

EXT. DACIAN VALLEY - DAY

TITLE CARD: DACIA 82 AD

We establish the beautiful Dacian territory. Magnificent mountains surround the lush green fields. The path in the middle of the field leads to a fortress.

THEADOR (V.O.)

The Mesmerizing landscape of Dacia, south of the Danube, currently part of Romania and Moldova, was one of the most beautiful and sought-after territories during that era because of the vast iron, silver and gold resources.

A chariot pulled by a couple of fine horses passes by. DIURPANEUS 30 is on the chariot. He is strong, well built, with blue eyes, brown hair and a beard. We follow the chariot.

The chariot reaches the wooden gates of the fortress. A soldier on the watchtower looks at the chariot and signals to open the gate. The gates open, and the chariot rides inside the fort.

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

The chariot rides past the civilians on the stony path towards the main entrance. The soldiers guarding the entrance are wearing attire made of wolf skin.

INT. FORT - DAY

Diurpaneus enters the hall and walks through the lobby.

THEADOR (V.O.)

After the death of the great king Burebista, Dacia split into five smaller states, each fighting against the other to gain total dominance. The two powerful tribes were the Dacian and the Getae tribes. Diurpaneus was the General of the Dacian tribe ruled by King Duras. Both Tribes had exceptional warfare tactics.

INT. KING'S COURT - DAY

Diurpaneus enters a massive court. KING DURAS 50 is sitting on the throne talking to some COURTIERS. Duras glances at Diurpaneus.

2.

KING DURAS

This is outrageous. Getae intrusions can not be tolerated anymore.

DIURPANEUS

We have a substantial threat at the northern front. The emissary warned us of Roman activities.

KING DURAS

I am aware of that, General.

DIURPANEUS

The tribes have to unite. Dacia should be one again. The Romans have been spreading in the name of religion, vanquishing tribes and their beliefs by force.

Duras ponders for a moment. A SOLDIER comes into the court panting. He bows down to the king for a moment and gets up.

SOLDIER

My king. The Getaes launched a surprise attack near the Hercynian forest. Our Men can't hold them for long.

KING DURAS

Sacrilege. Dacia will not take any more of these insults. General lead the army to Hercynian at once, along with Commander Varco. I want to see Gavril's head at my feet, begging for mercy.

Diurpaneus bows before Duras and leaves the court.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Diurpaneus is standing in front of an army of around 400 men. Everybody is armed with spears and shields. VARCO 24 is standing behind Diurpaneus.

DIURPANEUS

Men, we are at war. The Getaes attacked near Hercynian. Their arrogance is standing tall. We will force them to kneel.

He looks at Varco.

3.

DIURPANEUS (CONT'D)

Varco, you will take the Sortham unit
and attack from the east. I will lead
the attack from the south gate.

He looks at the army.

DIURPANEUS (CONT'D)

Make them regret their decision.
Dacians, Are you READY?

ARMY

Aaaooooooooooooo!

They howl in unison.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FOREST (EAST) - DAY

The dense forest of Hercynian is established. Varco, leading his unit, looks up. On the enormous tree, a soldier is spying ahead. He looks down and signals Varco to move forward, and the men reciprocate. The Soldier jumps further, grabbing another tree in front of him.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST (SOUTH GATE) - DAY

Diurpaneus and his unit are marching down the goat path in the forest to reach the edge of a hill. They all lie low for cover. Diurpaneus looks down from the peak to witness the tired and outnumbered Dacian soldiers in battle with the Getaes. Diurpaneus finds Getaes archers on the tree, targeting Dacian warriors.

DIURPANEUS

Archers target their archers on the
tree. Rest follow me.

Archers stay behind and start targeting the Getaes archers in the valley. Diurpaneus quickly takes the little path on the side to reach the ground.

DIURPANEUS (CONT'D)

Shield high and attack.

They run to support the struggling Dacian warriors from the overpowering Getae warriors. Getae warriors are surprised. Two Getae warriors attack Diurpaneus with swords. Diurpaneus leaps and stomps on the shield of one and flies over to the other warrior, slitting his throat.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST (EAST) - SAME

Varco and his unit can hear the waging battle. They gaze at the soldier on the top of the tree. He signals something with his hand. Suddenly, an arrow pierces his chest with brute force, knocking him down the tree. He falls next to Varco.

