

GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA & THE TRIAL OF FIRE

di

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Biographic Sources:

LA VITA DI FRA' GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA di P.Antolini
St.Tip. di G.Monti-BOLOGNA 1875
GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA di C.Carridori
Casa Ed.Nerbini-FIRENZE 1928
I PIAGNONI E GLI ARRABBIATI di G.Revere
Tip. V.Giuglielmini-MILANO 1843
LA VITA del Padre Fra GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA
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FADE IN

Black screen

1 MONTAGE - BONFIRE IN PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA - DAY 1

OVERLAY: 23th May 1498

1- A thick black smoke raises towards the sky creating swirls that barely give a glimpse of Floreice's Palazzo della Signoria silhoutte;

2- Beneath the smoke, high yellow and red flames intertwine;

DISSOLVE TO

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

2 INT. RECEPTION ROOM (CASTLE OF FERRARA) - NIGHT 2

OVERLAY: 23rd April 1475

The Lords of Ferrara ERCOLE I d'ESTE and ELEONORA d'ARAGONA, his spouse, are sitting at their high chair, smiling for the beautiful and crowded party.

The NOBLES are celebrating S.Giorgio, Saint Protector of the city, in a large room highlighted by enormous Murano chandeliers. The Court doctor, NICCOLO' SAVONAROLA and ELENA BONACOSSI, his wife, are attending the banquet. Together with them their 23yo. son, GIROLAMO wearing less showing off dresses in respect of the other guests. He is in a corner, silent, and doesn't seem enjoying the celebration.

FRA GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA: 33 yo., medium height, dark colored skin, aquilin nose, eyes casting flames beneath thick black eyebrows. Thick lips, clenched to demonstrate a steadiness of intent. Wrinkled forehead. He's not handsome. Simple manners, speech poor, almost crude, when animated he becomes powerful and convincing; worn out by fasting. His only desire is to pray.

The music of the orchestra is resound in the room. In the center noble men and dames alternating, in a circle, hold each other hand, now they turn clockwise and anti-clockwise, then they get closer tightening the circle. While dancing, at point they break the circle, then in couples they turn around their raised hand. At the rythm of the music they repeat those steps.

SERVANTS are bringing delicacies and goblets of wine walking through the attendees. At the sides of the room all the other guests reachly dressed.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

(to his mother)

The greatness of the reception
doesn't brighten my soul... I
would rather prefer to go back
home and study San Tommaso and
the Holy Bible.

ELENA

My son, some innocent pleasure
can not be considered a sin...
please stay.

GIROLAMO

I'll stay mother... but this will
be my last time at the Court.

(pause)

We are here enjoying the party
while unfortunates are crying in
jail.

Music carries on while Girolamo keeps at distance from the
others silently.

3 INT./EXT. HOUSE OF GIROLAMO - NIGHT

3

BEDROOM

In the room there's only one bed next to the kneeler, in
front of a crucifix, and a modest desk. Girolamo with the
head in his hands is praying.

SOON AFTER

He stops praying, lights up a candle at the desk, takes
some PAPER and dips the PEN in the INKPOT then starts
writing down.

HIS VOICE, whispering, goes at the same rythm of HIS HAND
running on the paper. HIS WORD takes a BREAK each time he
dips the pen.

GIROLAMO (V.O.)

Dear Mother

(pause)

the great misery of the world,

(pause)

men's wickedness,

(pause)

the rapes and the adultery,

(pause)

the robberies, the arrogance,

(pause)

the idolatry, the cruel

blasphemies,

(pause)

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (V.O.) (SEGUE)
that the century is showing us
(pause)
so that it can't be found someone
who well behaves
(pause)
and more than what I can see
(pause)
virtues have been pushed down
(pause)
and the vicious behaviours are
pushed up
(pause)
so much that I decided to devote
myself only to God.

Girolamo opens the BIBLE at the Giobbe's Book, then puts the letter there in evidence. With a blow he turns off the candle.

He takes the RUCKSACK from the bed and leaves in silent in the hallway, careful not to wake up his parents.

HOUSE ENTRANCE DOOR

Girolamo leaves holding the brills of his mule.

