

AGNI

Written by

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ACT I

OVER BLACK, FADE IN:

A flame flickers behind the page of a scroll that reads..."When the rivers of time began to flow..."

The words disappear while colorful paintings animate to depict the history of this world.

YOUNG GIRL'S VOICE (V.O.)

When the rivers of time began to flow the gods deemed it right to create our world. They nurtured plants into existence and birthed the animals around us. They were given claws and fangs to hunt. Horns and shells to defend. But they blessed **us** with their greatest of gifts. A piece of their own essence; *Atma*. For a time the world flourished as we led all beings under the laws of the gods, but it wasn't long before some of them grew envious. Their anger and bitterness for our *Atma* twisted them into monstrous *Asuras*. Lord Gokulam, king of the gods, took pity on us and granted a worthy few a boon. These *Vizvas* were given access to the power of the gods.

A peaceful origin.

Many great battles.

The lives lost.

YOUNG GIRL'S VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

However, they could not protect us for long, especially not from ourselves. The greed of man led some to turn from the divine and waged untold violence against the world. The gods, in their sorrow, entrusted the sages to hide their power from the world. Hoping that one day we will be wort--

The flow of the paintings sits still when the flame brightens.

YOUNG BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)

Lux! I know the stories!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - DIMLY LIT

POV - The scroll is jerked down as a young boy with scruffy hair - AGNI - sits cradled at the end of the bed.

A poised teenage girl - LUX - gives her younger brother an unimpressed look.

LUX  
You're rude.

AGNI  
You're not answering me.

LUX  
Agni, you know we always go through  
the scriptures.

AGNI  
We always go through them with ma.  
When will she be back?

Lux pulls back.

LUX  
I- I'm sure she will be back soon.

Lux composes herself placing the scroll aside and moves to the edge of the bed beside her little brother.

LUX (CONT'D)  
You know Agni, the sages speak of a  
few Vizva that may still live among  
us. Scattered across the lands  
guarding the ancient vessels that  
give them their power. I know ma  
will be protected.

Calmed but unconvinced, the boy puts his head down.

AGNI  
Sure...

LUX  
Hey, come on!

Lux walks to a desk and lights an incense, placing it beside a small idol and lamp.

She turns to Agni.

LUX (CONT'D)  
We're not done yet.

Agni joins her cross legged on the floor.

Lux spoons some water out of a small bowl.

The water is poured into Agni's palms followed by a respectful drink, running his hand over his head once finished.

LUX (CONT'D)  
(off-screen)  
Give me your hand.

CLOSE UP on their hands as she ties a bracelet on his wrist.

LUX (CONT'D)  
This will help protect you from any  
and all of the dangers in the  
world. A part of my *Atma* with you,  
and a promise to always keep you  
safe.

Agni stares bright eyed slipping a soft smile at his new gift.

Lux glows with excitement then pauses.

LUX (CONT'D)  
So... where's my gift?

Agni's eyes slowly squinch.

AGNI  
OH!... I...uh...ate it. Sorry.

Lux tickles Agni playfully.

LUX  
Really?! You're hopeless.

AGNI  
(laughing)  
Hey! I was hungry and you know  
*jamun* are my favorite.

LUX  
Don't think you're off  
the hook for this!

AGNI  
Wait -

Agni runs across the room towards a shelf along the wall.

He unties a ribbon from the sheathe of a *khanjar* resting on another atop a shelf.

Running back to his sister, Agni takes her arm.

He gently ties the ribbon onto Lux's wrist.

AGNI (CONT'D)

With this I promise to always help you...and never eat a *jamun* meant for you. A part of my *Atma* with you.

Lux stares at the ribbon with a toothy smile.

LUX

(softly)

Good save.

Agni and Lux sit in front of the small idol and incense.

LUX (CONT'D)

Together?

AGNI

Together.

They put their hands together in a prayer and their eyes softly close.

LUX

What do you think the gods are trying to teach us, Agni?

The boy shrugs.

AGNI

Hmmidunno.

SLOWLY MOVING IN BETWEEN THE SIBLINGS, ACROSS THE BED AND TOWARDS THE DOOR AT CENTER SCREEN.

LUX

If power is used to hurt life, we shouldn't have it. Remember to always be true to your word, as the dispeller of distress and darkness watches over us all. Like the demigods of old, with great devotion we can overcome any obstacle. You must never hurt, never lie, and never steal.

Title appears - AGNI - closing in on the front door.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The door is burst open by a boy cradling a mound of coins in his kurta. PEDESTAL UP to a sweaty teen with shoulder length hair fumbling into the room.

Slamming the door shut behind him and pulling a shelf for extra measure, he runs to the bed dumping the coins into a cloth bag.

