

QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
You stir hearts, both Catholic and
Protestant alike.

Age: 60s

123 ROBERT
It is not I, but God.

124 QUEEN ELIZABETH
God. Always God.

SHE UNLOCKS THE GATE AND APPROACHES HIM.

Side 3

START >>>

125 QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(quiet)
You never once declared me false.
You never incited rebellion. You
very well could have, with the
influence you wield. Why?

126 ROBERT
I will never deny you as my Queen.

127 QUEEN ELIZABETH
But you will not put me above all
else. Not above Rome. Not above
your God.

128 ROBERT
No monarch lives above God, Your
Majesty. Not even you.

A beat.

129 QUEEN ELIZABETH
You speak treason, cloaked in
reverence.

130 ROBERT
I pray for you, Your Majesty. I
pray for your soul. I pray for this
country. For its people, Catholic
and Protestant alike. I have never
prayed against you. I never will.

A beat.

131 QUEEN ELIZABETH
Then why must you make me your
enemy?

A beat.

132 ROBERT
I have not.

Another pause.

133 ROBERT (CONT'D)

My intention has always been to save the eternal souls of England. I came back to my homeland, and I would make that choice again and again, if I could. Not only from Rome, but from the farthest parts of the world, to procure England's salvation. To procure *your* salvation, Your Majesty.

134 QUEEN ELIZABETH

My salvation?

135 ROBERT

I desire it no less than I desire my own. I pray the Lord God protects you, enlightens you, and keeps you and your Council safe.

136 QUEEN ELIZABETH

I fear my advisors have deceived me of your true intent. Or is it you who deceives me now?

137 ROBERT

It seems you may have to find the answer to that yourself, Your Majesty, for I cannot show it you.

Pause.

138 QUEEN ELIZABETH

I do not want you to die.

139 ROBERT

Death, especially for one's faith, is not a loss, but a glorious gain. Your Majesty, I will pray that God forgive you for my death.

140 QUEEN ELIZABETH

But you do not *have* to die! You must simply... Recant. Renounce your Jesuit cause, publicly, and I shall see you exiled instead of facing the gallows.

ROBERT LIFTS HIMSELF UP SLIGHTLY.

141 ROBERT
I stand as I am, Your Grace. I will
not recant.

142 QUEEN ELIZABETH
Then you choose death.

143 ROBERT
On the contrary, Your Majesty, I
choose and pray for eternal life.

THE QUEEN LEAVES THE CELL. SHE SLAMS THE DOOR.

144 QUEEN ELIZABETH
(furious, sad)
Then let your prayers keep you
company. You will be sent to limbo,
Robert Southwell, the subterranean
cells with no light and no refuge.
You have three days to reconsider,
and on the morning of the fourth
day, you shall stand trial.
Farewell, Southwell. And may God
have mercy on your soul.

<<< END

SHE STORMS DOWN THE HALLWAY OF THE JAIL.

15 **OUTRO**

outro music

145 PETER
Tune into Episode Ten: The Martyr's
Reckoning to hear the next
installment of Robert Southwell.
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16 **SOUNDMARK**

146 NARRATOR
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