-out boat.

Dauritas's hut

...on the door of their hut

The Saint Oak

...and even on the saint Oak and on the altar stone below the oak...

Forest

They take the alive hare from The Hunter's noose loop and bring it to the Saint oak.

The Saint Oak

They make an offering to Perun. Dauritas keeps the hare, Ardagastus cuts animal's throat. They spill the hare's blood to the YY signs on the oak and on the stone.

They divide the rabbit into two parts, one part they leave near the oak, another on the altar stone.

A lynx roars.

The lynx descends from the oak and licks the bloody tree YY signs and the signs on the stone. The image twinkles and turns into the demon Zwid. Zwid catches the half of the kill and hides in the Oak converting back to the lynx.

A falcon screams.

The falcon catches the part of the kill from the stone.

The falcon twinkles and converts to the demon Rarug for a while before disappearance...

DAURITAS

I swear I will give to my son a name Ardagastus.

ARDAGASTUS

I swear to give your name Dauritas to my son.

FADE TO:

EXT. STEPPE- DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus ride at the steppe.

Dauritas and Ardagastus meet a wounded Huns deserter with a stolen beauty on the horse behind him. Few Hun warriors follow their path. Dauritas shows the signs to the fugitive to follow them.

Forest.

Dauritas and Ardagastus show the way from steppe to the forest. They pass hidden hunting traps made for moose. The boys leave the deserter's hat with two Y-shape sticks in it on the path for Huns.

Angry Huns find the hat and strange sticks and hurry to ride the forest path. Two horses fall into hunting pit (a fall pit). Huns cut throats of the wounded horses.

Sclaveni Steppes Village.

The Huns ride to Sclaveni village and confiscate a cab to transport the meat of the horses.

The Huns show Sclaveni the deserter's hat and two Y-shape sticks.

A HUN
What does it mean?

People show signs they do not understand.

Dauritas's mother takes the mud and applies on YY signs on their door just in time the Huns do not notice them.

Baba Yaga house in the forest.

Baba Yaga house is well hidden on the edge between forest and swamps. The cabin is constructed above the pole from the very thick old oak. It seems like a house on one leg. Water and grass surrounds the cabin.

Dauritas and Ardagastus brings the deserter and his woman to Baba Yaga house and asks Solovey to hide them.

The deserter and his stolen beauty stay at Baba Yaga cabin.

Hidden Sclaveni forest village

Huns refugees move to hidden Sclaveni forest village and teach them Huns bow arts, how to make a strong war tactics to run and attack again. The Refugee shows how to make the Hunnic composite bow.

THE HUN FUGITIVE

I am not a Hun. I am Yuwen from Xianbey tribe in China. The Hunnic bow is made wood and bone with sinew for the string, at 4 feet long, it had the punching power it needed to go through chainmail.

His woman offers to taste kumyss from mare but people do not like it.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPE VILLAGE- DAY.

Boys play a war divided into Romans, Goths and Huns. They use wooden swards, pikes and shields. Got and Roman, old captives, instruct them.

All the village become involved into the game so much as forget working in the field.

THE PRIEST
We will show the game on bazar day.
Perun likes the game.

A structure between clouds appears. Villagers happy show it for each other.

Few Domowoys watch the game from the roofs.

"The Romans" defend the lattice fence located between two huts. "The Huns" attack riding pigs or sheep, "the Goths" attack on foot.

Dauritas and Ardagastus shields are marked with identical YY-shape hazel cut sticks.

A draw. The Huns and the Goths cannot prevail the fence of Romans leaded by Dauritas and Ardagastus. The old captives Got and Roman announce a brake to let the boys to drink a water.

ROMAN
(Whispers to Dauritas)
A phalanx.

A second attempt to attack. Swards hit swards. Pikes stick shields. A lattice fence still separates the enemies. Suddenly the fence splits into two parts and victorious Huns and Goths flow into the yard.

Dauritas and Ardagastus looks to each other.

Characteristic roar of Zwid and a scream of Rarug start. Twinkling demon shapes blow between the boys.

Nervous villages look at each other and to the Priest.

DAURITAS
Phalanx

The instructed Romans raise two parts of the lattice fence impaled on their sticks- pikes. Smaller boys put out their swards through the holes in the fence. The phalanx moves towards the enemies.

The Huns and The Goths retreat pressed by the plenty of long pikes. Short swards prevent them to escape the pikes and approach the fence. Romans squeeze the enemy in the corner between a hut and a stable. Victory.

Zwid roars, Rarug screams. Domowoys murmur.

FADE TO:

EXT. BABA YAGA HOUSE IN THE FOREST- DAY

Dauritas and Ardagastus come to Baba Yaga house and leave two hunted up roes as a present to Dauritas's lover Solovey. Dauritas and Solovey walk and talk.

Ardagastus helps Baba Yaga to manage the meat and to flay the roe. Baba Yaga puts one roe eye, the short tail and a hoof of the roe in a wooden tub and hides in the cabin.

BABA YAGA

Thanks. The young wolves have a good protectors Zwid and Rarug.

ARDAGASTUS

Should we make an offering for the demons? Roe's hart and liver.

BABA YAGA

I will make a special offering

Baba Yaga makes an offering burning dried herbs mixed with the wool of the roe.

Demons images play in smoke very happy.

DAURITAS

Is it truth a Goth warrior fell in love with you and kidnapped you? And you return back when your daughter Solovey has born.

BABA YAGA

Because the Goth had another wife. Your father had served to the same Goth noble until the death, to Wandalar.

FADE TO

INT/EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE - DAY.

The villagers quarrel with their elder the Hunter.

A VILLAGER

You are a stranger Ante and do not pay attention to the field works. You just hunt.

THE HUNTER

I bring enough squirrels for fur tribute of two villages.

ARDAGASTUS

Father why do they call you a
stranger? And what is Ante?

The Hunter invites his sons to the yard with intention to reveal his secret. Some village boys join to listen, some elders too.

THE HUNTER

I have come to your village from
Antes land. I am Ante. I was ten
year old boy then. My uncle Boz was
king of Antes. And this is my
story.

(An option to make a series)

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTES NOMADS CAMP IN THE STEPPE - DAY. 375

A frightened man rides the horse into the tents camp.

ANTES MAN

The Goths are coming.

Goths warriors enter the village first. Some are wounded. Horse-drawn carts bring women, children and wounded men. Men go on foot.

The elder and several men meet them.

Antes bring vats with water. Goths drink thirsty.

THE GOTH WARRIOR

Bring the tribute - grain for the
horses and meat for the people.

The warriors invade tents and take all the food available and all the horses, all the cattle. They find some pits with hidden grain sacks and take everything.

THE ELDER OF THE VILLAGE

The tribute was paid and we cannot afford more.

THE GOTHS CHIEFTAIN

The Huns are coming. They will take everything, they will make all slaves or kill. Run. We are going to hide in the Rome.

THE ELDER OF THE VILLAGE
It is our land. We have no where to run.

THE GOTHS CHIEFTAIN
Our king Hermanaric conquered this kingdom from sea to sea (from Baltic sea to the Black sea) and reached Ural and Caucasian mountains. The Goths had gold from Ural mountains, honey, wax and superior furs. Many nations were under rule of king Hermanaric: Finns, the Aisti, Sclaveni, Antes, Heruli, Alans, Sarmatians. And now the Huns come. We do not want to leave food for the invaders.

The Goths refugees leave the robbed village.

Antes gather in the center of the village.

THE ELDER OF THE VILLAGE
A sort of Huns are coming.
Shepherds go with horses and sheep to the hidden valley. All the young men and women scatter and hide in the high grass of steppes. The messenger ride to the Antes king Boz.

A DAY LATER

Horde of Huns whistling rides the almost empty village and butchers the last lame mare for food...

FADE TO:

EXT. ANTES CAMP IN THE STEPPE - DAY. (V.O.) (388).

The Hunter continues his story.

THE HUNTER
I was born when Huns invaded Goths kingdom of Vinitharius Antes and Sclaveni belonged to. Vinitharius retained his insignia of king from Huns. Our king Boz started to fight the Goths for freedom and beat them in first battle but lost the main battle.

Field after the battle.

Dead bodies. The Goths dispatch wounded Antes. King Boz and his sons are bonded. The last group of Antes warriors are surrounded by the Goths but hold on.

VINITHARIUS
(orders to captive Boz)
Order the Antes warriors to give up.

The warriors do not obey and start to sing.

Vinitharius orders to approach the encircled enemies and prepare to finish them by arrows and spears. Boz is forced to watch the end in close distance.

The line of the Goths approach very close to the singing Antes warriors.

A volley of arrows. The wounded fall. A discharge of spears. The covey dissolves. The few continue the song. Arches exert bows. Spearmen take new spears. Arrows. Spears. Singing stops.

Goths warriors lead Antes prisoners to the Antes camp after the battle. Antes king Boz and three sons go first.

VINITHARIUS
Find seventy nobles and crucify together with Boz and his sons.

Goth warriors invade tents. Groups of warriors ride to other camps and take prisoners.

Boz brother before his detention orders the ten years sun (the Hunter) to find a hidden horses in a valley and to ride to the North, to hide at Sclaveni.

Soldiers make seventy four crosses and crucify prisoners. Boz is crucified in front of his sons and all the nobles. Women cry.

VINITHARIUS
Leave them on the crosses for months as an example to remember who is the master despite the Huns.

A ten years old boy (The Hunter) escapes warriors, runs to the steppe and finds a hidden horses out at feed. He rides out.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPES VILLAGE- EVENING.

The Hunter finishes his story.

THE HUNTER

I have ridden till forests' zone,
and have stayed with your people,
married first wife and Ardagastus
has born.

ARDAGASTUS

What does crucifixion mean?

DAURITAS

Do the Antes speak same language as
Sclaveni do and is Perun their main
God?

THE HUNTER

Only the Romans think so.

EXT. FOREST- DAY

Dauritas and Ardagastus go hunting to the forest and find village boys crucify frogs on small T- shape crosses according To the Hunter's story. They bind frogs' legs to the cross-shape sticks.

Dauritas and Ardagastus slap kick the boys asses.

DAURITAS

Release the frogs.

Dauritas and Ardagastus leave to the forest.

The boys wait until Dauritas and Ardagastus disappear behind the trees and continue their game. The wind rises. Leaves fall from the trees as though somebody jumps from one tree to another. A wolf howls.

A figure emerges and detaches from bushes and obtains the shape of Leshy.

Boys scream and run to the village.

Leshy keens and frees the frogs. Like a whirlwind angry Leshy runs the track to the forest through the marks on the trees...

Village

The Priest anxious watches coming storm.

THE PRIEST

The parents birch your sons and
bring me a hen to the forest
demons. Crucified frogs offended
forest spirits and not them only.

The storm continues. The Priest demands a bigger offering
from the guilty parents, a pig.

A figure of Perun materializes in the sky between the storm
clouds.

The lightning hits one hut. A fire starts. People fall in
panic.

The Domowoy leaves burning hut screaming and frightening
people.

Forest.

Dauritas and Ardagastus hunting is unsuccessful. They do not
meet any animal. The pitfall is empty. The storm starts. They
hide in Baba Yaga cabin. Baba Yaga is nervous. A wet woman
comes from the village.

