

TALES OF THE TRIBE - EPISODE III

TITLE : NATIA'S LAMENT

(Draft #2.1, 29/12/2016)

CHARACTERS :	ANIMALS :
MAKALANI	RACCOON
NATIA	HUSKY
TIKO	PIGEONS
WARRIOR #1	HORSE
WARRIOR #2	SNAKE
SABIT	

*The evening is quiet with sounds of insects chirping. The village is almost settling in for the night. A **VILLAGE GIRL** is seated on the teepee stage left, attempting to braid her hair. The sound of a woman's voice humming can be heard as **MAKALANI** walks out on stage, distractedly feeding the raccoon on her shoulder, not noticing the audience watching. She sits and plays with the raccoon for a bit until she finally notices the crowd watching her. No men are around at the moment as they are all out on a hunt. **MAKALANI** turns to the audience and acknowledges them.*

MAKALANI

Oh hello! I didn't see you there. Oh at this age, everything starts to go. Anyway, where's my manners now; *Humalaya Malayana!* Welcome everyone, to Monkey Valley! I see that some of you have returned for your second visit even. Welcome, welcome! *(beat)* My name is Makalani, storyteller and teacher of the ancient art of healing. And this little one in the front is Natia, daughter of the Malayana tribe chief, Kukuntalu.

NATIA

(Smiles wide and greets with an open heart)
Hello everyone! It's nice to meet you.

MAKALANI

(to the audience)

So Natia came to me earlier asking if she could speak to me in private. I'm going to find out what's on her mind right now.

(to Natia)

Natia, you wanted to talk to me about something?

NATIA

Yes, *nehu*. I want to ask permission for me to go hunting with Haku and Father. (*Expressing bitterness*) I don't understand why Haku gets to go all the time when I'm the older one! I'm just as strong; if not, faster than he is. It's not fair that he gets to go and I don't.

MAKALANI

My dear girl. Come here. Come to me.

MAKALANI reaches for a plank bridge and hands it across the river to **NATIA**. The girl places the bridge over the water feature and crosses over to Monkey Valley stage. **MAKALANI** gestures for **NATIA** to sit in front of her, back facing her. **NATIA** sits and **MAKALANI** helps her with her braids.

MAKALANI

Natia, you shouldn't compare yourself to your brother. You are an intelligent girl with wit and inner strength. Your time will come. Just you see. And when that happens, you'll show the boys what you are made of. But all in time. And only once you are ready.

NATIA

(*looking into her grandmother's eyes, looking for truth*)

You really think so, *nehu*?

MAKALANI

I know so, Natia. I know -

Sounds of commotion can be heard coming from behind Monkey Valley stage. A band of Malayana hunters enter from stage left, through the bushes carrying an injured warrior, who is conscious but holding back screams of pain. MAKALANI and NATIA are startled by the commotion and upon seeing the victim, MAKALANI immediately reaches for her medicine case.

MALAYANA WARRIOR #1

Nehu, it's Tiko. He was bitten by a snake at the cave.

MAKALANI

(*Worried. Gestures to the ground in front of her*)

Lie him down here. I'll see to it.

MALAYANA WARRIOR #2

Nehu, we still need to capture the snake. It's too near the village and the little ones will be in trouble if they cross paths. Chief Kukuntalu would definitely send a group.

MAKALANI

But who would go if Tiko is -

NATIA

(loudly, stands up tall and brave)

I will, *nehu*. I am ready.

*Upon hearing this, the men are doubtful and look to **MAKALANI** to stop her. **MAKALANI** takes a long look at **NATIA**, assessing if she is truly ready. **NATIA** looks on with no fear and **MAKALANI** sighs.*

MAKALANI

Go, Natia. *(to the rest of the warriors)* Follow her. And protect her.

***NATIA** gets up to leave with the other warriors. **MAKALANI** and **TIKO** are left on stage. **TIKO** is unconscious from the pain. **MAKALANI** is tense from worry for **NATIA**.*

MAKALANI

Oh Tiko. Feel better soon, my boy. *(looks up at the audience)* How fast the winds of change sweep past our little village! Oh, and little Natia feels the need to prove herself as well. I am confident she'll be safe.

***MAKALANI** pauses with thought. She reaches to pick up a whistle that is hooked to a necklace around **TIKO**'s neck. She blows it and the **HUSKIES** appear on the Monkey Valley roof.*

MAKALANI

(Calls to them by name) Please follow Natia. Watch over her and keep her safe.

HUSKIES

(bark)

*The **HUSKIES** take leave to follow **NATIA**. Suddenly, **TIKO** wakes up and begins to cough. **MAKALANI** rushes to his side and tends to him, bringing him up to a sitting position, patting his back and holding a bucket in front of him.*

MAKALANI

There, there; cough all that poison out. You'll be fine, Tiko. It's only a clean bite.

*Commotion is heard once more from the back of Monkey Valley stage. The warriors are cheering in their mother tongue. They enter from stage left, through the bushes. **NATIA** enters, with a ball python around her shoulders, beaming proudly. The warriors are impressed by her.*

WARRIOR #1

Nehu, you should have seen her. She hummed to the snake and it just did her bidding. Went completely tame and docile.

WARRIOR #2

I just couldn't believe my eyes.

The warriors talk amongst themselves, reliving NATIA's famed moment of animal mastery. MAKALANI leaves the group and gestures for NATIA to join her. They step away from the crowd for a private conversation.

MAKALANI

Natia, what you did tonight was extremely dangerous.

NATIA hangs her head low, snake still around her neck.

MAKALANI

But, you were very brave. And when Tiko was brought in, you stood up and led the people. You showed everyone that violence is only secondary to kindness and understanding. You stood by your strengths and believed in your abilities. For this, I am extremely proud of you.

NATIA

Thank you, *nehu*. (*sheepishly*) Do you think papa would let me keep the snake?

MAKALANI

(*jovially*)

You better ask him yourself when he returns tomorrow.

NATIA nods. Back on the PZ side of the river, SABIT enters (doesn't matter from Stage Left of Stage Right), holding a HORSE.

SABIT

Natia! Natia! (*he catches their attention on stage*) We all heard about what happened! My mother told me to give you Api as a thank you for helping my father out.

NATIA's face bursts out into a grin. She is finally happy to be acknowledged for her skills and abilities. Cue for finale music for Malayana Celebratory Dance. MAKALANI speaks during the song intro.

MAKALANI

(*to the audience*)

Well, my friends; this was a very exciting night indeed. I am glad you were all here to witness that. Now,

do let us present to you with the Malayana Celebratory Dance as a token of friendship with the Malayana tribe.

*Dance begins. As the song comes to an end, **TIKO** stands up in slight pain and gives the call for the **PIGEONS** to join in on stage as a closing for the show. The **HUSKIES** make an appearance on the roof as well for curtain call.*

MAKALANI

Wonderful well wishes to all of you for coming to join us tonight. Make sure you come back next time for more Tales of the Tribe, my friends! And do make sure not to harm the birds on your way out. With that, my name is **MAKALANI**, and together with **NATIA, TIKO, [Please insert names of pups]** and on behalf of the entire Malayana tribe, thank you for coming and good night to all!

(Final bow)

(Proceeds with photograph session)

(Exit)