An old bracelet dangles from his wrist, given to him years ago as the 16 year old AGNI puts his sheathed blade into the bag.

The door shudders.

ANGRY MAN'S VOICE  
(off-screen)  
Open the door, Agni! NOW!

AGNI  
Uh--yeah--just a second, be right there!

Agni slings his bag on, rushes towards his open window.

His head peeks out and glances the angled roof below.

EXT. KOLINGA TOWN - SLUMS - DAY

Agni jumps onto the roof outside his window before walking to the side of the canopy and TILT DOWN lands on the ground.

The boy slowly peers out of a corner.

Leaning beside an open door, a scrubby bearded man locks eyes with Agni as he spits his toothpick out.

GUARD 2  
HEY, HE'S HERE!

A wide eyed Agni scurries from the corner.

AGNI  
Crap!

Agni runs into the crummy alley chased by two guards.

Boxes, barrels and debris lay by the back doors Agni runs past in the narrow passage.

He grabs his bag by the sling and chucks it above the spiked top fence ahead.

Agni slides under the wooden barrier, just barely.

He scoops his bag off the ground and looks back with a chuckle.

Agni races down a small flight of stairs towards a street and makes a hard right, he returns to go the other way, a guard gives chase.

Weaving through the packed street painted by the multicolored clothes hung on wires stretched across the low rooftops - Agni sports a large grin.

He pulls boxes down and leaps across a fruit cart landing on a path downhill.

Agni springs off a wall down to another street with the guards hot on his tail.

A monk pours water out a spoon into a cupped pair of hands  
RACK FOCUS SHIFT to the background as Agni zips by.

A large idol of a deity cross legged holding a trident sits at the altar in the town's square with a small figure running towards it.

Agni is overshadowed by the statue before he turns a corner.

The boy runs past a puddle continuing forward while the guards follow.

Agni quickly looks back with a snark grin that just as quickly fades once he refocuses ahead.

A guard sporting a top knot and large belly blocks the path.

GUARD 1  
Agni, STOP!

Agni slides across the muddy ground making a hard right into a narrow alley with the men tailing behind.

AGNI  
No, thank you!

Agni runs through the cramped alley out of breath until he looks at the end of his path with a large smile.

The light at the end of the alley silhouettes a walking man with a turban - YASH - resting a stick on his shoulders with a steaming pot on either side.

AGNI (CONT'D)  
(off-screen)  
Hey, Yash!

As Yash turns around Agni glides under the hot pots and behind the long bearded man to safety.

Yash turns his head back to see Agni scurry into the street at the end of the alley.

AGNI CONT'D  
Thanks. Sorry!

The guards are blocked by Yash.

GUARD 2  
Move! Move!!

One of them pushes the pot only to get burnt as Yash nudges.

YASH  
Agni, if they break these, I swear  
to the gods!

The big bellied guard shimmies through the skirmish and turns the same corner as Agni.

EXT. KOLINGA TOWN - BAZAAR TRADE DISTRICT

LONG SHOT as he arrives at the steps leading into a bazaar filled with vendors selling everything from spices and flowers to jewelery and weapons.

The guard walks through the market keeping an eye out.

Further down the path, a short old lady in a saree walks beside an undercover Agni, carrying a large bag of hay on his back and a pot of water above his head.

OLD LADY  
And he had the nerve to say I was  
the one being nosy. I know he's  
been through a lot but I just hope  
Bheem knows he can talk to me.

AGNI  
He's smart. Maybe he's just trying  
to protect you.

The old lady smiles with warmth.



OLD LADY  
Thoughtful as ever, Agni. Hope you  
aren't getting into any trouble  
these days?

Agni hesitates.

AGNI  
Aunty! Me? No!

OLD LADY  
Lux used to be a bit more  
convincing.

Agni lets out a solemn smile but is quickly snapped back  
with the old lady's warning.

OLD LADY CONT'D  
You might want to take the next  
ride out.

Another guard approaches a merchant and his cow with Agni  
sneaking by on the opposite side; the guard continues in  
the other direction towards a voice.

OLD LADY  
(off screen)  
Guard! Guard!

Agni grabs a red piece of cloth from a vendor stall.

He drops a few coins on the table.

The cloth is wrapped around Agni's neck pulling a hood over  
his head as he walks straight into a crate of pots, knocking  
several of them over.

A man with a badge pinned to the sash across his chest -  
PRATHEEK - spots Agni's clumsiness and commands.

PRATHEEK  
He's heading for the West gate!

Agni makes a break towards the edge of the bazaar headed for  
the village gate.

His eyes widen. The path to the village gate is clear.

Freedom in sight Agni runs towards the gates - WHAM - he is  
tackled by a guard out of frame.