A WET WOMAN

Perun punishes the village because
of boys' evil prank. No help from
the offerings.

BABA YAGA

It is something more. Let's go.

They all come to the place of frog crucifixion. They hear a
howl. They find Leshy impaled on the stick in the pitfall.
Alive but badly wounded. Red blood flows from his flank.

BABA YAGA

In the name of peace with the
forest and it's spirits we have to
save the poor being.

Leshy looks like Neanderthals, like Yeti, like an old man.
Dauritas and Ardagastus takes him from the stick and put on
the grass. The herbs of the witch and the swathe help to the
creature.

Dauritas strokes long haired Leshy hide. The hide obtains
green color and the structure of the grass he is lying. It
merges with the grass. Dauritas strokes the hide in opposite
direction- long haired old man appears.

The brothers are amazed. They fend Leshy at the pine trunk.
Dauritas strokes the hide again.

It obtains the brown color and the picture of the pine trunk and mingles with the trunk and disappears. The old demon-like creature reappears sitting still when Dauritas strokes his hide to opposite direction.

Baba Yaga put some liquid on the peace of moss and gives to smell to the fainted Leshy.

Leshy regains consciousness. He merges with the trunk, then with the grass tries to quit but moans from the pain and regains the look of an old village man with linen robe. Leshy checks his wound. He mutters something in unknown language. Then comes to a reason and asks to let him go.

Dauritas strokes his robe and it turns into the haired hide.

.....

A possible sequel

Leshy understands what humans are interested in. He proposes to shave his breast and take the hair which keep it's magic phenomenon of mimicry for some time.

Baba Yaga tells it is unseen gift. The hair would be enough for the invisible cap. And the old man's breast will grow hair soon. She laughs.

Ardagastus asks if they shave Domowoy the hair could be enough to make an invisible wrap?...

.....

Leshy drinks from a spring and slowly moves away. On the background of bushes he obtains green leaves moving structure. When the being crosses the pine trunk he changes to the brown bark image.

The creature turns to the humans with his shaved pale breast and makes all four of them to laugh. The each side waves.

The storm calms.

FADE TO:

EXT. SWAMPS - DAY

The Hunter and the sons repair an old-time log pathway hidden a feet below the mud.

THE HUNTER
If enemy comes closer we hide in
swamps.
(MORE)

THE HUNTER (CONT'D)

We easy abandon our old huts and
build new huts in another place.
Just we have to take Domowoy to a
new hut.

DAURITAS

Is a swamp an obstacle in winter?

The Hunter smiles and puts the mud on the shoulders of Dauritas. Dauritas flinches from the hot mud. The Hunter shows bubbles in the swamps.

THE HUNTER

Our Priest and Priestesses use to lay in the hot mud here and Baba Yaga heal people joints' pain in it.

A bird hoots like a crying woman.

The Hunter and sons - sink a wounded hare in the mud, an offering to the demon of the bog

Mud covered head of Wodianoy surfaces from the swamp with the wriggling hare in his teeth and dive back to the swamp.

The hoot calms.

Villagers bring some wagons of stones, gravel and brushwood to the shore of the swamps. Some people help them to put everything into monoxyles (dig-out boats).

They wade the way below water and drag the loaded monoxyles. They reach the place where the long sticks can not reach the firm ground. The road is broken.

At thirst they pile long poles at the two sides of the path. When a pole hides below the water they use additional pole to hammer the first one. Then they throw stones, gravel and brushwood to the water between the underwater poles.

The Hunter with Dauritas and Ardagastus test the road with long sticks. At one place the road finishes. They try left and find deep water. They try right and find the extension of the path.

They try the next place and do not find the extension. The Hunter smiles and over-jumps to the left- to the extension of the path.

THE HUNTER

It is a trap.

People take cattle and horses by the underwater road to the island in the swamps. Few shepherds with dogs meet them happy.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPE VILLAGE - DAY.

Sclaveni farmers with Dauritas and Ardagastus reap poor grain with sickles, women pluck by hands. The reaped grain stalks are gathered into sheaves (bundles), tied with string or with a twist of straw.

Dauritas's mother takes the first sheave to the altar place in their hut. The grass is burned from the sun. The cattle can hardly eat. Farmers feed cows with reaped grain stalks. Women can hardly milk some milk. Children cry hungry.

Dry summer invokes famine. Autumn harvest is poor. The fields are empty. The river is shallow. Dauritas and Ardagastus return from hunting empty. The Priest makes an offering to Perun very tinny bullock, The priestess pray for the rain.

Oaks's spirit Zwid- Lynx does not touch the offering. Lynx issues angry hiss The falcon Rarug screams from the oak and does not pay attention to the bullock.

Upset people return to their huts. The Hunter quarrels with his wife.

The Goths warriors come to remind it is time to pay a part of harvest as a tribute to the king Valamir.

The Hunter, as the leader of the village and the Priest orders people to contribute yearly village tribute.

ARDAGASTUS

What does happen if we do not pay the tribute?

THE PRIEST

They will sell us to the Romans or deport to work as slaves at the Goths fields.

DAURITAS

Then why did we build a secret road in marches?

The Hunter smiles.

The caravan of the cattle, furs, beeswax and honey goes to the nearest Goths village.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST- STEPPE EDGE- MORNING. (448).

Dauritas and Ardagastus prowl at the edge of the forest and steppe.

They observe the Goths village from a distance for many days. They start to recognize the people and give them nicknames: Long Hairy, Little Fat. They see men working in the fields around the village and the Goths guards guarding them.

The teenagers prowl to the workers.

DAURITAS
(whispers from the high
grass)
Who are you?

A SLAVE
We are slaves- so called
Cherniakhs. We were not able to pay
a tribute to the Goths. The other
group of the field workers are
Sarmatians, the prisoners of war.
They are unfriendly and very proud.
They call Cherniakhs Limigantes.

The slaves got to their huts near the fields at night. Dauritas and Ardagastus prowl back to their observation point.

They watch a feast or marriage. They watch warriors are going out and to the village. They see the Huns come and take a caravan of tribute from the Goths.

The boys eat some food, drink some water in the spring and continue the scouting mission.

A day later Huns riders visit the village again. Dauritas and Ardagastus prowl closer to hear the conversations. A quarrel starts between the elder of the village and the Chieftain of the Huns. They can hear the crying the names of Attila and Ellac.

DAURITAS
Probably the chieftain of them is
called Ellac.

ELLAC (22) hits the elder of the village with the arrow to the stomach.

ELLAC
Bind his legs to the horse and drag
to the steppe.

The Huns start to rob the Goths village and leave with much cattle and caravan of food.

Dauritas shows to Ardagastus the war of antes in the grass-the dry season forced one anthill to attack another.

DAURITAS
Let's prepare, the Goths have no food now, they will take the double tribute from us. People will not survive the winter.

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPES VILLAGE- DAY.

Dauritas rides the horse to the people still working on the fields.

DAURITAS
The Goths are coming for the second tribute.

People start to hide the food. Some take cattle to the forest. The entire secret village is settled in the forest.

Some take sacks with grain, honey crocks, salted or smoked sausages and smoked fat pork meat in wooden hollowed vats, undressed leathern and hide in pits at the forest.

The Priest and the Hunter orders to abandon the village. Only ill and old men stay with some families.

People go to swamps.

THE HUNTER
Ardagastus take a dozen of the cattle and hide in the lake island.
And we go to the swamps.

Angry Goths find no food. They cut The Holy Oak and burn it.

FADE TO:

EXT. MARSSES - DAY

Refugee Sclaveni go with cattle through marches. Men, few horses and bulls every drag some kind of swamp sledges- two sticks (parallel or crossed) connected with smaller sticks and stretched with skin. Food, belongings and smaller children are placed on the sledges and few monoxyles.

The Hunter, the Priest and Dauritas lead the people through the secret way. Humans and cattle sink only till the knees and reach the ground- the secret path through marshes. The few sheep and pigs cannot travel in so deep water and are butchered before marshes.

A cow scares of a snake, jumps to the water and starts to drown. Dauritas kills the cow and four men withdraw dead body of the cow. They flay the skin, cut meat into pieces, put some salt and put into the sledges.

Hungry people looks at the meat. Then they get a strip of raw meat. The priest takes the Head of the cow and sink it in the marsh as an offering for the local spirit.

A bubble appears around the cow head and somebody fights for the meat.

They reach a bank of an island in the middle of the marches. Some armed men stop them.

THE HUNTER
The Huns and the Goths are coming.

SWAMP MAN
Stay till the winter but we take
half of your food and cattle.

Dauritas looks at The Hunter...

Armed men show the way.

FADE TO:

EXT. LAKE ISLAND - DAY. (448).

Ardagastus with a dozen of cattle swim to the lake island. He rows a monoxyle and drive cows with a whip. Twelve leashes are bounded to the boats back. Some precious iron tools, a pike, a bow with arrows, a back with salt and a tube with some salted meat are in the dig-out boat.

A pair of teenage girls of 16 and 13 hide in bushes and watch the swimmers. The girls wait until Ardagastus steps to the island with cows and peep out from the bushes.

Ardagastus makes acquainted with the girls.

THE ELDER SISTER

We flew from the Goths and swam
from the village at another side of
the lake. We saw the smoke from
their villages set on fire by the
Goths. We ate berries, hazelnuts
and mushrooms for days.

The teenagers do not ask permission and immediately find food in the boat. Hungry girls tear with teeth salted meat, eat handfuls of grain from Dauritas's stock in monoxyle. The Elder sister milk a cow directly to her sister's mouth. Poured over with milk, happy, laughing...

A shadow of a woman-shape Lada flees through the Three. The exultant teens seems to Ardagastus as the most beautiful creatures he ever seen.

The girls stop shouting and rioting. Ardagastus collects the rest of food from the hands of the girls. They walk to the biggest oak in the island and move a stone close to it. Ardagastus throws the rest of the food to the newly consecrated altar.

ARDAGASTUS

Slava Perun.

The girls echo.

THE ELDER SISTER

Remember, you watched us nude
swimming in the lake few summers
go.

Ardagastus is shy and escapes the challenge. He shows to the sky- the rain is coming and they have to find a shelter.

The first night it is a bower the girls made from the tree branches below the saint from now oak.

The cave.

Next day they decide to build a hut. Ardagastus finds a trench of man's height overgrown with a high grass.

ARDAGASTUS

It was probably a spring channel.

With the boat's paddle Ardagastus steepen's the sides of the trench. He knocks poles with the hammer each side of the row. The lasses wattle the poles with a willow twigs to prevent the sand flow.

Ardagastus cuts few alder trees at the shore. He lops away branches and with the help of females put the trunks up the trench.

It becomes a cave with two exits at both ends. The girls pluck off reeds from the lake and cover the trunks on the cave's roof. They spread another part of the reeds on the cave's ground for sleeping.

Ardagastus books his sleeping place at the end of the cave near the second exit. They put a wattle to separate male and female parts of the cave. The refugees bowl few big stones for the fire place. They rip the roof above the fire place the smoke could extract.

ARDAGASTUS

Do not break branches of tree above the chimney. The tree dispels the smoke and hides their cave. My father taught me.

