

078 WULFRIC

It's best to leave them alone.
Don't let Bertric fool you. He is
no dull-witted farmer. He is very
influential here. People respect
him. He is not someone you want as
an enemy.

079 WYNFRITH

Then let's make him our friend. The
younger boy, at least, seems open
to what we have to say.

080 WYNFRITH

Wynfrith, perhaps it's best you let
Hesse be for now. Go elsewhere.
Hessian soil is rocky soil. Let me
till it. Perhaps in a year or so...
well, we'll see.

081 WYNFRITH

No. No. This is right where we need
to be.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC

9 EXT. A FARM IN HESSE - MORNING

THE BUZZ OF CICADAS IN THE HEAT. THE SLOW SWISH-
SWISH OF A SCYTHE IN THE GRASSES.

082 BERTRIC

Faster with that scythe, Aldric, or
we'll never get the hay in! Odin's
beard, son, what's distracting you?

083 ALDRIC

START >>> Nothing, Father.

084 BERTRIC

Give me that.

WITH BERTRIC CONTROLLING IT, THE SCYTHE CUTS
MUCH FASTER AND STRONGER THROUGH THE GRASSES.

085 ALDRIC

I don't know why you allow Theobald
to spend so much time with those
priests. Especially when there's
plenty to be done here on the farm.

086 BERTRIC

The gods gave your brother a strong mind, but robbed him of a strong body. It is good for him to learn.

087 ALDRIC

More of those monks arrive from England every day, it seems. From what Theobald says, it sounds like they just stare at books, mumbling nonsense. That Wynfrith especially.

088 BERTRIC

They also work. Hard. I've seen them. The amount of trees down! The land they've cleared! The number of buildings they've put up! The infirmary they built! They build like beavers. Wynfrith talks, yes. But he also gets things done.

089 ALDRIC

Theobald tells me the stories Wynfrith tell him. Jesus, their God, claims to be Lord of all. The only God! I tell you, it's dangerous he's here. Hrothgar says-

090 BERTRIC

You should listen less to Hrothgar.

091 ALDRIC

Hrothgar says it's all a ruse to convince us to betray Donar. And Wynfrith's God! He's a mockery! A god who dies on a tree! Pfaw! What sort of weak God is that?

092 BERTRIC

Aldric, what is all this to you? These men have done good work here. They help on the farms. They tend to our sick. Not much of a threat. And if their God is weak, what threat could He be?

093 ALDRIC

I'll tell you what threat He could be. It's barely rained since those monks built that monastery. The stream is drying. Hrothgar's lost half his flock. Donar is not happy.

(MORE)

ALDRIC (CONT'D)

He will need to be appeased, or we'll lose all our crops. Something will have to be done.

094 **BERTRIC**

What do you mean?

095 **ALDRIC**

Nothing.

096 **BERTRIC**

What do you mean, Aldric?

097 **ALDRIC**

It's just... Some in the village. They're talking. They say something will have to be done about these monks. About Wynfrith.

<<< END

098 **BERTRIC**

You leave them be. Have nothing to do with Hrothgar! He stirs up trouble that doesn't need stirring.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

10

EXT. CREEKSIDE - DAY

A SOFT TRICKLING OF A CREEK. A QUIET BREEZE THROUGH THE TREES.

099 **WYNFRITH**

Now, remember this time, Wulfric. It is "In nomi-NAY Patris." Not "in nomi-NEE."

100 **WULFRIC**

(annoyed)

Yes, yes, Father Wynfrith. As you've said. You don't need to be here. I can handle this.

101 **WYNFRITH**

My son, it matters you do it correctly. We must take this seriously.

102 **WULFRIC**

Does it really matter, Father? Half of them only get baptized as a safeguard against drought.