

134 ROBERT
You're not fine.

EFFORTS: WALKING UPHILL IN SNOW.

135 ROBERT
Rome is just on the other side of
these mountains.

START >>> 136 MARK
We'll find you medicine there.

PAUL'S COUGH GETS WORSE.

137 PAUL
(faintly)
I can't... I can't walk-

PAUL FALLS TO THE GROUND.

138 MARK
Paul!

THEY SIT BESIDE HIM. ROBERT FEELS HIS FOREHEAD.

139 ROBERT
He's wracked with fever.

140 MARK
What do we do?

141 ROBERT
Help me carry him.

WEAKENED, THEY DRUDGE ON. SFX: FLAMES RISE.

142 ROBERT
What? What is that? Do you see?

143 MARK
What? I don't see anything.

144 ROBERT
Just there! Burning...

THE BURNING GROWS LOUDER.

145 MARK

Robert, all I see is snow, for
miles and miles. You're scaring me!

THE BURNING GROWS LOUDER STILL.

146 ROBERT

It's a babe, newborn, wrapped in
fire... The babe is floating,
weeping, the tears are... Fire,
too? The fire burns all around.

147 MARK

(distant)

Robert?

THE BURNING SOUND OVERWHELMS.

148 ROBERT

My heart glows with the same fire-

AN OTHERWORLDLY VOICE COMPETES WITH THE SOUND OF
BURNING. IT IS THE VOICE OF JESUS CHRIST.

149 BURNING BABE

Alas, but newly born, in fiery
hearts I fry, /
Yet none approach to warm their
hearts or feel my fire but I /
My faultless breast the furnace is,
the fuel wounding thorns, /
Love is the fire, and sighs the
smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;/
For which, as now on fire I am to
work them to their good, /
So will I melt into a bath to wash
them in my blood /

ALL SOUND IS SWALLOWED BY A TINNITUS EFFECT.

14

INT. MONASTERY - HOURS LATER

WATER DRIPS INTO A BASIN. ROBERT AWAKENS.

150 ROBERT

Wha- Where am I? Hello?

151 MARK

Robert! Thank God!

152 ROBERT

Mark? Where are we? What happened?

153 MARK

You were babbling about a burning babe and then you fainted. With you and Paul unconscious, I have never felt more afraid. But I threw my jacket over the two of you and ran ahead until I found this mountain monastery!

154 ROBERT

That was brave of you, Mark.

A beat. Mark takes this in.

155 MARK

I feared what I would do if I did not have you and Paul leading me. But standing there alone in the snow, I realized that courage is not the absence of fear... it is moving forward despite it.

156 ROBERT

You saved us. All of us.

THE DOOR OPENS. PAUL ENTERS.

157 PAUL

Robert! You're awake!

158 ROBERT

Paul! You're well!

159 PAUL

Oh yes. The monks nursed me back to health.

160 MARK

Oh, and I have excellent news from : we are only a few days from Rome.

<<< END

15

EXT. ITALIAN STREETS - DAY - WEEKS LATER

SFX: DISTANT CHURCH BELLS BUILDING SLOWLY.

161 PAUL

Those can't be-

SFX: THE BELLS CONTINUE - RICH AND FULL.

162 MARK

The Catholic Church bells in Rome?