The lasses milk cows and make white cheese. The girls use Ardagastus's salt for cheeses and dry them on the sun.

Fishing in the lake

They find some clay in the shallow water of the lake floor. The girls make vessels: pots, tubs. They try to burn out the clay pots in the open fire place.

The sisters and Ardagastus try fishing. Ardagastus wade in shallow water and use the pike as a gig. Only small fish swim close to the coast and Ardagastus misses. He sits on the tree bent above the lake and tries to shoot fish with bow and arrows. Unsuccessfully.

The girls strip out their dresses, bind one end of the robe, put a stone in the bottom and keep them underwater like traps. Fishing becomes successful when the younger sister wades and shoos fish to the traps. They cry and laugh. The catch is good.

Ardagastus can't withstand the view of nude females and their quizzes. He quits fishing. The sisters laugh.

Crayfishes.

Ardagastus makes few creels from twigs with a narrow neck entrance. They put some dead fish and frogs inside and dip the creels for the night.

In the morning they find plenty of crayfishes, eels and other fish inside. They coat fish with the clay and grill in the ember. Then they break the clay and eat fish.

Swimming in the morning.

One morning Ardagastus gets up early and goes to swim to the lake. At the coast he watches a younger sister swimming nude in the lake. She notices him and invites to the water. They swim nude together.

THE YOUNGER SISTER

All men from their village are killed or taken to the slavery probably. We are sentenced to live without men, without children.

ARDAGASTUS

The men escaped to swamps and forests and will return one day.

Ardagastus hunts few ducks, girls collect mushrooms, berries. Some of them try fishing. They dream about bread.

Two mates of Ardagastus.

One day the elder sister joins Ardagastus to hunt ducks. She starts to kiss him. They lay on the grass and make love.

Next day the younger sister joins Ardagastus...

The girls start quarrel, they make a row to sleep with Ardagastus.

They divide the cave into Ardagastus's side and girls side with a brushwood. Every night another sister takes her turn to sleep with Ardagastus.

They spend two moons in the island, one man Ardagastus, the pair of teenage sisters and twelve cows.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE IN SWAMPS-DAY.

The swamp men leader insist Solovey to sleep with him.

Dauritas and The Hunter protect Solovey. At night Dauritas and Solovey flee rude swamp people.

(He returns 2 years later as a leader of free Sclaveni band and subjects the free swamp Sclaveni.)

FADE TO:

INT. LESHY CAVE- DAY.

Ardagastus and Solovey run and hide in cave. The huge roots of the trees decorate the walls. A spring bubbles.

They move further until the light from the entrance disappears. A glowing light comes from the corner of the cave. They go further and see few nests of glow-worms (lightning bugs).

They drink in the spring, wash and prepare to sleep.

The figure of Lada emerges from the spring and disperse the lovers. The couple makes love.

They lay still on the ground and listen to the spring. Some shadows cover the lightning bugs. Few figures detach from the walls, stones and tree roots. Leshies. The couple scream.

Five shaggy figures surround them. One approaches and shows the old wound. Dauritas recognizes their Leshy.

SOLOVEY
Our Leshy.

The Leshy tells in slow language.

THE LESHY
We are a dieing tribe of human
cousins. A man is our biggest
enemy.

SOLOVEY
The Human cousins?

LESHY
Many years ago numerous humans like
you Dauritas came and killed most
of Leshies. Only the freaks which
adapted to hide from the men
survived. Like our small family
which can simulate the forest.

DAURITAS
And the other beings?

LESHY
Like our brothers Wodianoy which
became half a fish or a frog. And
at least like Domowoy which
inhabits aside humans in their
dwellings.

DAURITAS
Come to our village and live like
our Domowoy

LESHY
Leshy tribe is going to die since
we can't birth children anymore.
We need to interbreed with humans.
Dauritas have to sleep with two
females to make them pregnant and
Solovey has to make a birth to the
Leshy child. Otherwise they have to
die.

The Leshy easily brakes a thick root.

Leshy female with a foot long breasts touches by hand
between Solovey legs and smells. Then looks to Dauritas and
roars.

EXT./INT. FOREST- DAY.

Pursues from the swamp people village find the footsteps
near the Leshy cave. They shoot few burning arrows inside.
Pursues start a big fire in the entrance of the cave. The
smoke comes inside.

The cave.

Leshy and the prisoners move by the cave down. They Bring
luminescent bugs too. In the end niche the Leshies stop and
cover with bodies the two humans. Pursues with fire follow
them but they can see only empty walls. Leshies bodies
ideally simulate the cave walls.

Pursues leave.

After three months life with Leshies, Dauritas and pregnant
Solovey escape to their tribe. They never tell about the
Leshies.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LAKE ISLAND- DAY.

The Goths show up at the opposite shore of the lake. They
make fire and suddenly hear cows low spreading from the
island. The hungry Goths shout happy and build the raft
binding the tree trunks with a rope.

Lake island- Night.

Ardagastus gets up due to scream of the falcon Rarug. He see the Goths on the raft with torches approach in the mist.

Ardagastus takes the girls and run to the opposite direction of the island and meet an eyeball to eyeball the other group of the Goths descended from the other raft.

The Goths capture all of them and bind Ardagastus to the tree. They take all the food from their cave and put the captives girls there. The Goths kill one cow and grill the meat on the fire. Some Goths watch the girls in the cave and laugh.

The girls understand they will be raped soon. The younger sister takes a bunch of nettles herbs and plunges her face in it. The girl moans, tramples but continues. Her face breaks out in a rash. She takes some red berries and rubs her face. The ugly face purples. Her sister moaning follow the bravest one's procedure.

THE ELDER SISTER

We have to show up, because the rash disappears soon.

She goes out of the cave and bravely grabs the peace of the grilled meat. The Goths laugh, pat her butt. The fire lights up the girl's face and the Goth jumps aside shouting

THE GOTH WARRIOR

(in the Gothic)

siukan, siuks (sick- English)

Frightened men steer the pikes against the girl.

THE GOTH WARRIOR

Af-gaggan, af-gaggan, siuks (go away, sick).

Another sister with purple face sticks out the cave. The Goths throw away food taken from the cave, smash clay pots with milk. Invaders take the grilled meat and run to the rafts. They push two cows on the raft and depart.

The girls shout happy and release Ardagastus from the binds.

Ardagastus takes a knife to the tooth and dives behind the two rafts. He dives below the raft with the cows and cuts the rope. The trunks separate. The men and cows sink.

Ardagastus turns one cow to swim back to the island. The younger sister the good swimmer joins him in he water and redirects the second cow to the island.

EXT. LAKE ISLAND - DAY.

Some snow starts to drop. The winter is coming.

Ardagastus cross the lake by monoxyle to the shore.

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE - DAY.

Ardagastus finds their village is abandoned and burned. The Holy Oak is cut and scorched.

He takes his girls and the cattle on the raft from the island. They start to build new huts in the forest close to the new burn-out field.

Distrustful refugees show up at the forest village from marches.

Dauritas embraces Ardagastus and acquaints the wives of his blood-brother. The Priest examines pregnant women bellies and admires.

Village men laugh to death seeing two wives of 17 years old Ardagastus.

Dauritas presents his love the only wife- Solovey. She is also pregnant.

Parents from another village embrace their pregnant daughters.

Ardagastus promises to pay the bride- price in one year.

EXT./INT. BABA YAGA HOUSE- DAY. (449).

Winter is cold, famine forces Sclaveni to start killing the cattle.

Dauritas, Ardagastus and The Priest come to Baba Yaga house. The Priest appeals for her help.

THE PRIEST
(whispers to Dauritas)
I loved her but the Gothic king
Wandalar seduced her.

DAURITAS
I know Solovey is the daughter of
Wandalar.

THE PRIEST
 (turn to the witch)
 Baba Yaga help the village. The God
 Perun does not answer me. How to
 find a way from famine and to pay
 the tribute?

Baba Yaga and the Priest make meditation together in the smoke of herbs.

They fly above the forest in the dream and see many wisents.

BABA YAGA
 We see a lot of kill in the dream.
 The pregnant girl- Solovey has to
 lead the hunt on wisents.

All village people joins the battue.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST-DAY. (450)

Snow covers the land and the trees. Solovey smells bulls shit and female bullock blood close to water. Thin ice covers the warm swamps. Wisents low. All the village follows Dauritas and Ardagastus to the hunt.

Solovey stops tired and shows the way hunters has to press the bullocks to the swamps. Frightened animals turn and follow their trace back. Dauritas and Ardagastus and the people disappointed see they lost the hunt.

The only Solovey stays on the herd's way. Solovey whistles. The high note bites and penetrates everyone's body. People cover their ears.

The herd of wisents stops. They return. The hunters press them. The herd turns to the swamps in panic. Wisents stick in the mood. The butchery starts. Tens of huge animals fall.

Suddenly pine trees sough. The Lynx appears on the branch and turns into the roaring Zwid demon. Shrieking falcon materializes as the demon Rarug.

DAURITAS
 Stop and leave the rest of the
 wisents alive.

Villagers murmur but obey. Animals quit the mood and run to the forest.

Villagers murmur that after the events in the swamps Dauritas and Ardagastus became informal leaders of their tribe consisting of the few villages.

People are afraid and avoid Solovey. Baba Yaga comes and takes her part of the meat. The Priest makes offerings to Perun.

Zwid and Rarug take it and disappear.

Sclaveni start to feast directly on the snow. Somebody brings the reserves of medos and kamon. People start fire and grill the kill. People dance around the fire, men jump above the fire.

Dauritas, Solovey, Ardagastus, the Priest and Baba Yaga stand aside near the offerings place.

Two wives of Ardagastus happy run to them and shout they have to bring some kill to their parents village around the lake. The Priest and Baba Yaga looks at each other.

THE PRIEST
We have a more important unsolved
debt to the Goths.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE GOTHS VILLAGE - NIGHT. (450).

Dauritas and Ardagastus bring two dozens of frozen wisents to the starving Goths village. Caravan of sledges approach the Goths village. Few horses hardly track sledges. Sclaveni go by the sledges and push them helping the meagre horses. The men only track another few sledges.

Dogs are eaten and nobody notices the caravan. They leave 2 Y-shape sticks bind at the cross in the middle of the village as a signature and two dozen of frozen wisents.

Sclaveni turn back. A wolf howls. Dauritas and Ardagastus stay the last and whistle until few doors open and the Goths show up. Dauritas and Ardagastus shout "slava Perun", laughing urge the horse and run behind pushing the sledge.

The Goths with pikes and swords cautiously approach the pile of the carcasses. Whoops of joy. Christian priest touches two Y-shape sticks and makes Christian sign to the direction of receding sledges.

The peace is made.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPES VILLAGE - MORNING

Spring comes. People return with cattle and some horses to steppe. They start to build huts and make cattle sheds in a new place. They burn dried forest which cut a year ago and start new fields to cultivate.

Huns horde rides to the village shouting. Attila's son ELLAC (25) announces they need young girls to serve for six months for Attila and his chieftains. They already convoy a dozen of girls.

Huns check every hut and line all the village women, old and young. The men are separated from women by mounted men warriors.

ELLAC
All women take off the headscarfs.

