

BENEDICTINE NUN (CONT'D)

(beat)

But then I hear voices in the dark offering themselves to save France - to save prisoners like me and my Benedictine sisters. You have given me hope.

080 TERESA

God bless you, sister.

081 BENEDICTINE NUN (O.C.)

And God bless you, French daughters of Saint Teresa. We will pray for you all.

MUSIC TRANSITION.

11 INT. SMALL BAR, PARIS - NIGHT

11

ROBESPIERRE AND ANTOINE FOUQUIER-TINVILLE SIT IN ARM CHAIRS, SIPPING BRANDY.

Side 2

START >>>

082 ROBESPIERRE

It caused a stir, Antoine.

083 ANTOINE

It was just an old woman in a habit crowing about Jesus' love, dear Robespierre.

084 ROBESPIERRE

We cannot let our progress be undermined! Even the smallest echo of dissent threatens to destroy the new, enlightened nation we've been building, Antoine. The French people must not be distracted by the ramblings of some dissident nuns. The citizens must consecrate to the Supreme Being!

(spiraling into rhetoric)

Did not his immortal hand, by engraving in the hearts of men the code of justice and equality, write there the death sentence of tyrants? Did not his voice, at the very beginning of time, decree the republic, making liberty, good faith, and justice the order of the day for all centuries?

085 ANTOINE

(interjecting, trying to
change the record)

Yes, yes old friend. I've heard
your many speeches. Do you not
sometimes think...

086 ROBESPIERRE

Think what?

087 ANTOINE

(delicately)

I commend your...vigorous
implementation of a state religion.
It has been undeniably popular, and
served a useful purpose in many
ways, but sometimes I fear...is all
this focus on 'moral
virtuosity'...and all the expensive
theatrics...really connected to the
original ideals of the revolution?
And, beyond that, I wonder at which
point does one's obsession with
'stamping out of tyranny' in itself
become...tyrannical?

088 ROBESPIERRE

(quivering with rage)

You dare turn my own words against
me? You accuse me of...of
despotism?!

089 ANTOINE

No, no, old friend. I'm merely-

090 ROBESPIERRE

(very intimidating)

To have unity, we cannot have
dissent! Those nuns are publicly
opposing the new order. For the
safety of the Republic, I want you
to see to it that they are dealt
with at the tribunal tomorrow.
Crowing old women or not. They must
be silenced!

<<< END

ANTOINE SIPS HIS BRANDY, TOEING THE LINE.

091 ANTOINE

(foreboding)

Fret not. I'm very good at my job.

OMINOUS MUSIC TRANSITION