

060 MODESTUS

An example, Lord Emperor?

061 VALENS

Yes, an example. I am sending you to Caesarea, Modestus. You will find the bishop, order him to profess the Arian creed, and pledge his loyalty to me.

062 MODESTUS

And if he refuses?

063 VALENS

Burn down his church! Strip him naked and drag him into the street and beat him. Kill him! Do whatever it takes to make him embrace our rule or leave his body to the wild dogs!

064 MODESTUS

(hesitates)

Y-Yes, Lord Emperor.

065 VALENS

Modestus? Julian was known for his soft hand in religious matters. I do not want to garner the same reputation.

MUSIC TRANSITION:

14

INT. BRICK HOUSE - NIGHT

14

CRICKETS CHIRP IN THE NIGHT. A FIRE CRACKLES.
PEN SCRATCHES AGAINST PARCHMENT - WRITING BY
CANDLE LIGHT.

Side 2

START >>>

066 GREGORY

Basil, our writings will teach many how to live a life in the world, but not of the world.

067 BASIL

By God's help.

068 GREGORY

I still have a question.

069 BASIL

Go on, Gregory.

070 GREGORY

Do you still read the pagan philosophers?

071 BASIL

I do.

072 GREGORY

Has the Lord guided you in this? It seemed to have been drawing you down a wayward path in Athens, but so much has changed. What good has it brought you?

073 BASIL

Well... It is certain that we have received in our nature from God the capacity to obey all His commandments. Above all, the commandment to love him. If we act according to our nature, we fulfill the life of virtue. If we corrupt God's commandments, we succumb to vice. By reading pagan philosophers, do we choose virtue or vice? Both are possible. And so, I think it is a question of love.

074 GREGORY

A question of love?

075 BASIL

Our commandment is to love God. If we read the pagans in search of a greater love of the Divine Majesty... Our affections for our dear Crucified Jesus can only grow.

076 GREGORY

Yes... The splendour of God... And our true affection declares: I am wounded with love.

077 BASIL

God is my only love. I desire nothing else.

078 GREGORY

Then may whatever draws us to His Divine Majesty be found with us.

(beat)

Thank you Basil. You are a good bishop, and my closest friend.

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