He chooses a dozen of young and nice women including Solovey and two wives of Ardagastus. Women and children cry, the Huns laugh. Sclaveni men are helpless. The horde leaves the village with captives.

Dauritas and Ardagastus return to the village from hunting with two killed roes. People meet them and loudly explain what happened.

Angry Dauritas breaks a stick. Ardagastus embraces him. The two prepare arms.

Baba Yaga comes. People make noise. The old captives Got and Roman insist to listen them.

ROMAN
The caravan will pas bazar place
tomorrow. Let's show them our
attractive boys' war games.

Dauritas and Ardagastus looks at each other.

FADE TO:

EXT. BAZAAR AT THE CONFLUENCE OF TWO RIVERS - DAY

A traditional bazaar. Few villages gather.

A man tries to sell two Roman gold coins. He receives 4 cows.

The Goths and the Huns are present and peacefully talk at their tents.

At the river shore a Roman dealer tests a dozen of Sclaveni dug-out monoxyles and bargain with them.

Roman slaves TRAFFICKER (30) with a curved nose and oriental clothes accompanied by several Roman soldiers ride the bazaar.

Thiudimir meets him in advance and invites him behind the tent. A number of captives sit on the grass.

THIUDIMIR
We have five dozens strong slaves
to buy as recruits or farmers.

TRAFFICKER
I need only faire-haired girls for
amusement places this time.

Thiudimir turns away.

Ellac's tent.

Ellac meets the Romans at his tent.

ELLAC
I can offer four dozen russet
Sclaveni beauties.

Bazaar.

Dauritas and Ardagastus arrive by truck full of boys. Got and Roman accompany the boys.

They look from hiding to captured girls behind the Huns tent. Solovey looks at Dauritas. Ardagastus' wives cry. The guards laugh.

Got and Roman announce children military games.

"The Romans" invite a dozen of "the Goths" to join them and fight the "the Huns". "The Goths" refuse and together with "the Huns" attack "Romans" protected by carriages.

Dauritas and Ardagastus go around the Huns' tent to the captives. Crying girls inside an ox-fence are bond to the fence. Dauritas and Ardagastus find a fresh bullshit, take it by hand and throw to the girls. Again and again.

At first girls cry, later they realize the meaning and put dirt at each other.

"The Goths" and "the Huns" defeat "the Romans" and "crucify" alive captives at crosses binding them with a robe.

ELLAC
Better impale them.

This part the Huns and the Goths applaud much.

The Trafficker insulted of "the Roman" defeat and crucifixion quit the place to watch the live goods. The Trafficker suddenly close his nose.

TRAFFICKER
Sclaveni are always dirty. I refuse to buy dirty girls.

Angry Ellac confiscates Goths's slaves and sells them to the Trafficker. Disappointed Goths leave the bazaar.

ELLAC
Throw "the fillies" to the river to wash till the morning and then gang-rape them. Then send to the horde for amusement.

Hun warriors throw bind girls to the water and bind two ends of the rope to the trees on the shore. They start the fire on the shore and joke inviting freezing girls to warm with warriors.

They choose Solovey from the water to go to Ellac's tent and serve him the barbecue from the fire.

Dauritas, The Hunter and Ardagastus dive to the girls with knives. They cut the rope and release few girls.

Drunk warriors asleep. Just one of them comes further and takes a "girl" from water. The Hunter hits the Hun to chest.

In the morning Ellac comes and finds Hun guards bind with rope in the water instead of Sclaveni girls.

Ellac decides it is the revenge of Goths but finds two Y-shaped sticks. Only Solovey remains in his tent from four dozens of captives. Ellac likes Solovey and takes her to the tent.

ELLAC
Undress and come to my bed.

Solovey shows her belly, she is pregnant. Ellac insists her to lay with him without making sex because pregnancy is tabu. Ellac flats her belly and kisses her. Then he fucks another woman in the same bed.

Dauritas wants to follow the Huns but Ardagastus stops him. Dauritas decides they need warriors to protect their tribes

Dauritas and Ardagastus hide in the forest. The Huns start searching them everywhere.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Half a dozen of men of neighbor Sclaveni tribe *Zarechi* from across the river prowl in the forest and knock down with a club a shepherd and steal the cattle hidden in the fenced paddock, the property of Dauritas's village, *Dolni* tribe.

Dolni tribe village

Dauritas and Ardagastus speak with the Priest and decides to make a revenge.

DAURITAS

The Antes have had a king Boz which kept order and did not allow tribe skirmishes and thefts. We have to subordinate neighbor the village to the rule of our *Dolni* tribe.

The Priest makes a sheep offering to Perun.

The lynx Zwid from the Oak and the falcon Rarug divide the meat.

The Priest blesses the decision of Dauritas and Ardagastus.

Zarechi tribe village.

Dauritas and Ardagastus ambush the village when men are gone fishing and take all the women and children as captives. They convoy the captives together with the stolen cattle to *Dolni* tribe.

The *Zarechi* men return from fishing and find empty village with few bond men in the hut. They take pikes but then decide peacefully get their families back.

Dolni tribe village.

The *Zarechi* surrender to Dauritas and Ardagastus men in purpose to save their families. Dauritas and Ardagastus reveal the most guilty men for the cattle theft and order to beat them with rods.

Zarechi tribe village.

Two Y-shape sticks are hammered to the pole in the center of the *Zarechi* village.

All men swear to Dauritas and Ardagastus as their subjects to pay a small tribute for five years and to assist when called. Half a dozen of armed men are in constant duty to Dauritas and Ardagastus.

Blotni and *Stepni* tribes villages.

Dauritas and Ardagastus subordinate *Blotni* and *Stepni* tribes and hammer two Y-shape signs on the tree in the center of their subjected villages.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI FOREST VILLAGE- DAY.

A group of fugitive Sclaveni slaves approach the village.

CHERNIAK

We are the *Cherniakhs* from the Goths village. The Goths abandoned their villages due to famine.

Dauritas and Ardagastus ride to investigate the Goths-*Cherniaks* villages.

FADE TO

EXT. GOTHS VILLAGE - DAY. 451

Dead dogs. Half of the village is burned. Dauritas, Ardagastus and the Priest with Sclaveni group passe the village. They find a young Goth woman Helga and a child hiding in the cattle barn.

Few old Goths block the way.

AN OLD GOTH
It is our land.

The Priest sits down on the earth peacefully and take the sand by hand.

THE PRIEST
Did the Goths make it? The Earth?

DAURITAS
Does the air belong to the Goths too? As I know all belongs to Attila.

Dauritas takes bread from his sack and gives it to Helga and the child. Ardagastus offers bread to the elders.

HELGA

The Goths fled to Pannonia and went to Gaul with the Huns. All villages around look the same.

The Priest finds an old big oak stricken by a thunder. He takes a fowl from his sack on makes an offering to Perun.

Oaks spirit Zwid and falcon Rarug divides the offering.

Helga sees a simple lynx and a falcon.

The Priest finds a skull of a lamb grown into the Oaks bark. He kneels and prays and thanks to Perun for the signed oak. He digs and discovers and old Altair near the oak.

DAURITAS

Helga, the Elders, do the Goths make the offerings here?

HELGA

The Goths are Christians now and do not warship oaks.

Then the Priest checks the river and throws a handsome of grain to the water.

Wodianoy and Rusalki already sway in the stream and watch the humans from the deep. Wodianoy has long mustaches. The wights rush to the grain.

Goths see a few fishes, the biggest one has mustaches.

THE PRIEST

The God Perun blesses settlement of Sclaveni in the area. Our little brothers, the creatures of forests and waters are already present here.

The Goths village - some days later.

Half a dozen of Sclaveni families approach the abandoned Goths village.

Forest and water beings creep along with Sclaveni hiding behind seldom trees and bushes, merging with bigger stones and water pools, sinking in the high grass of the steppe.

The colonists hear sounds of bare feet, notice the figures mingling with the background and reappearing again.

The Priest, Dauritas and Ardagastus meet the first colonists. Helga, her child and old Goths stay apart.

The Priest encourages the first colonists showing common demons and spirits are already settled here. The Goth woman smiles. A cross hangs on her neck.

DAURITAS

(hardly pronounces "H")

Olga, stay with your child and the elders as equal between the equals.

HELGA

You hardly pronounce my name, I am Helga, not Olga.

And she waves her hand adopting the change of the name.

HELGA- OLGA

I learned Sclaveni language from the slaves. Our slaves died first from starvation when famine came. The child is a foundling speaking both Gothic and Sclaveni.

ARDAGASTUS

(joking to Olga)

I would take Olga as the third wife. But Dauritas likes all foreign women he meets.

The colonists offer some grain and food to Domowoy of every abandoned the Goths house.

Sclaveni farmers dare to stay in the village.

Heroic colonization of Cherniakov culture starts. Hundreds of Sclaveni families walk with their poor property and few cattle to the abandoned Goths villages.

Dauritas and Ardagastus approach their father The Hunter, who takes a handful of soil- the fields are fertile. Even a hunter enjoys good farming conditions.

Dauritas finds a potter's wheel. Helga shows how it works.

Ardagastus wives envy Helga's necklace and her rob. They urge Ardagastus when they can expect such a presents from the Roman lands.

ARDAGASTUS

Dauritas, my wives think about booty from the rich Romans lands.

DAURITAS

I will not stop here.

ARDAGASTUS

It seems two wives is too much for me. Our child has born dead. I divorce the elder wife and find her a new husband.

Colonists' families continue moving to the south.

FADE TO

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPE VILLAGE- DAY

Ellac sends a messenger to the Goths. The Goths have to attract Dauritas attack on the slave caravan and to catch him and Ardagastus.

The Goths enter the village newly colonized by Sclaveni. They line up Sclaveni farmers and choose strongest men to be sold to Roman slavery.

The Goths warrior pools Domowoy from the hut. A man does not understand what kind of a degenerate the creature is. He beats the poor being, puts a metal collar and chains the collar to the vehicle.

A boy runs to the free Dauritas and Ardagastus village and begs to save the slaves.

Ardagastus rushes to attack the slave caravan.

DAURITAS

Let's do the opposite, let's take the Roman money dedicated to buy the slaves.

FADE TO:

EXT. DACIAN BAZAR- DAY

Dacian (Gepids-Sarmatians) city on the bank of Danube. Roman soldiers guard a rich Roman near the tent who explains the guardians they are waiting for the slave caravan.

Dauritas and Ardagastus walk in the cow market dressed in rich Sclaveni clothes with squirrel furs.

DAURITAS

Ardagastus, do you recognize the rich Roman? I need money to pay the ransom to Ellac for Solovey.

ARDAGASTUS
I need presents to my quarreling
wives- sisters.

They approach to the Roman Trafficker and present chained captives.

ARDAGASTUS
*Slava you, Roman. We have for sale
ten dozens of strong Sclaveni men.*

THE TRAFFICKER
(thirstily checking the
muscles of the captives)
I have another proposal from the
Goths. But I could pay you one
tenth of the deal now. The rest, of
ten golden coins for the each man,
I would be ready to come and pay in
thirty days.

DAURITAS
Take a half of the men.

They agree. The Trafficker orders to take a half of captives aside. The Trafficker invites Dauritas and Ardagastus to Ellac's tent.

