

The Stonecutter
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FADE IN:

EXT - QUARRY - DAWN

An exposed rock face stands at the base of a huge mountain. The rays of the early morning sun glint off the chiseled facets of the stone outcropping.

A STONECUTTER approaches on the road that runs by the mountain. he pulls a cart with the handle of a pickaxe sticking out of it.

The Stonecutter leaves the cart by the side of the path, takes up his pickaxe and proceeds to chip away at the stone face of the mountain.

EXT - QUARRY - EVENING

As the sun recedes in the West, casting everything in rich red tones, the Stonecutter sets down his pickaxe and wipes his brow. His cart is stacked high with slabs of stone. Looking towards the setting sun, the Stonecutter sets his pickaxe atop the pile of stones and sets off down the path pulling his laden cart.

EXT - HUT - DUSK

A small hut, modest but well upkept, stands in a clearing at the foot of the mountain. The Stonecutter approaches pulling his cart. Leaving the cart outside, the Stonecutter goes through the front door of the hut. Inside the hut, a lantern is lit.

EXT - QUARRY - DAWN

The Stonecutter pull his cart up the road and proceeds to chip away at the rock.

EXT - QUARRY - EVENING

As the sun sets, the Stonecutter sets his pickaxe atop the pile of stones in his cart and proceeds down the road.

EXT - HUT - DUSK

The Stonecutter pulls his cart down the path towards the hut, and leaving the cart, goes inside. Inside the hut, a lantern is lit.

EXT - QUARRY - DAY

As the hot sun blazes down on him, the Stonecutter labors, chipping away at the stone face of the mountain.

He pauses to wipe the sweat from his brow and hears footsteps on the road.

A palanquin appears, carried by two SERVANTS. In the palanquin rides a RICH MERCHANT wearing fine silks and drinking cool water.

The Stonecutter stares long and hard as the palanquin goes by. He looks with disdain at the tools of his trade, then sighs and goes on working. In the woods, a BIRD CRIES.

EXT - QUARRY - EVENING

In the light of the setting sun, the Stonecutter pulls his heavy cart down the road away from the Quarry.

EXT - PATH - DUSK

The Stonecutter pulls his cart up the path towards his hut. Wonder fills his eyes and he drops his cart when he sees that in the place of his simple wooden hut now stands a stately manor.

Looking down he sees that his rough cotton work clothes have changed in to fine silks like those of the merchant.

Sporting an ear to ear grin, the Stonecutter leaves his cart and tools and strides proudly down the path and into the manor.

EXT - ROAD - DAY

The Stonecutter, still decked out in his finery, is born aloft in his palanquin by his two servants. He is smiling until something catches his eye. He motions for his servants to stop.

Coming down the road the other way is an even larger palanquin, born by four SERVANTS and shaded by a golden umbrella. In it sits a MAN wearing imperial robes.

The Stonecutter stares agape as the royal palanquin passes. He then stares at his own finery and scowls. Overhead, a BIRD CRIES.

Looking down, the Stonecutter sees that his silks have been exchanged for imperial robes and that he is now born in a larger palanquin by four servants and shaded by a golden umbrella. The Stonecutter laughs with glee.

He points and the Servants carry him down the road.

EXT - ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

The Stonecutter sits in the royal garden before a mighty palace that stands where his manor stood and his hut before that.

The sun overhead beats down unmercifully. Even under the golden umbrella, the Stonecutter feels the heat and he wipes beads of sweat from his brow.

His cheeks begin to grow red with sunburn. He peers out from under the umbrella and scowls at the sun. He shakes his fist angrily at the sky. Overhead, a BIRD CRIES.

The Stonecutter's skin takes on a luminous glow as if lit from within by a powerful light. His body is consumed by the light and his robes drop to the ground.

The light that was the Stonecutter rises into the air and merges with sun.

EXT - SPACE

The sun burns bright and proud in the heavens.

EXT - MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

The mountain glows with reflected sunlight until a cloud passes overhead, blocking the rays of the sun.

EXT - SPACE

The sun burns angrily. Below, a BIRD CRIES. A ball of light separates from the sun and descends into the sky where it transforms into a cloud.

EXT - MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

A great rain begins to fall from the cloud. Water washes down the mountainside, flooding the palace that stands there. At first the palace walls stand fast, but ultimately the force of the water is too great and they are swept away.

The cloud continues to pour forth rain on the mountain. The mountain stands unchanged. The cloud swells up and rains even harder, but still the mountain stands fast.

The cloud heaves one last torrent of rain then droops listlessly. Below, a BIRD CRIES.

The cloud descends from the sky and engulphs the mountain, taking on its shape. The cloud then fades into the mountain.

The mountain stands shining brightly in the rays of the sun. The sun sets and rises while the mountain stands fast.

From below, a loud CHIPPING SOUND is heard.

EXT - QUARRY - DAY

A pickaxe strikes the exposed rock face, breaking loose a great slab of stone.

EXT - MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

A BIRD CRIES.

EXT - QUARRY - DAY

A pickaxe lies on the ground in front of the stone face of the mountain. It is picked up by the hand of the Stonecutter. The Stonecutter hefts the tool in his hand, looks up at the mountain, and smiles contentedly. Still smiling, he sets to work cutting stone from the mountain.

FADE OUT