

START >>> 044 **CONSTANTINE**
Esteemed Bishops of the Holy Church. I have summoned you to this sacred council out of a deep desire for unity and peace within our Christian faith. A teacher among us, Presbyter Arius, has shared a view that many follow, yet many fear. A view that questions who Jesus Christ truly is.

WALLA: MURMURS OF AGREEMENT.

045 **CONSTANTINE**
It is my hope that through prayer, reasoned debate, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can arrive at a clear and unified understanding of the divine nature of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Presbyter Arius, you are invited to present your arguments to this esteemed council.

ARIUS STANDS UP.

046 **ARIUS**
Esteemed brothers, let us reason together. There is, and can only be, one eternal, unbegotten God. The Father.

WALLA: MURMURS OF AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT.

NICHOLAS sits across from ARIUS. (NOTE: the following dialogues of Nicholas are his thoughts as Arius speaks).

047 **NICHOLAS (V.O.)**
Oh, no. There he goes...

048 **ARIUS**
The Son... is not equal to the Father. He was begotten. Anything begotten has a beginning. This means he is not eternal.

WALLA: MURMURS GROW LOUDER. AGREEMENT. UNEASE.

049 **NICHOLAS (V.O.)**
My blood... it burns within me hearing this teaching! It would tear apart the very fabric of our salvation!

050 ARIUS

He was created by the Father, He is
the firstborn of all creation,
through whom the Father made the
universe. But a creation, however
exalted, is not the Creator
Himself.

WALLA: MORE DIVIDED MURMURS.

051 NICHOLAS (V.O.)

Holy Spirit... Divine Counselor...
Please, grant us wisdom. Illuminate
the truth in this darkness.

A SHARP, LOUD THUD AS CONSTANTINE'S STAFF HITS
THE FLOOR.

052 **CONSTANTINE**

Enough for today! Let us reconvene
tomorrow, with renewed minds and
spirits, to continue our council.

<<< END

CHAIRS SCRAPE AS THE COUNCIL BEGINS TO DISPERSE.

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EXT. ARIUS' CHAMBER - NIGHT

NICHOLAS APPROACHES ARIUS' CHAMBER. A GENTLE
KNOCK. THE DOOR CREAKS, BEING OPENED SLIGHTLY.

053 ARIUS

Who is it?

054 NICHOLAS

It's Bishop Nicholas of Myra. I
wish to speak with you.

055 ARIUS

I hardly expected a nocturnal
visit. I trust this matter couldn't
wait until the council reconvenes?
I've had a long day of...
elucidating the truth.

056 NICHOLAS

The truth is precisely what I wish
to discuss. May I come in for a
moment?

057 ARIUS

Please, state your purpose.

NICHOLAS TAKES OUT A BRICK FROM A BAG.