Ellac has six beautiful horses for sale bind near his tent at the edge of bazar and the steppe. The Trafficker and Dauritas with Ardagastus admire the trotters.

ELLAC
Do Sclaveni are really very good
ghostly scouts?

ARDAGASTUS
Let's have a bet. My friend prowls
to the horse in the steppe
unnoticed by the Huns bowmen. The
Huns warriors can shoot the bow if
they notice the stalker.

Ellac agrees.

ELLAC
And every arrow that hits the scout
will cost you a dozen of your
captives.

ARDAGASTUS
Agreed.

The bound lads exchange glances.

River bank - Day.

The first bet

Dauritas, Ardagastus and the Huns come to the river bank. A crowd eyewitnesses from the bazar take places to watch the show. The Trafficker comes too.

A monoxyle brings Dauritas to another bank of the river. Dauritas stands near the rare bush and waits.

Ellac's trotter swims with a rider to the dedicated place for about five hundred steps to the right against the stream. The rider binds the horse to a lonely crooked tree.

Ellac whistles announcing the beginning of the bet.

Dauritas falls down behind the small bush and disappears. The scout prowls invisible.

The Huns bowmen stand at the opposite bank of the river and shoot some sporadic arrows to invisible target. The grass do not move when Dauritas prowls.

Dauritas appears near the trotter unexpectedly and catches the curb. He shouts proudly and rides the horse and swims on it through the river to Ellac.

The second bet.

Angry Ellac swishes the bowmen with a whip.

ELLAC

A demand the return game. I set on stake five horses against one the scout's horse.

THE TRAFFICKER

(whispering)

Take a present from this purple throw from my horse and tell the scout to use it.

ELLAC

I define a condition: the scout has to bring and to put this red throw on one of the five horses.

The purple throw becomes a good target for the bowmen in the steppe grass.

The warriors surrounds Dauritas and Ardagastus making impossible to refuse. Dauritas and Ardagastus discuss apart. Ardagastus gives something to Dauritas.

ARDAGASTUS

Agreed.

Dauritas starts the running with the death. He hides behind the rare bush.

The Huns archers wait for the Ellac signal. Nobody sees Dauritas and the red fabric. The bowmen shoot few arrows to the bush. No movement.

After a pause the red spot appears in the grass left to the bush ant starts moving to the direction of the six horses bind to a lonely tree right of the bush.

ELLAC

The stalker makes a circle.

Ellac takes his bow and hits the red target. More arrows hit the target and around it.

But the red spot glides despite the arrows. The grass fret and clearly shows the path and the target. The target approaches the horses. More arrows hit the purple throw. It stops.

Ellac happy announces his victory. Dauritas rises safe between the backs of the horses.

The throw is heavily pinned to the ground by the arrows. Dauritas binds the end of the rope to one horse and releases it from the ground.

The scout throws away a lot of arrows from the target and puts it on the horse. Then he swim the river back to Ellac.

DAURITAS

Let's have the third bet.

The third bet.

ELLAC

Scout, what do you want for the final bet against the six trotters?

Dauritas waits.

DAURITAS

I want my wife Solovey back.

Ellac takes two Y-shape sticks from his guard and throws to Dauritas's legs.

ELLAC

Is it yours?

The bowmen aim arrows to Dauritas and Ardagastus. The blood brothers nod.

ELLAC
(shouting speaks to the
bazaar people)
I set the final bet for the life of
rebellious Sclaveni Dauritas and
Ardagastus.

ELLAC
(in a lower voice to
Dauritas)
But not for Solovey which is my
wife and the mother of two sons.

ELLAC
(in a loud voice again)
If Dauritas refuses, he and
Ardagastus receives the death
penalty for releasing slave girls
from the river two years ago. The
stake is an indulgence for both
Dauritas and Ardagastus.

DAURITAS
We agree. How does he look like, my
son? His hair?

ELLAC
He is blond.

DAURITAS
What is his name?

ELLAC
My wife calls him Ardagastus.

Ellac orders a dozen of men with scythes to cut the grass on the wide strip.

The bold ground separates the bush on starting point and the six horses bind again at the tree five hundred steps against the stream.

Ellac permits Ardagastus to swim through the river and wait with the horses. Ellac gives to Dauritas a small shield to protect.

ELLAC
If you run fast maybe the bowmen
miss you.

The bowmen laugh.

Final run for life or death.

Dauritas stands at full-height at the starting bush and keeps the shield.

Unexpectedly he runs fast to the direction of the river. Few arrows hit the shield. Dauritas jumps to the river and dives. A swarm of arrows swoop the water.

TRAFFICKER
The scout tries to escape downstream probably.

The bowmen guard the river hundred steps downstream. Witnesses keep silent.

ELLAC
It takes too long time for a man to be under the water.

Underwater.

Dauritas with a stone in his pair of bags draws the underwater bottom herbs and stones by hands and drifts slowly against the stream. He uses a cane to breath for a while.

Underwater stock scene.

Dauritas puts a big stone to his pants. He draws the rope by hands and drifts slowly against the stream. The rope previously bind to a river stone by Ardagastus.

River bank.

Dauritas jumps from the water near the horses. The Huns guardians aim the bows to the Dauritas and Ardagastus.

The bazar witnesses shout and throw the caps to the air on the another bank of the river.

Ellac gives the sign by hand. The bowmen ground the bows. Dauritas and Ardagastus wave and quit with their price. (Moments later the Huns find the long rope attached to the underwater stone... Stock scene).

Everybody's attention is bind to the river. Few dozen of chained Dauritas' assumed captives throw heir chains easily, take the Trafficker to his tent and release him from his money.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The Goths with the captive Sclaveni wait for the Roman Trafficker in the agreed place. After three days waiting they receive news from a rider that the Roman is robbed and returns to the Rome.

"Rich" Sclaveni Dauritas and Ardagastus with few dozens of armed Sclaveni approach the Goths. It seems the clash is inevitable. Chained Sclaveni recognize Dauritas Sclaveni.

Dauritas and Ardagastus negotiate the angry Goths. They agree on ten times smaller price and Dauritas and Ardagastus take the captives.

DAURITAS

I take this poor being too. It can bring diseases for you.

Dauritas points to the poor Domovoy chained to the wheel of the carriage.

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE- DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus band enters the village. Freed Sclaveni captives follow them.

Ardagastus gives the gifts to his wives- silver necklaces.

ELDER SISTER

My collier is smaller and different color then my sister's.

She starts to cry.

Dauritas gives a Roman coin to Ardagastus to calm his hysterical wife. It makes other wife disappointed and crying. The sisters quarrel and demand more presents. Other people from village join the quarrel.

Dauritas and Ardagastus ride the horses to hide from angry women.

ARDAGASTUS

I decided to settle my wives in separate villages.

Ardagastus puts a shouting elder wife to the carriage. Dauritas puts freed Domovoy there too. Ardagastus brings the two to an empty Goths village and leaves. Happy Domovoy murmurs something to Ardagastus wife.

She throws a punche to him. Laughing Domowoy flattens on the Goths huts wall and looses his shape.

FADE TO:

EXT. HUNS TENTS- DAY.

Ellac embraces his youngest wife Solovey and his sun. The elder Solovey's son is blond and stands aside.

ELLAC

I met your former husband and
spared his life. He has
unbelievable scout talent and one
day Dauritas will serve me.

SOLOVEY

What did he say?

ELLAC

He asked how does his son look
like.

SOLOVEY

Is it all? And about me?

ELLAC

Nothing.

Solovey looks at her son.

EXT. COLONIZED GOTHS' VILLAGE- DAY.

Ardagastus leads a wagon with a nice dressed elder wife and her dot. A cow follows the wagon. They come to the empty Goths' huts. Ardagastus introduces three refugee Cherniaks to his wife.

ARDAGASTUS

Darling, choose one of the three
Cherniaks as your new husband.

The wife chooses their leader. Ardagastus settles the new pair in a hut.

ARDAGASTUS

We are relatives now since we
married the sisters.

A peaceful divorce is blessed by The Priest and the offering of the three cocks to Perun at the new altar near the old Oak ever stricken by lightning and the lamb skull in the bark. The Saint Oak buds.

People drink and eat at the wedding party.

Dauritas and Ardagastus dance a dance with each other under a fife melody. The dance and a melody become the additional sign of the blood brothers- Sclaveni Wolves.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROMAN MILITARY POST- DAY

The Latin speaking Roman (later we recognize he is the old villager "Roman" from Dauritas village) brings seventy Sclaveni slaves to Roman frontier military post. Few warriors guard the captives. Dauritas and Ardagastus walk chained between the other captives.

The Roman soldiers refuse to allow to cross the border. The Latin speaking Roman explains they have an agreement with the landlord of the closest villa to deliver a party of slaves.

A rider approaches and confirms the landlord is waiting the caravan.

On the way to the villa Dauritas and Ardagastus throw the chains and prepare arms.

The Landlord's Villa.

The caravan enters the villa. The landlord brings a pouch with gold. Dauritas exchange looks with Ardagastus- they recognize the Trafficker.

THE TRAFFICKER
(whispers to his wife)
I will resell them to Rome for much
bigger price because the Empire
values strong slaves from
Sclavonia. Christians slaves became
disfavored.

The Trafficker checks the slaves, their muscles and the chains. Suddenly he watches to Dauritas and looses the words.

Dauritas gives the sign and the assumed captives attack the guards of the villa. The robbers release the villa servant slaves.

ARDAGASTUS
You are free if go with us to the
North the Danube.

The frightened landlord reveals the cache in the vine cellar where his food and treasures are hidden.

DAURITAS
(approaching the room
servants)
Are these savings all the
treasures?

The room slaves betray a corner under the marble plate with much more savings. Half of the servants agree to go with Sclaveni and half decide to stay.

ARDAGASTUS
(to Dauritas)
Lets take Landlord's wife and
daughters as hostages and wait for
the ransom.

DAURITAS
It will attract attention from
possible persecutors. But the
ransom is good too. And you, the
Roman, better stop buying slaves
from the North of the Danube.

They take the hostages and agree with the landlord to meet him for a ransom north the Danube in a month.

The landlord with tears embraces his wife and two children and promises to send the ransom soon. The bind landlord cries and stares at the Dauritas and Ardagastus sign thrown at his legs.

The Villa - Moments Later.

Roman army officer rides the villa. The landlord shows the Sclaveni wolves sign YY.

THE TRAFFICKER
I demand the Roman soldiers to
persecute the band and save the
hostages and return my fugitive
slaves.

ROMAN OFFICER
Roman fort has very few guards. We
will send our Hunnic and Gothic
allies to fulfill their duty of
protection of Empire frontiers.

THE TRAFFICKER
 Do it. I fear of rising power of
 Sclaveni Wolves. If they make an
 allies of the Huns and the Goths we
 are in big trouble.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dauritas and Ardagastus with their band and booty reach the forest. They see the riders are following them.

DAURITAS
 These are typical Hunnic archers
 mixed with the Goths. Let's make a
 trick...

Five Sclaveni Wolves lead the freed slaves with the booty and cattle and sheep straightly to the Danube. After some time they leave the cattle and the booty.

Dauritas and Ardagastus with the warriors detour to the right, then again to the right.

The band of the mixed Hunnic and Gothic warriors persecutors reach fugitives.

