

Jungle Book Akela audition scene

AKELA           What is your business here, Shere Khan?

SHERE KHAN    A human cub. He is mine.

AKELA           And what makes him yours?

TABAQUI        When Master Khan was attacking the cattle in the village, there was a stampede. The villagers ran one way, the man-cub another.

SHERE KHAN    This way.

AKELA           With his parents in hot pursuit, no doubt.

SHERE KHAN    They were separated from him. They don't know which way he went. Or even if he's still alive. So give him to me.

AKELA           How do you know he's here?

SHERE KHAN    Call it—a lucky guess. Now hand him over, Akela. The Law of the Jungle says he is mine.

AKELA           But if he belongs to an animal family, he is protected from the other animals. That is also a Law of the Jungle.

TABAQUI        But he is a *human* cub—not an animal.

AKELA           For the moment, yes. But if he is accepted by the wolves, he will become one of us.

SHERE KHAN    No human has ever become an animal. Just as no animal has ever become a human.

AKELA           There is a first for everything, Shere Khan. *(Calling to offstage.)* Children! Bring the man-cub. *(To SHERE KHAN)* We shall go to the Council Rock where I will call the wolves together. If they accept the boy, he will live with us—and be safe from you.

SHERE KHAN    The pack will never accept him. The cub will be mine.

AKELA           We shall see, Shere Khan, we shall see. Now get out of my den—out of my cave—out of My sight!

*(AKELA howls. The other WOLVES enter.)*

AKELA            My brothers and sisters of the Free Nation. On such occasions as this, we usually gather to determine if one of our own cubs is ready to join the pack. But tonight we come to judge another—a *human* cub. All for allowing the man-cub to run with our pack, say “aye.” (*Several “ayes” are heard.*) All against, say “nay.” (*A few “nays” are voiced.*) There is some dispute. If the vote is not unanimous, the cub cannot be accepted into the pack.

SHERE KHAN    Good!

AKELA            *Unless*—two other animals are willing to speak for him. Does anyone outside the wolf pack speak for this child? If no one speaks for him, he must go with Shere Khan. It is the Law of the Jungle.