

BASIL (CONT'D)
Branch out, become my... Aha, here
it is.

9 INT. EUSTATHIUS' STUDY - CONTINUOUS

9

THE DOOR CREAKS MORE THAN IT SHOULD AS IT OPENS.

071 BASIL
Hello? Eustathius?

Side 1

START >>>

072 EUSTATHIUS
Yes? Who is it?

073 BASIL
Hello, I'm Basil. You are expecting
me?

Eustathius finishes reading a sentence, then:

074 EUSTATHIUS
Mmm. Basil, you are the son of the
Bishop of Cappadocia, yes?

075 BASIL
Yes.

076 EUSTATHIUS
Very good, I am expecting you. Sit,
please.

BASIL SLIDES OUT A CHAIR, SITS.

077 BASIL
So... Athens is... beautiful.

078 EUSTATHIUS
Mmm.

EUSTATHIUS FLIPS A PAGE.

079 BASIL
This is a nice study. Peaceful.

BASIL SIGHS, TRYING TO GET ATTENTION. HE STARTS
TAPPING HIS FOOT.

080 BASIL
What are you reading?

081 EUSTATHIUS
The Holy Gospels.

082 BASIL
The Holy Gospels?

083 EUSTATHIUS
That's right.

BEAT. PAGE FLIP.

084 BASIL
Do you have some... Lectures for
me? Something to study? Anything?

085 EUSTATHIUS
Presently? No.

086 BASIL
What should I do?

087 EUSTATHIUS
Have you brought anything to read?

088 BASIL
Well... I too have the Gospels with
me.

089 EUSTATHIUS
Perfect!

090 BASIL
But, Bishop Eustathius. The
Gospels? You are supposed to be
teaching me rhetoric. Perhaps we
should begin with Libanius?

091 EUSTATHIUS
Libanius? Is he a better teacher of
rhetoric than our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ? How about the Gospel
of Matthew? The sermon on the mount
is a great oration which you could
study all of your life and always
improve yourself by it.

092 BASIL
If that is the case then why am I
here, in Athens? I can study the
Sermon on the Mount at home, with
my family. Should you not be
teaching me? Or do you think that
my rhetorical skills are already
sufficient? My reputation does
precede me...

EUSTATHIUS LAUGHS AT BASIL.

093 EUSTATHIUS

Does it, now?

094 BASIL

I have travelled a long and difficult road to get here. I want to learn from the greatest minds in the Roman Empire.

095 EUSTATHIUS

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus - a mind of humility, and docility.

096 BASIL

But... I came to Athens to learn from you!

097 EUSTATHIUS

Then learn! Sit, read. Practice silence - silence is one of the greatest teachers.

<<< END

EXASPERATED HUFF FROM BASIL. HE TAKES OUT A
SCROLL, UNFURLS IT.

Beat. Eustathius turns another page. Beat.

098 BASIL

This is pointless. I should have stayed home if this is going to be my education!

BASIL GETS UP, SHOVES HIS THINGS IN HIS BAG.
STARTS TO LEAVE.

099 EUSTATHIUS

Basil. Here in Athens, the road will be easy for you, and so it is now more than ever that you need to stay close to the Gospels. It is much easier to keep your mind on the treacherous road when you know that it is treacherous. You walk an easy path, and it is easier to set a snare for a traveler on an easy road where they pay little mind to the danger.

100 BASIL

If the road in Athens is so easy, I must have just bumped into it's largest stumbling block. You.