Suddenly they find themselves in the middle of he flock surrounded by roaring cows and blowing sheep. The sacks of booty with clothes and ware lie on the way. Persecutors shoot some arrows and stop for a while in turmoil.

Dauritas and Ardagastus Sclaveni wolves appear unexpectedly from behind and fight pursuers in ambush. The enemy stops resisting and throw the arms. Sclaveni wolves bind them and leave.

They take arms from the invaders and turn to the Danube.

The wife of the landlord wants to speak with Dauritas.

HOSTAGE WIFE
 Sclaveni wolves never receive
 ransom for me and two daughters.

DAURITAS
 Why?

HOSTAGE WIFE
 I am a devoted slave of the
 landlord.
 (MORE)

HOSTAGE WIFE (CONT'D)
 The real wife with the sons mixed
 with the slaves which decided to
 stay in villa.

Dauritas gets angry and wants to beat the woman. Ardagastus stops him and laughs. Dauritas joins him. They laugh to the drain how simply the smart Trafficker fooled them.

FADE TO:

EXT. DANUBE RIVER- MORNING. (451).

Dauritas with two dozen of warriors hide on the bank of Danube and watch a hundred of people are crossing river on rafts. Most people on rafts are bound. Some guards with Roman armory watch them.

Few captives jump to the river. Pikes and arrows follow them. The stream drifts two dead bodies. One captive is wounded but succeeds to swim and hide in the reed.

Two others with bind hands dive downstream. Arrows fell to the water without reaching them. Fugitives turn on their back and river drifts them.

The guards convoy the slaves, men and women from rafts to the bank. Dauritas shows to Ardagastus a rich man of Eastern appearance and clothes.

ARDAGASTUS
 It is him again.

The Trafficker in slaves shouts angry to the chieftain of guards because three slaves escaped and two are shot dead.

Guards start to line all the captives on the bank. Trafficker follows the guards and writes down on parchment their names: *Bogoslav, Miroslav* and *Miroslav* again.

Then follows "*Miroslav, Bogoslav, Slavomir, Yaroslav, Sudislav*.

The Trafficker counts.

TRAFFICKER
 Twenty *Yaroslavs*, fifteen
Miroslavs. Stop. On the opposite
 bank we had seventeen *Miroslavs*, it
 means two *Miroslavs* are missing.

The Trafficker starts to shake a slave accusing him lying to be *Yaroslav*.

ROMAN CHIEFTAIN
Give them new Latin names instead
of boring "slav-slav".

TRAFFICKER
Good idea.

They make few tents and fire to prepare food.

ROMAN CHIEFTAIN
Feed the slaves.

The guards unchain the captives one by one and chain their hands in the front again.

Ardagastus and Dauritas with Sclaveni wolves hide in the bushes.

ARDAGASTUS
(whispers)
I am hungry. Let's try slave porridge?

Dauritas gives the sign to their men to follow them. Their linen does not differ from simple clothes of Sclaveni captives.

They prowl and covertly mix with the silent captives. And each receives a handful of hot porridge.

A Roman soldier delivers food and talks to his Chieftain.

A ROMAN SOLDIER
The dump trafficker can't count the slaves correctly. There is a dozen more of them than it was on the opposite bank.

The Chieftain approaches the Trafficker.

ROMAN CHIEFTAIN
We travel a week and my men need a half of their salary.

TRAFFICKER
The payment will be at a nearest Roman fort in 1 day. I do not travel with money to wild lands.

The Chieftain chooses two beautiful girls from the captives.

THE CHIEFTAIN OF WARRIORS
This is my salary.

He puts on legs a nice enchain girl from the line of sitting slaves and spank her back. A girl cries.

A slave sitting in the line orders to leave her.

THE CHIEFTAIN OF WARRIORS
Who speaks Latin here?

TRAFFICKER
I do not recognize this "sklave", I did not buy him.

At least he spots him and covers his head with the hands and heaves a groan: again Sclaveni Wolves...

The slave appears to be Dauritas. He hits unexpectedly Chieftain's legs. The man falls down. Two knocks to the head and Chieftain lies still.

Sclaveni ambush starts. Enchained slaves joins Sclaveni warriors and attack their guards.

DAURITAS
Nice to see an old friend again.
Release all captives and enchain the guards except the Chieftain.

TRAFFICKER
I am an honest trader. I have paid in gold to Gepides for these slaves.

The girl chosen by the Chieftain hits the Trafficker to the face. Slaves erupt to beat him. Dauritas stops them.

DAURITAS
The captives are free and their guards are slaves now. We take them to Sclavonia North the Danube.
Trafficker will write letters to their families for redeem. If not, they will stay with Sclaveni as equal farmers.

Trafficker is fast to take a piece of parchment.

TRAFFICKER
I will write and bring the letters to their families for redeem quickly.

DAURITAS
You write. And stay with us. The Roman will bring the letters.

He points at chained Chieftain.

Former captive Sclaveni accept Dauritas proposal to join the group with prisoners going to former Goths lands. People prepare the rafts to cross the Danube to the North.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE- DAY. (452).

The Goth warriors ride the village. They collect all the men from fields and show the Sclaveni Wolves sign- double YY of Dauritas and Ardagastus.

THIUDIMIR

You have to disclose the hiding place of damned raiders Dauritas and Ardagastus called Sclaveni Wolves. The Romans accuse them by making big troubles to slave traffic.

Villagers say nothing. Goths decimate village men. Every tenth men is head beaten by a stick in front of the village.

Eight crosses with crucified Sclaveni men stand in the village and two crosses crucify symbols of Dauritas and Ardagastus- huge Y-shaped sticks as a warning to them. The Priest and the Cherniak- the husband of former Ardagastus wife are crucified too.

Goths burn the Saint Oak and destroy stone Altair and douse the eternal fire.

Villager desperate watch the fire.

The falcon Rarug screams and flies from the burning Saint oak. The lynx Zwid hisses and jumps to the next tree.

EXT. SWAMPS - MORNING. (452).

Thiudimir and the Goth warriors expedition approach swamps to punish hidden Sclaveni village where Dauritas and Ardagastus hide.

A captive traitor shows the hidden way through the swamp. The invaders wade in the mud. Dauritas and Ardagastus watch the expedition from a distance.

The guide timidly checks every hassock.

A hassock makes a bubble and receives a swamp monster shape which dips the mud.

The guide frightened throws a piece of bread. A mud bubble covers the bred and takes it deep.

THE TRAITOR

We have to make offerings to the swamp deities. Otherwise we will die.

Thiudimir pokes him forward. According to Thiudimir's POV the hassock simply sinks.

Dauritas, Ardagastus and a dozen of other Sclaveni men take monoxyles and reach the beginning of the swamp path just the last warriors pass it.

Dauritas dives the mud and binds the rope to the lags under the water. Then people and 2 horses on the shore pulls the rope and pulls out the lags from the water.

Ardagastus takes a long stick and measures the deepness of water- it sinks very deep, underwater road is destroyed.

The Goths expedition reaches the end of the road, a warrior probes the deepness of the thin mud- his long stick does not reach the firm bottom.

The traitor is forced to dive and look for the extension of the underwater road. He does not find. He tries to escape but the arrow reaches him in the water.

Goths turn back. The shore is close. Some warriors fell to the deep mud. The Goths try the deepness with the sticks and do not reach the bottom.

Some wooden poles float on the surface. The back road is destroyed and they stop. Day goes to the end. Tired Goths prepare to sleep in the water. Very few with Thiudimir find place on the small island.

Sclaveni warriors appear from nowhere. A line of men on the shore stand and shoot fired arrows to Goths. From the other side divers surface to the small island and prepare bows with burning arrows.

Dig-out boats with sole warriors surround from open water side.

Two sides wait till the morning. Just few arrows flew in exchange. Wounded appear at both sides.

Goths and Sclaveni start to negotiate in the morning.

THIUDIMIR

Our warriors will punish Sclaveni
in winter when swamps are frozen.

Sclaveni keep silent.

THIUDIMIR

Our warriors will find Sclaveni
Wolves anywhere from the Mare
Suebicum (Germanicum, Baltic sea)
to the Pontus the Black sea.
Let us go in peace and I promises
to forget about the swamp people
and about tribute.

DAURITAS

We do not want to pay a tribute
anymore. The Swamp people never
paid tribute either to new invaders
the Goths and Huns either old
conquerors Sarmatians and Scitians.
You can go but leave wounded
warriors as hostages.

They make a deal leaving arrow wounded the Goths warriors as
hostages. Thiudimir promises to come back for them with a
ransom.

FADE TO:

EXT. FROZEN SWAMPS - DAY. (452).

Sclaveni drink much feasting a wedding. The Goths warriors
with the help of Sclaveni recruits surround the village in
swamps and take all to prison. They make use the few dozen of
Sclaveni wolves are drunk. Dauritas and Ardagastus escape.

Thiudimir shows two Y-shaped sticks and passes a sign from
Solovey- a red ribbon to the elder of the village..

THIUDIMIR

Pass it to Dauritas and say
Attila's son Ellac is anxious to
have Sclaveni wolves as scouts in
the Huns army. Otherwise you all
die.

Dauritas and Ardagastus voluntary surrender in exchange to
the freedom of their village. They are welcomed by Thiudimir
as famous scouts and raiders on slave traders.

THIUDIMIR

Welcome to Attila's army.

The Goths hostages already have sclaveni wives. Some of them refuse to go with Goths and decide to stay.

EXT. HUNS VILLAGE- DAY. (452).

Dauritas and Ardagastus ride together with the Goths as newly made recruits to the round tents of the Huns.

Thiudimir delivers Dauritas and Ardagastus to the Ellac's tent.

DAURITAS
Slava Ellac.

ARDAGASTUS
Slava Ellac.

Dauritas regards Solovey with two sons. One boy is blond and the younger one is dark.

Ellac friendly pats the famous scouts on the back.

Dauritas seizes the moment to exchange few words with Solovey. Solovey keeps hands of two boys.

SOLOVEY
Ellac married me as the third wife.
The Goths baptized me. Ellac is
even more in love with the
Christian woman.

DAURITAS
How is my son Ardagastus?

SOLOVEY
Ardagastus has a Christian name
now. And I have to shave his body
every few days...

DAURITAS
Then he is not...

SOLOVEY
He is not...

Ellac notices Dauritas speaks with Solovey and interrupts

ELLAC
Slava what do you want from my
wife?

Thiudimir laughs.

THIUDIMIR

King Ellac has found the correct name for these mercenaries.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST- DAY

Ellac with few Hun warriors rides behind his new pathfinders Dauritas and Ardagastus.

ELLAC

Scouts, our horde needs meat.
Reckon the wisents. The Huns are steppe people. We do not know much about hunting in forests.

Dauritas throws a handsome of dry hay and orders a hundred Huns hunters to hide windward behind the bushes on the border of forest- steppe. Sclaveni recruits with pikes lie in the high grass.

Dauritas and Ardagastus follow the footprints of wisents. Ellac with two guards watch the process.

Two dozens of the Huns driven hunting beaters with drums follow Ellac in the distance.

Dauritas throws a handsome of grain at the big oak in the forest.

A figure of lynx- Zwid twinkles in the oak. Falcon Rarug screams and flies from he oak.