INT. MANYA'S OFFICE

A shelf holds many artifacts ranging from scrolls to daggers with the background out of focus showing a figure seated at a desk, working.

A quill is held tight by the hand that signs open scrolls.

A gold badge pinned to the sash around the man's chest glistens.

JUMP CUT TO:

Agni's face is cut open with a crossing fist.

BACK TO:

A door opens slowly behind which a man with a bandana informs the commander.

FORT GUARD 01  
We caught him, sir.

JUMP CUT TO:

A punch to Agni's liver. He wheezes.

BACK TO:

The quill is gently placed on the table as the large man stands up straightening his uniform and walks.

JUMP CUT TO:

A foot stomps Agni's head down.

BACK TO:

The commander walks down a dimly lit hallway.

EXT. FORT - VERANDAH

Agni is kicked to the ground by one of the guards.

His chin pressed against the ground, a bloodied Agni softly growls to look up.

Out of the hallway, the large man paces towards the open courtyard where Agni lays in between 2 guards and Pratheek.

A booming voice mocks Agni.

MANYA  
Pulled away from work for the  
monkey of Kalinga.

Agni struggles up to his knees.

The large man with a buzz cut and beard - MANYA - towers over Agni in an assertive stance.

MANYA (CONT'D)

Agni.

Agni glares back.

MANYA (CONT'D)

Stealing from me? Even the *Vanara* would have been smarter.

Manya gestures over to Pratheek.

Pratheek walks over with Agni's bag and holds it open.

Manya reaches into the bag and grabs a handful of coins before pouring them back in.

AGNI

That's not your money. The people--

MANYA

Are hurting. They **need** protection. It's what I provide them and they will be grateful for it.

Manya fishes out Agni's blade from the bag catching his eye.

AGNI

This town owes you nothing.

He unsheathes the weapon with closer inspection.

MANYA

The Empire couldn't care less about this town. Not during the war, and not now. The only reason this town is still here is because of me.

AGNI

The war is over and you're still taxing us to hell. You're the damn thief, Manya!

Manya sits to hold the blade flat below Agni's chin, raising it with a grin.

MANYA

I am building something for me... for Kalinga.

AGNI

Piss off!

CLOSE UP as the blade spins with the edge pointed straight for Agni's throat. GULP.

Manya pushes the blade closer to Agni's throat.

MANYA

Rajput steel cuts deep as a scorpion's tail. You've received a lot of leniency over these years, Agni.

Manya lets a menacing smirk slip and rises to his feet.

MANYA CONT'D

But theft is a crime that can't go ignored. As a final courtesy I will let you choose which hand to give up.

AGNI

Courtesy?! You took more than gold from me!

Agni sports a defiant look on his face, nostrils flaring.

AGNI (CONT'D)

You're a coward who hid here from the war. So weak that you need others to fight your battles!

He sheathes the blade responding with smug confidence.

MANYA

I earned this.

AGNI

You would be nothing without her!

MANYA

Lux...was helpful. Bloody shame she isn't here to help you.

Agni bolts for Manya with loud rage.

AGNI

SHUT THE HELL UP!

Manya stops the boy by grabbing his face.

Agni is slammed to the ground by Manya's overpowering force.

Nose bloodied and ringing in his ear, the boy struggles to keep his eyes open.

POV - The hand returns to his imposing posture as Manya looks down at a fading Agni.

MANYA

And for attempted assault on an officer we will also be taking your other hand.

FADE TO: BLACK

FADE IN: BLACK

INT. FORT'S JAIL CELL - NIGHT

POV - Agni's eyes open blurry, catching hints of his surroundings.

He sits up, immediately looking at his hands. Agni sighs with relief and scans the musky cell.

He scrambles to the door, desperately rattling the bars.

A club taps the cell on the other side. PEDESTAL UP to - BHEEM - a lanky teenager with a mohawk leans against a wall.

BHEEM

How's the escape going?

Agni faces in the direction of the voice with raised eyebrows and slips a smile.

AGNI

Bheem? Oh you know, just great!  
Biding my time until you drop your guard.

Bheem readjusts his oversized uniform.

BHEEM

Sounds like you'll be here a while.

Agni flails his arms and slumps down.

AGNI

You know this is messed up right?

BHEEM

You shouldn't have stolen, Agni.

AGNI  
I shouldn't have had to!

BHEEM  
(off-screen)  
You didn't **have** to!

Agni scowls.

AGNI  
What do you know.

Bheem frowns and turns away from Agni.

BHEEM  
I lost my parents too.

AGNI  
You didn't lose everyone.

Bheem leaps in front of the cell door.

BHEEM  
My brothers aren't here!

AGNI  
They're not dead!

BHEEM  
You don't know if Lux is dead! How  
can you even say that?

