

066 NICHOLAS
But Arius, don't you see...?

THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT. NICHOLAS SIGHS, FRUSTRATED.

067 NICHOLAS
(defeated)
How should I defend you, my Lord?
My words seem so inadequate against
such... stubbornness and deaf ears.
Please, my Lord... Guide my
words... and my actions.

NICHOLAS TURNS AND WALKS DOWN THE HALLWAY.

10 INT. COUNCIL OF NICAIA - MORNING

BISHOPS GATHERED. SCROLLS RUSTLE. THE SOUND OF
ZURNA HORNS AND FRAME DRUMS SIGNALS THE ARRIVAL
OF THE EMPEROR. THE MURMURING SUBSIDES.

068 HERALD
His Imperial Majesty, Flavius
Valerius Aurelius Constantinus
Augustus!

THE BISHOPS RISE IN RESPECT. EMPEROR CONSTANTINE
ENTERS.

069 CONSTANTINE
Please, Bishops. Let's continue
with our Council. Presbyter Arius,
you can continue with your
presentation.

ARIUS CLEARS HIS THROAT. STANDS UP.

START >>>

070 ARIUS
God is far above us. Eternal.
Perfect. Untouchable. He could
not... He would not become human.

WALLA: MURMURS OF AGREEMENT/DISAGREEMENT.

NICHOLAS grips his chair, clenches his fists.

071 NICHOLAS
(lowering voice)
My blood... It is boiling again by
hearing Arius's words... Please,
Holy Spirit. Guide me. What should
I do to stop Arius's false
teachings?

072 **ARIUS**

Think about it: why would God, in His immense Glory want to spend time with us? To be with us?

NICHOLAS PUSHES BACK HIS CHAIR AND STANDS UP.

073 NICHOLAS

Because He loves us Arius! God loves us!

WALLA: MURMURS OF SURPRISE.

074 NICHOLAS

God wants to be with us not because we deserve it – but because He loves us. And... in Jesus, He loves us with a human heart.

NICHOLAS walks closer to ARIUS.

075 **ARIUS**

(scoffs)

A human heart that loves us?

076 NICHOLAS

Yes, Arius! It was love that drove Him to walk among us, to heal the sick, to comfort the broken! Love that led Him to the Cross! How can you deny such a profound act of connection? God yearns for relationship with us!

WALLA: DEBATE MURMURS GROW LOUDER.

NICHOLAS is in front of ARIUS (face to face).

077 **ARIUS**

Step back, Bishop Nicholas...

(to the Bishops)

Can't you see, dear brothers?

Bishop Nicholas, speaks of sentiment. I speak of divine order.

078 NICHOLAS

I speak of the Incarnation! The Eternal Word became Man, not only in appearance, but in truth. He labored with human hands. He wept with human eyes. And yes: He loved with a human heart.

WALLA: MORE MURMURS.

079 **ARIUS**

God doesn't want to love us in this way! It is beneath His dignity!

080 NICHOLAS

You deny the very heart of the Gospel! Enough!

081 **ARIUS**

God cannot love us enough to send the Son in the flesh!

<<< END

082 NICHOLAS

Enough, heretic!

NICHOLAS SLAPS ARIUS. A CHAIR FALLS. A STAFF CLATTERS. WALLA: SURPRISED GASPS FROM BISHOPS.

083 BISHOP 1

(awed)

He... Struck Arius?

WALLA: MURMURS OF SURPRISE.

084 CONSTANTINE

Silence!

THE MURMURS FALL DEAD.

085 CONSTANTINE

Bishop Nicholas, such behavior is an affront to this sacred gathering and to the peace I seek!

086 NICHOLAS

(disconsolate)

I... I cannot let him deny the love of God made manifest.

NICHOLAS, DEJECTED, FALLS TO HIS KNEES. WALLA: MORE MURMURS.

087 CONSTANTINE

Guards! Remove him from this hall. He will remain imprisoned for disturbing the peace of this council.

TWO GUARDS APPROACH NICHOLAS.

METALLIC CLINKING. CHAINS. THE GUARDS DRAG NICHOLAS ACROSS THE HALL.