

ROBESPIERRE (CONT'D)

(then, thinking)

Social order requires the belief in a godhead. But one that is worshipped with a rational devotion, through civic-minded public virtue. Without all the statues and relics, or pictures of the bleeding heart.

039 ANTOINE

(still amused)

You are proposing a kind of utilitarian supreme being?

040 ROBESPIERRE

(dead serious)

Yes.

(more thinking)

But in the meantime, King Louis needs to go. We can't truly move forward as a nation while that tyrant remains. Prison and exile won't do. Louis must die so the nation can live.

8 EXT. CLOISTER, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

8

THE NUN COMMUNITY WALK IN PROCESSION, SINGING [TE DEUM](#)

041 NUN COMMUNITY

(chanting)

Te Deum laudámus: te Dominum confitémur. Te ætérnum Patrem omnis terra venerátur. Tibi omnes Angeli; tibi cæli et univérse potestátes...

CROSSFADE

9 INT. PARLOR, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

9

TERESA SPEAKS TO THE MAYOR THROUGH THE GRILLE

042 TERESA

Monsieur le Maire, it's the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We're holding a procession through the cloister.

START >>>043 **MAYOR**

It couldn't wait, Mother Prioress.
As Mayor of Compiègne, I should not
be giving you warning. But...

(whispers)

...as a faithful Catholic...I had
to come.

044 **TERESA**

What news do you bring us?

045 **MAYOR**

You are being expelled from the
monastery tomorrow.

046 **TERESA**

Expelled?

047 **MAYOR**

I've found you accommodation with
some benefactors, near Saint-
Antoine chapel. You will still be
able to pray there.

048 **TERESA**

(reeling)

But our way of life depends on
being enclosed. The rhythm of the
Hours of Divine Office is ingrained
in us. If we are to lose our
physical surroundings, we are to
lose our heartbeat.

049 **MAYOR**

(reluctant)

It gets worse, I'm afraid. By order
of the Revolutionary government,
the wearing of religious habits has
been banned.

050 **TERESA**

(feeling ill)

I can't ask that of my daughters.
Our habits are a symbol of our
bridal union with God!

051 **MAYOR**

I know it.

052 **TERESA**

Monsieur! What can be done?

053 **MAYOR**

Nothing can be done, Mother. I must come tomorrow. With armed guards.

054 TERESA

No!

055 **MAYOR**

The pressure for me to comply is immense. You've heard that the National Assembly have commissioned a beheading machine? They publicly executed someone last week. His head was put in some stocks and sliced clean off with an oblique blade. They call it the *guillotine*.

(a small cry of fear escapes)

God forgive me. I am weak.

◀◀◀ END

056 TERESA

(more composed now)

You have done us a great service in warning us, *monsieur le maire*. May the Lord bless you. Now, please excuse me. I must spend some time alone with God before I break the news to my daughters.

MUSIC TRANSITION INTO MYSTIC DREAM...

10

INT. LIBRARY, COMPIÈGNE MONASTERY - NIGHT

10

MUSIC BEFITTING A MYSTIC DREAM.

TERESA IS TOTALLY IMMERSSED IN SOME READING, SHE TURNS A PAGE INTERMITTENTLY:

057 TERESA

(reading aloud)

"...I dreamt that Jesus came into my cell, bloody and scourged. I saw Him and then I saw that sixteen of my sisters had been roused from their cells too and were completely encircled with glory as though they were suns. They were being transported to a place in Heaven that was great and exalted. Jesus told me they were following the Lamb. I too wanted to be one who followed the Lamb. He looked at me with eyes brimming with love.

(MORE)