AGNI  
She's been gone five years, Bheem.  
What do you think?

Bheem looks solemn.

Agni softens and drops his gaze.

AGNI (CONT'D)  
I saw your granny before I got  
caught.

Bheem smirks.

BHEEM  
Oh, yeah?

AGNI  
I feel like she's worried about  
you.

BHEEM

I mean, she's **always** worried. Just never about herself.

Agni chuckles.

AGNI

Lux was kinda like that...  
I miss her.

BHEEM

We miss her too.  
Things would be better if she were still here...Granny says that all the time.

LONG SHOT of the jail hallway with Bheem facing Agni's cell in the distance.

AGNI

(off-screen)  
Yeah it would...

EXT. FORT - VERANDAH

A drop of rain lands on a single blade of grass in the courtyard; a downpour follows.

Water runs down the tiled roofs of the low building.

INT. MANYA'S BUILDING - OFFICE

Agni's knife rests at the end of a desk.

Manya writes on a document followed by reading another note from a pile.

Pratheek sits slouched on a seat across the table.

PRATHEEK

That kid has gone off the rails.

Manya grunts but continues to read the next page.

MANYA

He's no longer an issue. What is an issue is how he had you running across all of Kolinga.

Pratheek straightens up in his seat.

PRATHEEK

Agni is slippery! That brat even had towns people helping him.

(MORE)

PRATHEEK (CONT'D)

Ever since Lux, you've let him run amok. I could have this sorted-

Manya looks up sharply.

MANYA

If you could have anything sorted your father wouldn't have left you here under my command.

Manya returns his gaze down to his notes and continues writing.

The lieutenant snaps his gaze away.

MANYA CONT'D

Pratheek. You clearly need to get to know the city better if Agni can out pace you. You'll be taking part in the night patrol for the next few weeks.

PRATHEEK

Manya! You can't!

MANYA

I have.

PRATHEEK

My father will-

AJIT, a stern bearded guard, enters the doorway.

AJIT

Sir, Mr. Rao is here. Shall I tell him to wait?

MANYA

No, let him in.

Manya looks back at his lieutenant.

MANYA CONT'D

You're dismissed.

Pratheek exits the room brushing aggressively past MR. RAO, a plump older man, at the entrance.

Manya rises and places his hands together.

MANYA

Namaste, Mr.Rao. A pleasure to see you again.



MR. RAO  
Likewise Superintendent Sagar.

Manya gestures towards a seat.

MANYA  
Please.

Mr. Rao delicately leans a leather case against the table before taking his seat.

MANYA (CONT'D)  
I see you've submitted papers to bring in more workers and equipment. I take it things are going well?

MR. RAO  
Not quite. If I may?

Manya nods and moves his documents aside as Mr. Rao gently pulls out a map from his leather tube.

Rao places the map on the table but fails at flattening a stubborn corner.

Manya places Agni's knife on the corner with a subtle smirk.

MR. RAO (CONT'D)  
So as you see, we've been spread thin. Our hope is that the extra hands will speed up the search for the temple.

MANYA  
It will be a great boon to find this for the people of Kolinga and the nation.

MR. RAO  
Indeed! With all these promising signs I can't help but think we're close! We just need to narrow down the search.

Manya looks back at Mr. Rao.

MANYA  
Well..

Manya turns from the table and pulls a tattered scroll from a shelf.

MANYA (CONT'D)

...I think I have something to help with that.

INT. MANYA'S JAIL CELL - NIGHT

A hand flicks a pebble.

It rolls towards a stone in the middle of a dirt circle and settles just shy of its target.

Agni's hand reaches outside the bars of his jail, lines a pebble and flicks.

His pebble hits its mark, nudging the stone further to the edge.

Agni looks for another pebble with no luck.

AGNI

Hey, I'm out of rocks.

Bheem brushes a hand full through the bars before lining up his next shot.

BHEEM

Wait... so if my pebble knocks the stone out of the circle I win?

Bheem flicks.

AGNI

Again... Yes.

BHEEM

But you did most of the work.

Agni pauses from flicking.

AGNI

Oh...Dammit.

Both of them lean wall to wall, laughing.

AGNI (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. What if you draw a smaller circle on the inside, you have to knock the stone in, and I have knock it out. Sound good?

BHEEM

Yeah, sounds good.

Bheem draws the inner circle.

BHEEM (CONT'D)  
Lux was better at this.

AGNI  
What are you talking about? I used  
to beat her at games all the time!

BHEEM  
Except you forgot half the rules...

AGNI  
Hey, its been a while!

Agni shoots his pebble.

BHEEM  
Lux kept us out of a lot of  
trouble, hey?

Agni's head drops as a smile leaves his face.