Ellac and his guards glimpse at each other and frightened shoot arrows to the strange lynx. The arrows pass through the demon and stick the tree.

Dauritas shows to Ellac other oaks growing in the proximity. Ellac and his guards stare to the oaks.

Rarug roars. Strange forms appear in the every oak around the forest glade. Ellac pokes Dauritas to do something. Dauritas asks the skin of kumis from Ellac and receives it. Dauritas waters the oak with the kumis. Demons hush in the oaks.

The scouts find a herd of wisents and drive it with drums' noise to the direction of hidden hunters. Sclaveni hunters stand up and drive grounded pikes to the approaching herd.

Part of the herd hits the sclaveni line. The huge leader of the herd lows and the herd changes direction making a half circle after their leader towards the hill.

Then mounted Hun hunters attack the herd. Arrows hit wisents legs and hearts. Animals fall in piles. Sclaveni finish wounded wisents.

The hillside is covered with mountains of the kill. A half of the herd succeed to escape behind the hill. The leader lows again and the herd follows him back to the forest where the Hun riders have to stop the pursue.

FADE TO:

EXT. DANUBE RIVER- MORNING. 452

Ellac's tent.

Ellac invites Dauritas and Ardagastus.

ELLAC

You have to reckon Roman territory
and take a Roman prisoner for
interrogation. Constantinople
stopped paying gifts to the Huns
and my father Attila wants to give
Romans a lesson.

A hill with a Roman guard.

Ellac watches from the distance a silhouette of a Roman guard on the hill in the darkness of early morning.

Suddenly Dauritas figure rises nearby and embraces the guard. The bones of the Roman crepitate. He cannot breath and shout. Dauritas says in Latin- shout- die.

Dauritas carries the silent guard in the morning dusk. Ardagastus covers him with a ready bowl.

Ellac's band.

Ellac interrogates the Roman captive about Roman patrols and then kills him cutting his neck.

Roman village.

Ellac with the Huns, Thiudimir with the Goths and few hundred Sclaveni Wolves led by Dauritas and Ardagastus plunder Roman villages and towns south the Danube.

Dauritas and Ardagastus admire the richness of Roman farms, much herd, nice clothes. Hundreds of slaves congratulate invaders. Dauritas and Ardagastus meet many enslaved Sclaveni.

DAURITAS

Ellac, let's take the slaves with us?

ELLAC

I do not want to make one more reason for the Romans to persecute our horde.

DAURITAS

The Romans have a great debt against Sclaveni since they enslaved so many of them.

Dauritas and Ardagastus check empty Roman houses and do not find any traces of Domowoy. They look to a well- no sign of Wodianoy. They do not find any demons or other creatures in woods, rivers or lakes.

FADE TO:

EXT. STEPES- DAY. 453

Ardagastus rides to Dauritas and informs Attila is dead. They have to take part in the mourning. Civil war is possible between Attila's sons and the tribes under their rule.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI STEPPES VILLAGE - DAY

The Goths expedition including Dauritas and Ardagastus approaches Sclaveni village.

THIUDIMIR

Ellac ordered as to collect more recruits and mercenaries.

DAURITAS

It is good time to visit our tribes, because their have summer feast now.

The early Slavic settlement consists of 32 huts on two levels, all of them sunken floor and with stone fireplaces.

The Goth warriors with Dauritas and Ardagastus approach the crowd. Elders of the village give a drink to the king Thiudimir.

ELDER OF THE VILLAGE

Slava, Thiudimir the king.

Some women recognize their husbands serving in the army of Goths and screaming embrace them. Sclaveni warrior gives presents to his wife: clothes, silver or bronze coins, earrings.

Helga- Olga meets Dauritas. The old scene repeats when the Hunter gave a present to Dauritas mother- a purple peace of a clothe. Helga is happy with it but more happy to see Dauritas.

Ardagastus' sister-wives loudly embrace their husband and pulls the Roman clothes from his sack. An inevitable quarrel starts immediately.

Dauritas approaches Thiudimir with his wife Helga.

THIUDIMIR

How many wives do pagans have? I
see Helga is a German type woman.
So I understand who teaches
Dauritas the Gothic language. I
know only two words in your
language: "Slava and medos".

The proud wives of the recruits walk with the Roman clothes and make others to envy. Bazar starts immediately. Some offers a pig, a cock or a piece of fat or a sack with a salt to buy their wives a piece of the Roman fabric. The goths involve into the trade.

Goths and Sclaveni mix with each other and drink and eat in the middle of the village near the fire.

Village men admire the horseshoes.

An Goth warrior shows broken horseshoe to the Sclaveni blacksmith. The blacksmith is engaged. He makes an offering to the blacksmith god Swarog. The god's figure appears in the forge and makes fire and steam.

A GOTH WARRIOR

A horseshoe is invention of the
Goths and even Romans learned it
from us.

THIUDIMIR

Attila drunk too much Sclaveni
medos and died. And all people
sustained from food long. How do
you say it in own language?

DAURITAS

We call it *strava*, a diet or
mourning.

Ardagastus rises the cup of medos

ARDAGASTUS

To the glory of dead king Attila
and the Goths' kings Thiudimir,
Valomir and Vidimir. I promis to
give my next son a similar name-
Slavomir, the Glorious king.

A FOOL

When I have a son I would call him
Miroslav- the king of Glory.

Everybody laughs but it is are foreshadowing sign.

The Priest begins summer solstice festival. The Goths as guests are invited to watch a calf offering to Perun.

Helga walk with Thiudimir and explais strange behavior of Sclaveni.

HELGA- OLGA

The people celebrate *Kupala* pretty much as a huge wedding, and, it is followed by a general orgy. The youngsters couple and dance in circles and jump across fires. And the ritual bathing on this night is very important.

Priest announces the whole festivity is celebration of a divine wedding of a fertility god, associated with the growth of plants for harvesting.

The Domowoy on the roof of every hut seems to drink medos or kamos barley beer. The Goddess Lada walks in the crowd. Every man or a woman which meets her eyes feels a great passion and rush to find a partner.

Nude couples bath in the river and the orgy starts. Some Goths participate, but some are Christians already and sit aside at the fire and do not take part in orgy but observe everything with admire.

Thiudimir invites the Christian priest to help the Goths to resist the overwhelming lust. The priest takes a copy of Wulfila's Bible and reads. Goths listen and pray.

CHRISTIAN PRIEST

Matthew 5:28
*aththan ik qitha izwis, thatei
 hvazuh saei saihvith qinon du
 loston izos, ju gahorinoda izai in
 hairtin seinamma.*
 (MORE)

CHRISTIAN PRIEST (CONT'D)

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:29

ith jabai augo thein thata taihswo marzjai thuk, usstagg ita jah wairp af thus; batizo ist auk thus ei fragistnai ains lithiwe theinaize, jah ni allata leik thein gadriusai in gaiainnan.

— And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

A laughter and a cry fill the forest as response to the Christian pray...

Some of the Goths involve the orgy after the pray.

Nudes swim in the river. Rusalki mix with humans.

Couples and groups separate from the crowd and vanish in the forest.

Male and female Leshy join the orgy and mix with the humans. Sclaveni and participating Goths POV do not show the difference between the humans and the beings of lakes and forests.

Only Thiudimir and the priest POV clearly distinguish demons between humans and avoid the orgy.

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE - MORNING.

Goths warriors get up and wake up drunk Sclaveni sleeping at the fire. Goths warriors call Sclaveni brothers *Slava*.

A Goth warrior gets up embraced by a hand and a huge tit of a nude Leshy female. Both run away full of horror. Sclaveni laugh.

Another Goth warrior gets up in the mud of the river bank embracing a wonderful nude. His hand touches the back of the girl and finds a fish tail. *Rusalka* jumps into the deep.

Sclaveni bring tribute: grain, animals, honey.

THIUDIMIR

New mercenaries are required not only for the troops but for the farming. We offer them to take their wives and cattle to move to Pannonia, to cross the Danube. The Huns will give them land there.

Dauritas translates the words to the crowd and the crowd shouts happy.

A BOY
Mother what language the Goths speak?

BOY'S MOTHER
They are dump, "Nemtsy", stammerers
And Sclaveni know a word- "slovo".

Three brownies Domovoy sit on the three neighbor roofs of the huts and hesitate watching Sclaveni take their belongings from the huts and moving out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. A TENT OF GOTH WARRIORS - NIGHT.

King Valamir and his brothers Thiudimir and Vidimir sit in the tent.

Dauritas and two sclaveni warriors guard the entrance to the tent.

VALAMIR
Attila's son Ellac has about 50 thousand men including the Goths, Sclaveni, Alans.

A noise near the tent. Dauritas enters the tent.

DAURITAS
Gepids came to speak.

Three Gepid warriors enter the tent. Their chief takes the helmet off.

THIUDIMIR
King Ardaric.

Dauritas and other guards draw the swords.

Valamir calms them.

ARDARIC

The sons of Attila clamor the nations should be divided among them equally and that warlike kings with their peoples should be apportioned to them by lot like a family estate. So many nations were being treated like slaves.

VALAMIR

We all swore to Attila.

ARDARIC

The Huns claim the people from the East have to rule the people from the West. Do the Goths like to be slaves and die like slaves?

Thiudimir and Vidimir draw swords. Valamir stops them.

ARDARIC

The Gepids have crushed the Huns in few small encounters. The Huns are weak at defend. I swear to slaughter the Huns and all their allies tomorrow. But you have an opportunity. The Goths have to withdraw from the battle when I give a signal by the horn during the fight.

Valamir orders Dauritas to escort the guests from the camp.

The Goths brothers look at each other.

EXT. BATTLE OF NEDAO - MORNING. (454).

Ardaric rides in front of allied rebel army.

ARDARIC

Today our slavery is finished. The sons of Attila want to distribute the folks as cows or pigs. Let's show we are humans.

Allied rebel forces attack in a long line. Arrows buzz. Mounted and foot warriors attack together.

Ellac orders Hun warriors to shoot enemy by ride. Their recruit Sclaveni rows shout "Slava Ellac" and follow the Hun riders in both flanks. Goth warriors attack in the center.

Three Goth kings Valamir, Thiudimir and Vidimir withdraw from the battle and stand on the hill aside.

THIUDIMIR

"The Goths fighting with pikes, the Gepids raging with the sword, the Rugi breaking off the spears in their own wounds, the Suavi fighting on foot, the Huns with bows, the Alani drawing up a battle-line of heavy-armed and the Heruli of light-armed warriors".
(Jordanes)

Ardaric horn suddenly sounds off.

VALAMIR

(looks at brothers)
Order retreat to the Goths.

The horn sounds. Thiudimir brings a vehicle full of shields to Dauritas.

THIUDIMIR

Slava, cover the Goths retreat and keep Sclaveni position. You earn the shields. Then Sclaveni have to retreat too and let king Ardaric to slain damned Huns. Survivors are free *Slaven*. No more slaves.

Dauritas orders Sclaveni to regroup and to shield retreating Goths.

DAURITAS

King Valamir has set us free. Those who survive the battle.

Sclaveni shout "*Slava* the king, Glory the king" and shut their rows filling the free space. YY-shape wooden signs mark sclaveni shields. They stay still.