4

MONTAGE - PATH OF THE APPENINES - DAY

4

OVERLAY: May 1490

1- a DOMINICAN FRAIR walks on the path of the Appenins towards Florence. Only a pair of sandals on his feet. Fallen leaves blank the path made of stones and mud;

2- The friar is holding the brills of the donkey carrying on the ramp two gerles full of everything;

3- He wears a tunic of white wool , with a leather belt. The tonsure covered by a white hood that goes up to the shoulders then a dark wool cape: FRA GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA. His cloth is worn and dirty with mud. From his belt hangs a small leather pouch and a crucifix of brass that follows the rythm of the friar's steps;

4- From the path it is possible to get a glimpse of Florence and the Cupola del Brunelleschi outline;

5- At the entrance of Porta S.Gallo, a young WOMAN in skimpy clothes is intent on bargaing with TWO MEN for her favours; they reach into the money bag. TWO richly dressed YOUNG MEN, intoxicated by wine, taunt and throw stones to an OLD MAN, pushing him to the ground in the mud.

5 EXT./INT. CONVENT OF S.MARCO - DAY

5

AT THE FRONTDOOR

Fra Savonarola arrived in front of the convent church, stops and look at it then makes a cross-sign. He appoces the doorway, grabs the cord that rings the bell inside and pulls it three times. On the other end one can only see the GUARDIAN FRIAR's eye who recognizes him.

GUARDIAN BROTHER(V.O.)

(smiling)

Is it you Girolamo!?!... we have been waiting for you.

He hurries to open to him. Girolamo's robe is smeared with mud, is face is calm but fatigued and pale.

GUARDIAN BROTHER

Tie up the donkey to the ring,
I'll send a novice to unload your stuff.. your cell is ready.

FRA GIROLAMO

(with proud voice)

No... no one has to serve me

(pause)

take care of the donkey, he's tired... it has been a few day we travel together.

IN THE MAIN CLOISTER OF THE CONVENT

GUARDIAN BROTHER

I'll take you to your cell.

(pause)

I'll let the Prior know that you are here... he would like to see you.

The two walk into the cloister and reach the cell. One of the many facing the long corridor, on the second floor of the convent, all alike. The little door of the entrance is LOW, one must bow one's head to enter it.

GUARDIAN BROTHER

Now get some rest.

The cell is poor, rectangular, with arched ceiling. The mould is mouldy, light enters through a small window placed at the top. On the bottom of a wooden plank as a bed with sack of straw on top, at the foot a trunk for personal belongings. At the side of pallet a kneeler facing the crucifix hanging on the wall. In the corner a desk with a CANDLE.

(CONTINUA)

GUARDIAN BROTHER

It's like you left it.

GIROLAMO

At vespers I'll attend the
prairs... please say to the Prior
that, when finished, we will have
a chance to talk.

Girolamo leaves the sack on the floor, then lights up a candle. He takes out from the rucksack the Bible and put it on the desk, not before taking away with his hand the dust that settled on it.

6

EXT./INT. ORATORY ENTRANCE - DAY

6

ENTRANCE

THE FRAIRS approach in random order the entrance, one of them running towards him with open arms: he is FRA DOMENICO DA PESCIA, a very close friend of him since their novitiate days in Bologna, bound to him by deep friendship.

FRA DOMENICO DA PESCIA: 40yo., average height and bodyshape, face covered by a short beard.

FRA DOMENICO

What a joy! I knew you should
come... we have been waiting for
you.

GIROLAMO

Dear friend, my heart is
delighted as well.

ORATORIO

The room is long and narrow with a Crucifix over the room. A double line of high seats lining on the walls. The PRIOR start singing the first words of the prayers, the FRIARS finish it.

FRIARS (V.O.)

(chorus)

AMEN.

PRIOR

(at the end)

Brothers... shortly we will met
for lunch, go and keep praying.

Girolamo approaches the Prior.

(CONTINUA)

PRIOR
(smiling)
Follow me Girolamo, let's go to
my office.

CLOISTER

The friars get closer to Girolamo, hug him and kiss him. Walking next to the Prior, he holds in his folded arms the breviary.

PRIOR
You see how much they love you?

GIROLAMO
I'm glad.

