

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.

VALENS CRUNCHES ANOTHER GRAPE.

MUSIC TRANSITION:

16

INT. BRICK HOUSE - MORNING

16

BIRDS CHIRP OUTSIDE. MACRINA ENTERS. IT IS QUIET.

Side 2

START >>

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.

122 **MACRINA**

Yes, but usually you are practicing some great sermon, or writing your Asketikon, the rule of life, with Gregory.

123 **BASIL**

I have found great consolation in contemplation - the Lord is drawing very near to me. I think of nothing else.

124 **MACRINA**

God is pleased with you, Basil. I am sorry to interrupt your prayer.

125 **BASIL**

My prayer cannot be interrupted by you. Or anyone, I think.

126 **MACRINA**

Well, we have received some travellers from Caesaria. They fled because their bishop has gone into hiding.

127 **BASIL**

Hiding?

128 **MACRINA**

They told us many of the bishops have professed the Arian creed at the demand of the new emperor. The Church seems to be under seige. The emperor is sending soldiers!

129 **BASIL**

Why should we do anything differently?

130 **MACRINA**

What if the emperor sends soldiers here, to our monastery?

131 **BASIL**

When persecution arrived at our home did you not shoo them away like flies?

132 **MACRINA**

This emperor seems more hostile than Julian, Basil. And now we have a hospital, a hundred people to care for, a whole commune.

(MORE)

MACRINA (CONT'D)

We are starting farms, we are trading, we have so much to care for. We cannot let these people in our care be scattered or killed. I do not think we will simply be able to 'shoo them away.'

<<< END

133 BASIL

If this monastery is the work of the Lord on earth, no emperor can possibly destroy it. I will stand between my flock and whatever the emperor throws at us. I do not fear death, and I do not fear the emperor.

(beat)

If a new persecution has arrived, I will put on the full armor of God, and rise to meet it.

MUSIC TRANSITION:

17

EXT. OUTSIDE THE MONASTERY - DAY

17

SOLDIERS MARCH. DRAW SWORDS.**134 MODESTUS**

There it is. The little monastery... It more like a small city... A Church, a hospital. Look at all of these people.

(to his men, stately)

Be on guard, find me Bishop Basil.

WALLA: "AYE, SIR!" "STEP TO, FORM RANKS."

18

INT. BRICK HOUSE - SAME TIME

18

**OUTSIDE: THE SOLDIERS RUN THROUGH THE CITY,
PEOPLE RUSH OUTSIDE OF BUILDINGS, RUN AROUND,
AVOID SOLDIERS, MUSIC BUILDS.****135 BASIL**

It seems the persecution has come...

Beat.

WALLA: SOLDIERS SEARCHING.**136 MODESTUS (O.C.)**

Where is he?! Where is your bishop?!