AGNI  
She was pretty good at that.  
Doubt I'd be here right now if she  
was around.

BHEEM  
Unless she put you here herself.

BHEEM AND AGNI  
(mockingly)  
Never hurt. Never lie. Never steal.

The boys laugh.

Agni glances back to the game and signals Bheem.

AGNI CONT'D  
Hey, it's your turn.

Bheem's face is saddened, eyes watery.

AGNI CONT'D (CONT'D)  
(off-screen)  
Bheem?

Agni's questioning face is darkened by the shadow of the  
figure stepped in front of him.

TILT UP as Bheem unlocks the cell door.

He pulls Agni to his feet.

AGNI CONT'D (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

BHEEM  
(quivering)  
Get out.

AGNI  
I can't! They'll know it was you!  
Bheem pulls Agni out of the cell.

BHEEM  
GET OUT! Lux can't help you. This  
is all I can do.

AGNI  
Bheem-

BHEEM  
GO!

Bheem pushes Agni down the hall.

BHEEM (CONT'D)  
You have thirty seconds. Then I  
call the others.

Agni turns back and nods with recognition before running  
towards the exit.

Bheem stands alone in the hallway silhouetted by the hung  
fire torches, he lets out a fearful tear.

INT. MANYA'S BUILDING - VERANDA - NIGHT - RAINING

A patrol carries a torch away from a stone stairwell, Agni  
pokes his head up and sprints towards a pillar.

WIDE SHOT OF THE COURTYARD as Agni bolts from pillar to  
pillar before settling in front of a set of stairs.

He scans across the courtyard.

AGNI  
Looks pretty empt-

The sound of a creaking board causing Agni to jump and tuck  
himself under the stairs.

Pratheek heavily stomps down the steps.

PRATHEEK

Night patrol! ME?! All because of  
that little vanara!

Agni smirks and climbs up the underside of the staircase.

Pratheek turns down the corridor narrowly missing Agni  
stashed above him before walking away.

AGNI

(Mockingly)

Night patrol!

Agni wriggles between the top two steps and crawls up to the  
second floor.

He stops and furrows his brow.

POV Agni - Ajit is in front of Manyas office, TILT UP to see  
a gap between the wall and the beams above.

Agni looks at a pebble in his hand.

A tap down the corridor makes Ajit look over his shoulder,  
but he turns back.

A few more taps follow and Ajit looks around, walking  
cautiously towards the sound as Agni scrambles up the  
closest column.

Ajit snaps back and sees nothing but a light of a patrol  
turning the corner.

Agni takes a breath and crawls along the beam over the wall.

INT. MANYA'S BUILDING - OFFICE

RAO

This map is incredible! And I  
already have a small troop nearby!  
The temple may be found before my  
main excavators even arrive!

MANYA

In that case, may I suggest taking  
some of my men as extra hands and  
protection. Get a jump on clearing  
the way as soon as possible.

RAO

A great idea! There is simply no  
way I'd ever be able to repay you.

MANYA  
This discovery alone-

Manya stops when he hears a bell ring.

RAO  
Superintendent?

Pratheek bursts through the door.

PRATHEEK  
The brat escaped!

Manya shoots a furious glare at Pratheek.

MANYA  
(Roars)  
Lieutenant!  
(calms himself)  
Please, escort Mr. Rao to safety. I  
will handle the prisoner.

Pratheek composes himself and gestures towards the door.

PRATHEEK  
Mr. Rao, my apologies.

RAO  
Will we be ok?

Manya places his hand on Rao's back and gently but firmly leads him out of the office.

MANYA  
Of course. This is simply  
procedure.

The men leave the room closing the door behind them.

Agni drops down from the rafters.

He spots his bag beside Manya's desk and scoops it up.

He smiles when he sees his knife and grabs it as the corner of the map curls over.

The ram imprinted on the hilt of the knife REFOCUSES to an emblem of the same ram on the map.

AGNI  
Lux...?

Agni snatches the map and secures it in his bag.

He swings the bag over his shoulder knocking a hanging lamp.  
Oil drips to the table and begins to smolder on the paper.  
Agni leaps out the office window into the darkness outside.  
The room door opens, Manya steps in.

MANYA  
(muttering)  
Incompetent-

A small fire consumes the top of Manya's desk.  
Manya's eyes shimmer, irate.

MANYA (CONT'D)  
Agni!

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT - RAINING

Agni pulls himself over a boulder and catches his breath  
leaning his head against a tree.

He glances over solemnly back at his village.

Agni turns sharply in the other direction and pulls the map.

AGNI  
Okay, Lux... What did you find?

The boy's shadow fades towards the density of the jungle as  
thunder booms.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. JUNGLE - MISTY MORNING

A bird sits on a tree branch, cleaning its feathers.