VARCO

Disperse and attack.

Everyone disperses behind different trees, taking cover. The flying arrows are hitting the tree trunks from the top. The Dacian warriors cover their heads with the shield as they move forward. Varco runs to take cover behind another tree when he is suddenly kicked on his chest by a Getae warrior who hid behind the tree. Varco thuds to the ground as his helmet rolls off his head. STAGOS 25, well-built, with black hair and a beard, stands in front of Varco. Stagos removes his helmet.

STAGOS

This time, you won't be lucky.

VARCO

My sword doesn't need luck.

Varco rolls over lightning quick and picks up his sword. They both dash at each other. Stagos overpowers him and pushes him to an enormous tree trunk. He swings his sword toward Varco's neck, but Varco's sword intervenes. Stagos pushes his sword with brutal force. Varco sustains the strength of Stagos. They both growl at each other. Varco seeks opportunity and kicks Stagos in the stomach, making him fall back.

Varco moves forward with his sword, hitting Stagos's shield and pushing him back. Suddenly a massive 10 feet round boulder falls right between them, making them collapse on the ground. Some pieces of rock hit Stagos on the head, leaving him unconscious. Varco, confused, gets up to run towards the south gate but realises his leg is injured. He limps into the forest.

The boulders fell from the sky, crushing the trees and killing Dacian and Getae warriors.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST (SOUTH GATE) - DAY

Diurpaneus is fighting with a warrior, and a huge boulder falls from the sky and crushes the warrior to a pulp. Diurpaneus glares at the sky.

DIURPANEUS

WARRIORS RETREAT!

5.

They all stop fighting and run to the top of the hill. A large army is lined up at a distance, with dozens of catapults hovering over boulders in the forest. The Roman flags flutter in the air.

DIURPANEUS (CONT'D)
FUCKING ROMANS!

He looks at his men.

DIURPANEUS (CONT'D)
Head back, Men!

They scramble through the forest, watching out for the falling boulders.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST (EAST) - DAY

Stagos is lying on the ground, unconscious. The Boulders are still falling from the sky. Four of his WARRIORS come towards him. One warrior carries him up on his shoulder and runs to safety while the others follow him. They come across a cave and enter it.

INT. CAVE - DAY

As soon as they enter, a gigantic boulder hits the top of the cave's entrance, shutting it off.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST - NIGHT

Varco, limping around, goes from one tree to another. He is tired and hungry. The boulders have ceased to fall. Varco takes the cover of a fallen tree trunk on the ground. He inspects his injured right leg, which is still bleeding. He tears a piece of cloth from his attire and ties the wounded part of his leg. Suddenly, a noise from the nearby bushes alerts him. He looks in that direction, drifting his hand towards the dagger on his waist.

A large ferocious WOLF leaps out of the bush and stands 10 feet away from him. Its steely teeth reflected the moonlight. Its eyes sparkle with the smell of food in front of him. The Wolf slowly moves to the side, looking for the perfect angle to attack. Varco, holding the dagger, gets up, taking support of the trunk.

The Wolf GROWLS. Varco flashes the dagger, which is as shiny as the wolf's teeth. Varco lowers his stance to have a clear sight of the wolf. The Wolf slowly circles. Varco follows its move with a limp.

The Wolf takes the opportunity and leaps on Varco. Varco rolls on the ground and gets up quickly on the other side. The Wolf lands on the ground and turns around quickly. Varco takes his stance. The Wolf cautiously moves towards Varco. Varco takes a few steps back. Varco hits a rock and falls on his back. Seeking the opportunity, the Wolf leaps over Varco. Varco grabs the neck of the wolf with his left hand. The Wolf tries to force itself on Varco. The drool from Wolf's massive mouth falls on Varco's face.