7 INT. OFFICE OF THE PRIOR - EVENING

7

The two enters the room, behind them a small piece of furniture, on it some holy books. A high window brings light onto the outside of the convent, protected by a metal grating.

The Prior takes out of the tunic a letter.

PRIOR
We are all glad you came back!

GIROLAMO
It was in my sould to be back,
but I was tasked to preach in
Ferrara, then in Pavia.

PRIOR
Your sermons have come here,
brought by your friend, Duke Pico
Della Mirandola, and through him
to Lorenzo... they are now
circulating across all Italy.

GIROLAMO
(referring to Pico)
Much I own him.

PRIOR
I actually have here a letter
from him... Lorenzo insisted upon
your return to Florence.

GIROLAMO
The glory that Florence so
greatly owes to the Medici goes
hand in hand with the corruption
of habits and Catholic way of
life that the whole of Italy

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)
talks about... We are infamous
for homosexuality and youth
violence, robberies are not
counted, meretriciousness is in
the street every day.

Prior, with a face of embarrassment, seeks justification.

PRIOR
One must not be too strict with
the Medici, it was to their
credit that our monastery enjoys
such splendor... You know they
regard it as a landmark of their
wealth.

GIROLAMO
(referring to Lorenzo)
How to turn a blind eye... any of
his opponents were reduced to
obedience or banished, their
assets being seized and they were
black-mailed to make a living.

(pause)
Not even the courts of the
Signoria have reason to exist any
longer, sentences are issued by
him.

(pause)
The opposition is clandestine,
those who are not his friends
have a hard time living... his
government is noose around the
neck of Florence.

The Prior leaves the subject.

PRIOR
What happened in your heart that
you grew so much spiritually?

GIROLAMO
Years ago, few paid attention to
me... I had no voice nor chest,
and my verbiage to florentine
hears was distorted by my
barbaric Romagna Accent.

(pause)
My prayer has increased so
greatly that I am the first to be
amazed by it. Often I can't
restrain myself... I feel driven
by the voice of God.

(CONTINUA)

PRIOR

From the pulpit you said: "The Church will be scourged, then renewed, and that will be soon: only the good will be spared."

GIROLAMO

Yes... You also see how the Roman Curia has not brought any renewal to the Church.

(pause)

Now more than then, illicit deals, corruption as well as intrigues between Cardinals and Potentates are rampant.

The Prior lowers his eyes to the letter.

PRIOR

Lorenzo holds you in high esteem, he would be distressed if you showed yourself to be an enemy of his authority... I am begging you to measure yourself in your words to his person.

(pause)

Abstain from pulpit, I assign you the task of reader to the novices.

Girolamo bows his head and exits.

8

EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN (CONVENT) - DAY

8

Prior granted the most devote nobles, MEN and WOMEN, to attend the lecture, which Girolamo holds in the shade of some roses tree.

GIROLAMO

(talking about the Exodus)

If this book seems to you speaking out of hand about our time and our persecution, I don't want to speak any longer this morning, I will say a word to you and send you home.

FAITHFUL PERSON

What do you mean frair?... what word will this be?...

GIROLAMO

I would tell better news than I have!... To you, who are good and upright in heart, that the Lord we always do you good: do not fear.

(CONTINUA)

(pause)
People of Florence, I say to the
whicked: "propter peccata veniunt
adversa".

OVERLAY: "for sins come hardships"

GIROLAMO
When the Jewish people was doing
right and was God's friend, they
always had good: so on the
contrary, when they put their
hand to wickedness, God prepared
for them the scourge.

(powerful voice)
FLORENCE, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?...
ALAS, IT IS FULL SACK;

(pause)
WAIT... WAIT FOR A GREAT SCOURGE!
Oh Lord, thou witness that I,
with my brethern, have endeavoured
to turn away this ruin.

(pause)
Let each one be confessed, each
one always be prepared, for what
the Lord wills.

All silent and concerned come out of the vegetable garden.

SOON AFTER

Fra Domenico and Girolamo are hanging around.

FRA DOMENICO
Did you see how many more
faithful joined the sermon?!...
they are too many!
(satisfied voice)
The Prior wishes you to preach in
the Church.

GIROLAMO
Keep praying until next Sunday
and you will understand what you
have to do.

