

Beat.

LARGE BOOMING DOORS: MODESTUS ENTERS THE THRONE ROOM.

START >>>

090 VALENS

Ah, Modestus, you have finally returned, did you have any resistance?

091 MODESTUS

The bishop would not profess the Arian creed, Lord Emperor.

092 VALENS

Did he at least pledge fealty to us?

093 MODESTUS

He refused.

094 VALENS

And did you have him drawn and quartered? Crucified? What tortures did you impose?

095 MODESTUS

...we warned him that there would be severe consequences.

096 VALENS

Did you not carry out the threat?

097 MODESTUS

No, Lord Emperor. We could not. The bishop fled and went into hiding.

098 VALENS

You directly disobeyed my orders, Modestus!

099 MODESTUS

But sire, you profess the Arian Creed! Do you think it is right for us to torture *Christians* into submission?

100 VALENS

It is right to carry out the lawful order of your emperor!

(MORE)

VALENS (CONT'D)

(Valens fumes, then calms)

Modestus, you are right. I will be merciful towards your insolence. Do you like grapes, Modestus? Here.

HE TOSSES MODESTUS A GRAPE

101 MODESTUS

(catching it)

Grapes? I- yes, I do.

102 **VALENS**

Try it.

CRUNCH.

103 **VALENS**

How is it? Describe it to me.

104 MODESTUS

Good. Firm. A good crunch under the teeth.

105 **VALENS**

Aha. Exactly. The bishops are like grapes, Modestus. Good, firm. But they are easily squashed under pressure.

VALENS CRUNCHES A GRAPE.

106 **VALENS**

(fake pain)

Ah, oof.

107 MODESTUS

What is it, Lord Emperor?

108 **VALENS**

I have a tooth that is rotting.

109 MODESTUS

Ah, you had better have it removed.

110 **VALENS**

Modestus, you're right. A tooth that cannot squash a little grape should certainly be removed.

111 MODESTUS

Uh, yes, well.

112 VALENS

I do not want any more excuses,
Modestus. One of these dissenting
bishops, Basil - I hear he has been
constructing a strange monastery,
building houses for the sick. I
also hear that he condemns our
position and undermines my
authority. This is your opportunity
to receive Christian mercy,
Modestus.

(beat)

Bring me Bishop Basil.

<<< END

113 MODESTUS

Yes, sir.

114 VALENS

Modestus?

115 MODESTUS

Sire?

116 VALENS

I don't want to have any more teeth
removed.

117 MODESTUS

(catching it)

Understood.

VALENS CRUNCHES ANOTHER GRAPE.

MUSIC TRANSITION:

16

INT. BRICK HOUSE - MORNING

16

BIRDS CHIRP OUTSIDE. MACRINA ENTERS. IT IS
QUIET.

118 MACRINA

Basil? Basil are you here?

119 BASIL

What is it, Macrina?

120 MACRINA

There you are. It is so quiet.

121 BASIL

It is early in the morning.