Varco tightens his grip on Wolf's neck. The Wolf wriggles to get some air. Varco quickly tips the Wolf on the side and swings the dagger. The Wolf leaps at lightning speed and gets back on its feet. Varco tries to get up, but the Wolf is too quick. The Wolf leaps at him and bites his shoulder. Varco SCREAMS in pain. He takes the dagger and plunges it right through the heart of the Wolf. The Wolf HOWLS in pain and falls back on the ground. Varco stands with his bleeding shoulder. He jumps on the Wolf again and sinks the dagger right into its forehead. The Wolf stops howling. Varco rolls himself off the Wolf and lies down next to it on the ground.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Stagos is lying on the ground, unconscious. The warrior, NAMIS 30, tries to create fire by clashing the stones. A spark starts the fire. The other three are sitting near Stagos. First, in Command of Getae, LAZARUS 30 is checking the heartbeat of Stagos. CIGOR 28 and MAWKIS 27 are standing next to Lazarus.

CIGOR

Is he dead?

LAZARUS

No, still breathing.

MAWKIS

We need to take him to Theador soon.

CIGOR

First, we need to find a way out of this cave.

LAZARUS

You two look around and see if there is an opening.

He tears a piece of his cloth and looks at Namis.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Namis, remove the threads from the cloth and heat the knife.

(MORE)

7.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

His wounds need stitching or he will
bleed to death.

Cigor picks up a fire wood and starts walking along with Mawkis
to find an opening.

EXT. HERCYNIAN FORREST - DAY

Sunlight hits Varco's face through the trees. Varco slowly opens
his eyes. He turns his face to see the massive dead wolf's face
with the dagger still lodged in its forehead. Immediately, he
gets up, grabs the dagger and pulls it back. He looks at his
wound on the leg. The blood is dried up on the wound. He sits
beside the wolf's body and starts skinning it. Varco is drooling
while he is skinning the wolf.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Cigor and Mawkis come back to the spot. Lazarus looks at them.

LAZARUS

So...

CIGOR

We found something.

LAZARUS

What is it?

CIGOR

Come with us...

Lazarus rooks at Namis.

LAZARUS

Namis, you wait here.

Lazarus follows Cigor and Mawkis. They found an opening around
100 meters above from where the sunlight was hitting the ground.
They reach the center and look up. Lazarus looks around to see
if is any way to go up, but can't find any.

CIGOR

We searched, but there was no other
way.

MAWKIS

The stones are steep and wet, so
climbing up is impossible.

LAZARUS

We have to find a way.

8.

Lazarus looks around. He goes near the wall to check. He takes out his dagger and stabs at the wall. Powdered mud falls on the ground. Lazarus looks at Cigor and Mawkis.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

It's mud. We have to build stairs to the top.

CIGOR

But that will take months or maybe years.

LAZARUS

You have a better idea? There is no other way out.

MAWKIS

We need to survive first. What are we going to eat?

Lazarus looks around. He looks at Mawkis

LAZARUS

Give me your bow and an arrow.

Mawkis hands him the bow and an arrow. Lazarus aims it at Mawkis's head. Mawkis gets scared.

MAWKIS

What are you doing, Lazarus?

Lazarus pulls the bow and releases it, shifting his aim. The arrow whooshes past Mawkis's ear. Mawkis touches his ears in reflex and looks behind. The arrow hits something, and it falls on the ground with a SQUEAL. Mawkis stares at Lazarus. Lazarus and Cigor walk to the squealing thing to find a BAT. Lazarus looks at Mawkis and Cigor.

LAZARUS

What? I bet it tastes good.

They all have a disgusting look on their face.

CIGOR

What about the Commander? If he doesn't get up, he might die.

LAZARUS

Mawkis.. Collect some water from the wall.

They all reach back to the fireplace where Namis is guarding the unconscious Stagos.

9.

Lazarus takes the wet cloth from Mawkis and twirls it to extract water. The water drops spill on Stagos's face. They wait for Stagos to come into senses but in vain.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

This is not helping. We will have to keep him alive.

Lazarus takes the dead bat and holds it right on top of Stagos's mouth. The flowing blood falls in Stagos's mouth.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

This will keep him alive. Cigor, Mawkis and Namis. Start the stair work. One of us will have to be here always to protect Stagos. We will take turns.