ON SUNDAY

The frairs are waiting for his response.

FRAIR
What did you ponder Girolamo?

GIROLAMO
(smiling)
Next Sunday we will read in the
Church... and that will be
lecturing and preaching.

(CONTINUA)

(pause)
and I will be preaching for more
than eight years.

9 INT./EXT. CHURCH OF S.MARCO - DAY

9

INSIDE THE CHURCH

The Seculars who crowd the Church cling to iron grates and walls so much that Friars have to seat on the small wall of the Choir. From the Pergamum the ECHO of the frair's voice thunders in vaults of the Church, seemingly moved by a super-human spirit.

CHURCHYARD

FAITHFUL PEOPLE coming out of the Church, at the end of the Service, pause in the churchyard looking into each other eyes, discussing who that Frair was.

FAITHFUL 1
But who is this one?

FAITHFUL 2
He is a simple and good man!

Another believer, skeptical about the friar, interjects.

SKEPTICAL 1
He is a erudite person, but very
clever.

SKEPTICAL 2
He adheres to false and foolish
beliefs... We must fear him, he
seduces the crowds... he is a
herectic, a fanatic, he aims to
replace the Pope.

WOMAN
(dreadful)
Let's repent!... the time is near
(pause)
have you heard?: "Gladius domini
super terram, cito et velociter".

OVERLAY: "The sword of the Lord on Earth is swift and quick."

10 INT. DE'MEDICI'S PALACE - DAY

10

LORENZO DE'MEDICI, known as the Magnificent, 40yo., medium height, thin, triangular face, spacious forehead, thin and long eyebrows, intense dark eyes that scan everything. Long, pointed nose, streight brown hair covering his ears.

(CONTINUA)

He is the undisputed Lord of Florence; the main activities of money lending on pawn are his; the pontifical concession of the extraction of Alum in Volterra (fixative for fabric colors) is also his business. With an excellent education, he has a strong character, with his power repressing all upraisings. He leads a libertine, unscrupulous lifestyle.

HEARING ROOM

LORENZO is sitting on a high chair. He tastes grapes token with the mouth straight from the bunch; on his side is a small table with a fruit bowl and a goblet.

A COMELY LADY, with red lips and a low-cut cleavage, enters the room to fill Lorenzo's raised goblet. Lorenzo brings the grape closer to lady's mouth as he sinks his other hand into her breast. She, with a sexy look, let it be and with her tongue goes around the grape.

Lorenzo carries on the erotic game with the woman, seeming headless of FIVE FLORENTINE NOBLES that he has summoned, including FRANCESCO VALORI, Gonfalonier of Justice and Advisor of Lorenzo: severe and saviour man.

LORENZO

Go and visit monk of the
hopeless... pretend to go on
yourown account, for the sake of
the city and of the monastery.

(darkening his face)

His sermons are poison to my
family and business.

VALORI

(respectfully)

Was it not you the one who
recalled him to Florence?

LORENZO

Yes... I listened to the words of
my friend Pico that, upon hearing
him debate at the Religious
College of Reggio, was amazed by
the strenght of his teaching.

(referring Pico's words)

"As long as dogma was discussed,
I was silent but when discipline
was discussed, he thundered
lightning... all the audience
stood frozen and astonished".

(talking about to Pico)

It seems like he could no longer
live without the Friar's words
and, aware of my great love for
outstanding men, he persuaded me
to make him come back.

(CONTINUA)

VALORI

Tomorrow we will be over there.

They come out of the hearing room.

11 EXT./INT. CONVENT OF S.MARCO - DAY

11

ENTRANCE

Valori and the other NOBLESS, followed by THREE BODYGUARDS, ring the doorbell. The guardian brother recognizes them and let them in.

VALORI

We would like to talk to
Girolamo!

GUARDIAN BROTHER

(bowing)

My lords please come into the
cloister.

SOON AFTER

Girolamo arrives.

GIROLAMO

What is the purpose of this
visit??

VALORI

Reverend, in Florence nothing is
spoken of but you... they fear
your prophecies about impending
punishments.

(pause)

We are here on our own and we
would like to invite you not to
frighten the city with your
sermons.