Panic appears between Huns due to retreat of their allies.

Huns' king Ellac orders Dauritas Sclaveni to attack Gepides. But Dauritas does not move and keeps his warriors position still.

Dauritas takes a purple ribbon he took back from Solovey and binds his hair.

ELLAC

(fighting with the sward)
Remember your son.

At least he turns to the other flank where Ardagastus leads his Sclaveni warriors. Ellac orders Ardagastus to move against Gepides. Ardagastus obeys and leads his Sclaveni into counterattack.

Ardagastus Sclaveni run forward but are forced into retreat.

Ardaric's Gepides rise and kill the Huns king Ellac.

Dauritas withdraws his warriors from the battle and follows Ardagastus group retreating to the forest.

Dauritas' Sclaveni turn to the right, then to the right again. Allay pursuers follow Ardagastus's foot men and quickly force them to defend. Mounted Sclaveni with Dauritas make a crook and attack the Germans (Gepides) from behind.

GEPIDES WARRIOR
You go, we slain only the Huns.

Sclaveni stop fighting.

Dauritas Sclaveni join the Goths king on the hill.

The Huns run. Ardagastus group runs together with the Huns. Dauritas cries to Ardagastus to find Solovey. Mounted Gepides and allays pursue them.

Three Goths kings watch running Huns and hesitate will Ardaric keep his word?

Furious Gepides run in attack towards the hill with the standing Goths. Ardaric stops them and aims to pursue running Huns...

FADE TO:

EXT. STEPPE- DAY.

Beaten Huns retreat with their families. Ardagastus rides to the women tents. He finds Solovey.

ARDAGASTUS
Ellac is dead. Dauritas is waiting for you and his son. Leave Ellac's son.

SOLOVEY
I take both sons or retreat together with the Huns.

The Huns quarrel and split.

A part of them with Ardagastus group Sclaveni decide to stay and probably to go to mercenaries for Constantinople.

Another part retreats to the east.

Ardagastus Sclaveni run away at night. Ardagastus takes Solovey with both sons together.

The Huns pursue the deserters till the forest line. Sclaveni hide and frighten the Huns shouting from the different sides. The Leshy helps them to frighten the pursues.

EXT. SAINT OAK FOREST- NIGHT

Priestesses keep fire near the Saint Oak. Old priest prophesies.

THE PRIEST
Great Sclaveni Wolves Dauritas and
Ardagastus will return and lead the
people to the West and the South.
Sclaveni have to cross the Danube.

The Priest repeats these words at any scene.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE- DAY.

Some fugitive farmers return from the forest. People discuss how to live without Huns, without Goths.

The Priest announces they must to spread all the directions and even take a chance to follow the Goths to the rich Roman lands and cross the Danube and go south to former Roman but empty lands.

THE PRIEST
We love the freedom. Whose who want
peace go to the North, West and
East to our former brothers, which
still warship the God Perun and
Saint Oaks. The bravest have to
take empty Goths and Roman lands.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE- DAY.

Captive Romans and the slave trafficker watch hand made pottery producing. Dauritas finds the Goths wheel to make pottery and teach Sclaveni to make nice wheel pottery.

Ransom comes for the trafficker and few Romans, but two of them already has wives and stay in the village.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI FIELD - DAY.

Sclaveni work in the field. They take a brake and drink water, eat. They discuss already many years no Huns no Goths came for tribute.

A boy runs from bushes and shouts the Goths are approaching.

About 20 riders with typical Goths armory slowly approach farmers. Sclaveni "farmers" take hidden shields and pikes and form a line. A "Goth warrior" seems to be Dauritas.

DAURITAS
The Goths went to Rome.

Farmers happy salute Sclaveni warriors. The crowd return to Sclaveni village.

About sixty Huns riders appear in the horizon.

Dauritas orders warriors to form a line.

Sclaveni warriors ride the horses and form the line at the edge of the village. Farmers armed by tow pikes and a big shields form another line between huts. A group hide in ambush.

Huns approach whistling. Few arrows hit the houses.

THE HUNS CHIEFTAIN
Slava, brothers.

He throws to the ground Y-shape stick. Dauritas recognizes Ardagastus.

People happy throw their arms. Huns recruits embrace Goths recruits and village people. Medos and kamon (barley drink) flow.

ARDAGASTUS
We served the Huns and retreated
with them to the East.
(MORE)

ARDAGASTUS (CONT'D)
But the Goths at Pontic sea have
beaten them.

Dauritas and Ardagastus show their wounds.

Goth and Hun mercenaries show what treasures they have. The give some gift to village girls and happy women embraces newcomers and follow them to the haystack.

People gather at fireplace in the middle of the village.

Elder of the village tells they occupied these fields when Goths abandoned their villages and fled to the Roman empire beyond the Danube. Now they have very good harvest and big families. Nobody demands a tribute.

Dauritas shows a handsome of gold Roman coins and invites people to cross the Danube to empty lands abandoned by Huns and Goths.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST- DAY OR SCLAVENI VILLAGE

Few strangers come to Dauritas and Ardagastus. Their leader gives a big peace of amber and presents themselves as Aisti tribe.

AISTI
We, Aisti, trade amber with Rome.
We need your help to cross to the
Danube without to be robbed.

DAURITAS
The Langobards protect the amber
Route. Isn't it?

AISTI
We had an incident with the
Langobards and the Goths patrols
who claimed for a half of the
caravan amber as a tribute. After
the clash few patrols were killed
and the caravan escaped to the
forest. The amber road is not safe
this year because of fighting
between the Germanic and the Hun
tribes.

The Aisti leader shows a long shaft axe.

Dauritas and Ardagastus agree to show the way. They receive few big pieces of amber.

DAURITAS

We have to make an offering the biggest piece of amber to Perun.

They walk to the Saint oak and start to pray. The Aisti kneel at the Oak altar and pray in their language.

The Priest demands what God do they pray.

AISTI

We have the same main God called Parkuns, we warship saint oaks as you do.

Dauritas and Ardagastus are happy and tap the Aisti to their backs.

DAURITAS

We never thought we have brothers who speak similar language and warship Perun. Do you know other gods *Semargl, Veles, Lada, Triglav, Dajbog?*

AISTI

The Aisti legend tells many years ago our Southern tribes faced fierce conquerors. *Semargl* isn't amongst our gods. It is an alien Sarmatian or Scitian god. The mighty Perun unites us.

Steppe- night.

Three Germanic tribe Langobards patrols sit at the fire near the trade road in the narrow place between a river and a lake.

Somebody in the far starts another fire and grass on the fields goes on fire. The Langobards run to the fire. At that moment Dauritas and Ardagastus hurry up the amber caravan to cross the control post. They leave two Y-shape sticks at the fireplace.

River bank- night.

Goths patrols watch the steppe from the high bank of the river.

Dauritas with five riders approach the patrols. They explain they have a message to Theodoric. They entertain the patrols with some medos and food.

At that moment amber caravan people swim in the river hidden behind the peace of trees.

Dauritas says good by to drunk patrols and joins the caravan few miles further. They separate and say good-buy to each other

Roman fort on the Danube- Day.

The amber caravan reaches Roman fort and the city on the Danube. Aisti amber traders together with Dauritas and Ardagastus deal with Roman traders and receive some iron tools, armory, silver jewelry and clothes as payment.

Langobard and Goth patrol post- Day.

Another much bigger patrol of trade rout control holds the Aisti on the way back. They disarm the men and accuse them by crossing their territory without paying the tribute.

Dauritas and Ardagastus watches the incident from the distance. They hesitate.

ARDAGASTUS

It is not our business to protect the Aisti anymore. We have fulfilled our obligations and received the payment in amber.

DAURITAS

The Aisti have the same ancestors as we have. It is our duty to protect our blood.

ARDAGASTUS

They did not help when our great grand parents faced Scitians and Germanic tribes.

DAURITAS

Because we are not used to have a king.

Dauritas and Ardagastus Sclaveni Wolves stalker close to the patrol.

They watch the Langobards punish the Aisti leader by cutting the right hand and put the stump to the live coals to stop the bleeding.

The Sclaveni Wolves ambush the patrol and free the Aisti.

ARDAGASTUS
(turns to one of the
Aisti)
What is the name of your leader?

THE AISTI
Dauritas, like yours.

On the back way Dauritas and Ardagastus present themselves to Langobards and Goth patrols as the owners of Aisti caravan Going to buy amber to the Baltic sea.

(An option to make miniseries for amber route adventures).

FADE TO:

EXT. SCLAVENI FOREST- STEPPE VILLAGE- DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus give the presents to their wives. Helga is very happy.

Solovey is upset. She insists Dauritas to choose one wife from two since she is Arian- Christian.

Ardagastus's wives quarrel as usual and interrogate Ardagastus what presents other wife do receive.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. DANUBE RIVER- MORNING.

A small group of Roman scouts watch Sclaveni families are crossing Danube by rafts. They take cows, pigs, sheep with them.

[Music- Beethoven's Ode to Joy mixed with "We Slavs"]

ROMAN SCOUT
It is the third group of barbarians crossing the river this weak. There are no warriors with them.

ROMAN CHIEFTAIN
I will report to the Fort the barbarians are peasants. There are no Sclaveni Wolves, no robbers between them. One day Romans will recover their border at the Danube and force them to pay taxes...

Sclaveni groups cross the Danube.

Sclaveni fill the roads. Romans watch.

Sclaveni enter empty Goths villages.

Sclaveni start to work at Goths fields.

Sclaveni moves to Balkans.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. GOTHS VILLAGE - DAY. (STOCK SCENE).

Famine in the Goths village. All the Goths approach their king Thiudimir (father of Theodoric, brother of Valamir and), with great outcry, beg him to lead forth his army in whatsoever direction he might wish. He summoned his brother and, after casting lots, bade him go into the country of Italy, where at this time Glycerius ruled as emperor.

Goths meet Slav warriors and farmers moving together. They are ready to fight them for deserting. But Slavs stand firm and chant: *Slava. Slava.* Dauritas rides in front of his people.

Dauritas greets Goths king, "Slava you, Thiudimir and ". He reminds king's promise to Dauritas and the retreat of Goths in the Battle at Nedao river.

Goths decide do not start a new battle.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. BYZANTINE FORT- MORNING. (STOCK SCENE).

Byzantine fort on Danube. Soldiers discuss Goths invaded Rome. A group of armed slaves march openly the road. People frightened cry "Fugitive slaves, slaves from Rome". Byzantine cavalry guard attacks them, troops follow them. Slaves do not run and faces the attack chanting "*Slava, Slava*". Byzantines stop.

The SLAVE LEADER announces that the Rome fell and they go home North the Danube.

Byzantine officer bans to cross Balkans as they belong to Constantinople.

The Slave leader proposes to stop them. A new group of Roman slaves appear in the horizon.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SCLAVENI VILLAGE IN PANNONIA - DAY.

Dauritas and Ardagastus discuss proposals of the Goths and Byzantines to serve as mercenaries.

Dauritas with five hundred Sclaveni warriors decides to follow Theodoric in his march to Italy.

Ardagastus with few hundred Sclaveni decides to accept Byzantines offer for three years together with the remnants of the Huns.

FADE OUT.