A droplet of morning dew slides down a rhubarb leaf as Agni walks by.

Disheveled and exhausted, Agni lugs himself forward.

He pulls the map out, reads it, then flips it right-side-up as his stomach growls.

AGNI  
(sotto)  
Stupid jungle...

Agni cautiously leaps over a mossy boulder towards a large Banyan tree root.

The roots suffocate the jungle floor creating pools of water within the gaps.

Agni wobbles across the roots to the base of one of the trees.

He notices the roots ahead converging into a bridge that disappears into the misty jungle.

Agni pulls himself up the largest root and walks along it onto the bridge.

He heads across the bridge disappearing into the mist as the silhouette of three monkeys swing across the tree canopy. The trailing larger monkey stops swinging. It drops down to the foot of the bridge landing silently.

Agni reaches halfway across the the bridge, seeing only mist ahead.

He looks back and sees only mist behind.

He stops at the sound of gushing water and glances down to see the river below.

His eye catches sight of two lights through the haze.

Agni drops to his belly, camouflaging himself within the bridge.

The lanterns carried by two indistinct figures walk under Agni along the river.



The boy releases his breath and darts to the other end of the bridge.

Agni slides down into a grove.

EXT. JUNGLE - GROVE ARCHWAY - MISTY MORNING

WOMAN'S VOICE  
(off-screen)  
Fresh naan, ready to eat!

Agni ducks down, tilting his head towards the sound.

EXT. JUNGLE - CAMPSITE - MISTY MORNING

A steaming banana leaf package is clutched by a 20-something woman with a mischievous smile, walking to the edge of a small campsite shrouded in mist.

PRIYA sits on a boulder besides a spiky haired young man, JAI, who sits up with sudden excitement as the food nears.

Jai grabs for the leaf bundle but Priya pulls it away.

PRIYA  
Hey! You're acting like the damn  
*Vanara*.

JAI  
Come on! I've been waiting all day  
for this!

PRIYA  
Make em count, I only snagged a  
few. I can't believe those lawless  
apes managed to steal some of our  
supplies twice already.

Priya opens up the banana leaf bundle, a plume of steam escapes to uncover several fresh wraps of naan.

JAI  
Isn't that what you just did...?

PRIYA  
...Shut up.

CLOSE UP on Priya handing over the naan to Jai as he pulls on the other end, ripping it in half RACK FOCUS to reveal a doe eyed Agni hiding in the bushes.

The two tear into their meal with delight.

Agni cautiously inches his way to the stash of naan resting beside Priya.

Agni's stomach growls and he dives behind some large pots and Priya and Jai look around.

PRIYA (CONT'D)  
You hear that?!

JAI  
Yeah...you think it's a *Vanara*?

PRIYA  
What if it was a tiger?

JAI  
...no.

PRIYA  
Go check it out!

JAI  
Nooo...

PRIYA  
Why not?

JAI  
It could be a tiger!

Priya raises an eyebrow, unimpressed.

Jai drops his shoulders and sighs, he gets up grabbing the pickaxe near him, walking in the direction of the sound.

He brushes past Agni who watches from a gap between the pots.

JAI (CONT'D)  
(muttering)  
Why is it always me...

As Jai disappears into the fog, Agni sneaks towards the tent set up behind Priya.

Agni's hand delicately pinches the corner of a naan wrap and slips it out of the leaves.

An impish smile runs across Agni's face as he bites down ripping a piece into his mouth.

JAI (CONT'D)  
(off-screen)  
No tiger here!

Priya responds with a sassy tone.

PRIYA  
Quit being lazy. Search properly!

Agni shoves the rest of the naan into his mouth and pulls on the edge of another, wiggling it half out of its pouch.

He pulls away, interrupted by voices behind him.

GRUFF WORKER'S VOICE  
(off-screen)  
Why are they looking for a tiger?

WORKER'S VOICE  
(off-screen)  
Who knows...

Keeping an eye out, the boy returns for his prized naan.

Priya reaches for a naan but is grabbed by Agni. She shoots up to her feet.

PRIYA  
VANARA!!

Agni snatches the wrap.

He runs back to the grove when Jai emerges from the fog.

Agni skids to a halt.

JAI  
It's over he-

A shadowy figure swoops down from the trees, tackling Jai into a tent. A tail slithers out of sight.

Agni's eyes go wide, he bolts into the camp with a mouthful of naan.

A warning bell rings frantically.

A choir of monkeys echo through the canopy.

Agni runs past some tents, *Vanara* fly across the branches above, their hollering rising in intensity.

One bounces off the top of a tent knocking it down. Screeches of glee sound off all around Agni.

PRIYA  
(off-screen)  
There's a *Vanara* in the camp!

