

Beat.

LARGE BOOMING DOORS: MODESTUS ENTERS THE THRONE ROOM.

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)

Side 1  
START >>>

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.

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.

<<< END

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.