GIROLAMO

You said that you came to me, out
of yourselves for the sake of the
city and for the love of our
convent.

(pause)

I TELL YOU THAT THIS IS NOT THE
CASE... BUT LORENZO SENT YOU
THERE.

The nobless remain speechless.

GIROLAMO

Tell Lorenzo to set himself up
for penance for his sins the Lord

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)
spares no one and is not afraid
of the Princes of the Earth.

Valori attempts a half-hearted response.

VALORI
You know Lorenzo... he can
arrange otherwise.

GIROLAMO
I do not fear his threats,
because the city of yours is like
a grain of glass on Earth.
Although I am a foreigner and
Lorenzo a citizen and the First
of the city, I have to remain
there and he will have to leave
it.

(pause)
He will not be able to banish me
as it was with Bernardino da
Feltre.

The nobles leave not knowing how to argue back.

12 INT. OFFICE OF FRIAR GIROLAMO - DAY

12

OVERLAY: July 1491

Girolamo is appointed Prior. There is a custom in Florence that any new appointee Prior to S.Marco's should go to reference Lorenzo de'Medici. An Elderly questions Girolamo about it.

ELDERLY FRAIR
Girolamo, now that you are Prior,
it would be customary to pay
respect to Lorenzo... otherwise
it will be a great scandal.

GIROLAMO
Who elected me Prior?... God or
Lorenzo?... Well, God my Lord I
must thank, no men.

Girolamo doesn't go to pay his respect to Lorenzo.

13 INT. MEDICI'S PALACE - DAY

13

Lorenzo, learning of this, sitting at his writing desk,
reflects.

(CONTINUA)

LORENZO

A foreign frair came to live in
my house, and he didn't even
bother to pay me a visit.

14 INT. CONVENT OF S.MARCO - DAY

14

Lorenzo attends Girolamo's service everyday in order to befriend him. It's customary, after the service, to accompany Lorenzo on strolls through the convent, engaging him. Girolamo, neglecting Lorenzo, returns to his cell after Mass. Frair Domenico enters.

FR.DOMENICO

Girolamo, in the garden Lorenzo
waits for you to keep him
company.

GIROLAMO

He's the cause of corruption of
the Florentine People, of the
misery of the Republic's coffers,
of the loose of freedom... what
should I do?

(pause)

Praise him!?!... let him walk in
his devotion!

Girolamo resumes his preaching.

15 INT. OFFICE OF LORENZO DE'MEDICI - DAY

15

Lorenzo's resentment against Girolamo deepens. He's sitting at his desk talking with his family members GUIDO DEGLI ANGELI and MARIANO DELLA BARBA.

LORENZO

I cannot longer stand the
insolence of that monk of
desperation, I want to see at
what point his devoid of greed
for money.

(pause)

Go to San Marco and drop into the
almoner these one hundred gold
Scudi... they mustn't suspect the
source.

He holds in his hands a leather pouch with money, he drops it on the desk.

GUIDO DELLA BARBA

(bowing his head)

I will go early tomorrow.

(CONTINUA)

LORENZO
Pretend to be faithful and
observe what they do when they
open the alms box.

16 INT. CHURCH OF S.MARCO - DAY 16

Two FRAIRS in charge of collecting offerings open the alms box, find a large amount of Scudi: they are astonished.

FRAIR 1
Run and get the Prior!

SOON AFTER

The Frair returns followed by Girolamo

FRAIR 1
Girolamo, look!

Girolamo guesses the provenance of the money.

GIROLAMO
Copper and silver coins will be
good for the food and the needs
of the convent.
(looking at the golden
Scudi)
Early tomorrow let's dispense
them to the poor... we don't need
so much money.

17 INT. OFFICE OF LORENZO DE'MEDICI - DAY 17

Guido e Mariano are in conversation with Lorenzo.

GUIDO
That frair is distributing gold
coins to the poor.

MARIANO
The ones in need are kneeling and
kissing his hand.

LORENZO
That Frair is not ground for
planting vines!

18 INT. CATHEDRAL OF FIRENZE - DAY 18

The Cathedral is filled with FAITHFUL people, Girolamo speaks about a dream.