Agni rams into the crumpled tent, tripping on a peg.  
He spins left, knocking into a figure, spins right.

WORKER

Watch it!

The worker freezes, turns back to Agni.

WORKER (CONT'D)

Wait-

Agni lifts the man's kurta above his head, pushing him over the peg and runs off.

A roar of monkey laughter erupts.

Silhouettes of people charging towards Agni are bombarded by diving *Vanara*, cutting off his exit.

He spots the treeline to his right and dashes out the campsite into the thick jungle foliage; the howls get louder.

He crashes through branches continuing ahead into a small clearing. His shoulders drop.

His once ally, the fog, has led him to a cliff wall.

AGNI

Come on!

Agni launches himself towards the cliff, he scrambles for a hold but slides back down - THUD - he falls into a bush.

Behind the broken branches he spots a crack in the wall.

Agni shimmies through the small nook in the rocky wall pulling some shrubs as cover.

POV - Agni watches between the gaps as rays of light cut the mist between the trees. A furry figure on all fours approaches. It pauses in the clearing and rises to its feet, shoulders pulled back. A beast in the shape of a man - suddenly - Agni drops.

INT. CAVE WALL RIDGE

The ground gives way and Agni falls into the earth.

He slides down a ridge towards a light.

AGNI

AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!

Agni tumbles through an opening and - SPLASH - he breaks his fall in a shallow pool.

EXT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE

Agni coughs up the water and inhales deeply slowing his panicked breathing. He looks up and his eyes dilate.

ARC SHOT as Agni rises from the water in the deathly still cavern LANDING ON the golden temple sanctuary that towers the boy.

Spires from the temple graze the hanging stalactites illuminated in a soft glow.

The largest tower is enveloped in glowing moss and vines as steady streams of water flow down the two smaller towers.

Screeching pierces through the cave opening. Pebbles rattle down into the water startling Agni.

He scrambles towards a flight of stairs.

Rushing past a pair of elephant sculptures, he makes his way out of the water.

Wet footsteps echo across the cavern as he sprints further into the temple.

He arrives at the large open entrance of the central tower, flanked by scorched and broken stone guards. Agni rushes inside.

He heaves the door closed behind him. His heavy breaths begin to slow down.

Agni notices lit lamps on either side of the ledge by the steps and hesitantly grabs one, walking ahead.

AGNI  
(sotto)  
Woah...

INT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE - HALLWAY

The lamp reveals the carvings on the stone wall depicting warriors and animals across different battles.

Agni follows the epic portrayed along the hallway.

## INT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE - PILLAR CIRCLE

At the top of the stairs, Agni enters a chamber encircled by eight hanging pillars with carved faces, blue Sanskrit markings of light envelop them.

The base of the pillars are formed of glowing water that silently flow into a circular mandala on the floor.

Agni's face is illuminated as he approaches a pillar.

He slowly reaches for the water but it repels around his fingers.

AGNI

Haha!

Agni pulls back his hand before slicing through the base.

Water splatters along the floor, the column momentarily losing its glow and the stone above groans.

The interrupted water resumes its flow without a sound as Agni sports a toothy grin.

AGNI (CONT'D)

That's so cool!

Agni follows the stream into an open hall ahead, walking past one of the columns in ruins.

## INT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE - ALTAR HALL

Pillars line both sides of a stretched out pathway leading to a light source.

The floor is decorated with patterns showcasing the seven chakras of the body from the base to the head of the hall.

Agni paces towards the end of the room where light trickles down illuminating a giant stone idol.

The idol wears a crown with a ringed halo and is peppered with overgrown foliage as his cupped palms are held open towards a bowl at its base.

Agni walks to the bowl, transfixed on the other worldly sight.

ZOOM IN on the brass bowl, lined with overlapping petals emerging from the stand, like a lotus, which sits at the center of a circular altar.

He gently lays his lamp at the base of the circular altar before walking up a few steps towards the bowl.

The bowl sits in the foreground, Agni looms.

The elixir within the bowl sparkles, containing a slew of colors warping into each other with hypnotic charm.

Agni's eyes reflect the liquid in a daze.

He kneels softly.

Agni cups his hands and gathers the elixir in his palms, gently drinking it with closed eyes before running the rest over his head settling his hands together in prayer.

His eyes open to reveal no pupil, glowing orange irises begin to split in two.

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE  
(off-screen)  
INTRUDER!

Agni snaps back from the trance, blinking. The flame from his lamp dances momentarily.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

A gust of wind bursts from the doors of the hall down the columns towards Agni.

Wind wraps the bowl sealing the petals shut.

Agni looks around while stepping away from the vessel.

He squints through the whirlwind.

The flickering flame of his lamp goes out.

A twister blasts across the room as a female figure sporting a red saree with gold bangles and a ribbon necklace, levitates to the ground.

Agni covers his face from the oncoming blows of air unable to discern who he sees.

The young woman lands with grace, and with a dance like stance pushes a fierce gust towards Agni.

The boy is flown back farther away from the bowl.

Agni slowly gets to his feet.

AGNI  
What the hell?

His eyes widen.

AGNI CONT'D  
(quivering)  
Lux?

Lux stops her next move.

LUX  
Agni? ...Is that really you?

Agni does not blink.

AGNI  
(sotto)  
No...

Lux smiles and jogs closer to her brother.

LUX  
I--I can't believe this!

Agni is frozen in shock.



AGNI

No...No...

LUX

You've grown. I never thought I'd see you again.

Lux reaches out to help Agni up. He slaps her hand away and leaps to his feet.

LUX (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!

AGNI CONT'D

This is a trick. What do you want, Asura?

LUX

What? Asura?

AGNI

What's going on here? Why-why you?

LUX

What do you mean, Agni? How did-

AGNI

Bullshit!

Agni lunges out at her.

LUX

Stop!

Lux uses a blast of wind to launch Agni away.

He harshly rolls along the ground landing on his side.

LUX (CONT'D)

Agni! I-I'm sorry!

Lux walks towards Agni as he slowly gets up.

The boy draws his blade facing Lux, trembling with fear.

AGNI

Stay back!

Lux holds her arms up trying to calm her brother down.

LUX

Please--

Agni scrambles to his feet and runs the way he entered.

Lux slips into the pillars.

Agni darts along the columns as Lux's silhouette glides with the wind gaining pace.

He breathes heavily making his way for the door when Lux suddenly appears in front of Agni.

LUX (CONT'D)  
Hey.

AGNI  
AH!

Instinctively, Agni swipes his blade at Lux which is gently dodged with her dancer movements.

Agni continues his escape towards the hanging water pillars just outside the door.

LUX  
Wait!

A whipping wind catches Agni's feet, he trips and slides through the main doors.

INT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE - PILLAR CIRCLE

Agni looks up at the silent running water from a pillar and back at Lux. She glares.

LUX  
Agni. Step away from those.

Agni turns back and attempts to slice the water.

Lux whips her hand out with another gale pulling Agni away from the glowing stream.

LUX (CONT'D)  
Hey!

Agni regains balance heading towards the next closest pillar but is whipped away again.

Before he can make another move, Lux gestures and a torrent of wind traps Agni at the center of the enclosure.

Lux steps into the vortex.

LUX (CONT'D)  
ENOUGH!

Subtle sparks burst out of Agni's hand as he grips his dagger.

Lux looks at her younger brother with piercing eyes before taking a breath.

LUX (CONT'D)  
Agni, please, you have to listen to me.

AGNI  
Why should I listen to a word you say?!

LUX  
I'm your sister!

AGNI  
My sister is dead!

Agni points his blade at Lux even as she inches closer.

LUX  
What? No, it's me. It's Lux.

Agni squeezes his eyes shut shaking his head in denial.

AGNI  
Stop. Stop it. Stop lying!

LUX  
Please. I'm here. I'm alive!

Agni's eyes open, his iris a glowing orange instead of brown, and a tear rolls down his cheek.

AGNI  
Then why did you leave me?!

Volcanic cracks form up Agni's hands and forearm.

Lux stands still, speechless.

Agni raises his knife, embers flying through the arc. A spark hits the vortex and with a flash - BOOM.

A wave of smoke and debris sends Lux flying back.

The blast engulfs the hanging pillars, wiping out the silent water and the columns are violently torn from the ceiling.

Dust and smoke floods the temple halls as the pillars fall to the ground; their mystic glow fades into particles.

Agni's silhouette gets up, coughing as he wades his hands through the smoke.

His bracelet lies on the ground tattered, RACK FOCUS to him running down the hallway.

INT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE ENTRANCE

Agni stumbles, battered and bruised and hears the sound of bells echo through the corridor.

He rushes past the entry doors, blown clear off their hinges.

EXT. GOKULAM'S TEMPLE

Breathless, Agni sprints down the submerged temple gate towards the water.

He hears a blast of wind from the interior of the temple.

LUX  
(banshee howl)  
AGNI!

Agni trips in the stale water but does not stop.

INT. CAVE WALL RIDGE

He squeezes his way up through the cave shoot.

EXT. JUNGLE - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Ripping himself out of the hole Agni tumbles into the thick jungle.

Looking back, he trips and lands onto his elbows. A foot steps, inches from his nose.

TILT UP Manya towers over.

MANYA  
Karma's a real bitch, ain't it?

CUT TO BLACK

END OF ACT III