FROM THE PULPIT.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

I TELL YOU IT WILL SOON BE A
SCOURGE, EITHER CHRIST OR
ANTICHRIST OR PLAGUE OR FAMINE.
If you ask me if I am a prophet,
I reply: "Non sum Propheta"...
reason for this, the cruelty of
men, murders, lust, sodomy,
idolatry, astrological belives
and simony.

(pause)

It will be a scourge for Lorenzo
and for Rome.

The faithful cross signs, lower their eyes, many come out
weeping.

19 INT. BEDROOM OF LORENZO - DAY

19

OVERLAY: APRIL 1492

Lorenzo is unexepctedly ill with ulcerous cancer. His
health deteriorates rapidly. He moves to the private
residence of Villa Careggi; he feels death is near and,
seized by religious remorse, calls Girolamo to confess.

He is in bed suffering, attended by two of his relatives:
Guido and Mariano.

LORENZO

Bring me here the Prior of San
Marco beacause I didn't found
anyone else but him.

GUIDO

You know his words... it won't be
easy!

LORENZO

(suffering)

TAKE HIM HERE!

20 INT. OFFICE OF GIROLAMO - DAY

20

Guido and Mariano are in front of Girolamo who is praying.
He, once finished, looks at them.

GUIDO

Lorenzo is dying... he wants you
Reverend to take his last rites.

GIROLAMO

Tell Lorenzo that I am not his
need until we agree; therefore it
is not expedient for me to come.

The two come back to Villa Careggi.

21 INT. BEDROOM OF LORENZO - DAY

21

The two relatives reports the Friar's response.

LORENZO

Go back to that Friar, and tell
him to come, I want to agree and
do all that His Revend will tell
me.

THE DAY AFTER

Girolamo and FRA SILVESTRO MARUFFI (a young novice who is
now in Frair's favours) are waiting to get into Lorenzo's
bedroom.

A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY accompanies only Girolamo to the
BEDSIDE. In the room the DOCTOR (short, fat, bald, black
dressed and glasses) whispers in Frair's ear.

DOCTOR

He's at the end...

Lorenzo opens the eyes and turn to the Friar that takes a
kneeler closer to the bed.

LORENZO

Father, I would like to leave my
confession with you

LORENZO

Three sins distress me and plays
me in despair... I don't know if
God will forgive me?

GIROLAMO

In the name of the Father, of the
Son and of the Holy Ghost.

(pause)

Which ones?

LORENZO

I ordered the Sack of Volterra
and suffered because of the
broken promises I made them...
many maidens lost their virginity
and other crimes were committed.

(pause)

I emptied the Monte delle
Fanciulle Coffers of money,
reason for many to turn into the
criminal underworld.

(pause)

In days following the Congiura
de'Pazzi, I shed innocent blood.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

Do not despair in your heart
because God is compassionate, he
will do mercy if you observe my
three penances.

(pause)

Firstly, is that you have living
faith in God who can forgive you.
Secondly, it is necessary that
everything that has been stolen
must be returned.

LORENZO

This is a big one!

(pause)

And still this I will do.

GIROLAMO

Lastly, it is necessary for you
to return Florence to freedom in
its Popular State for the use of
the Republic.

Lorenzo's face darkens, he turns his head away and falls
silent. Girolamo leaves the room and reaches Fr.
Silvestro.

FRA SILVESTRO

Did you restore peace between God
and himself?

GIROLAMO

No!... his heart is
not repentant.

Eight days later Lorenzo dies. Power passes onto his son
PIETRO DE'MEDICI.

DISSOLVE TO

22 INT. CHURCH OF S.LORENZO - DAY

22

Girolamo's voice thunders from the pulpit.

GIROLAMO

A lightning tonight hit the DOME
of the Cathedral!

(pausa)

ECCE GLAUDIUS DOMINI SUPER TERRAM
CITO ED VELOCITER.

OVERLAY: "Here is the sword of the Lord on Earth swift and
quick".

The faithfuls despairs hearing his prophecies. Girolamo
attacks Pope Innocenzo VIII and the Roman Curia.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

I saw the night of Good Friday
two crosses. The first, a black
one, over Roma: the head touching
the sky, extending his arms over
the whole Earth, on it the
writing "Crux irae Dei". It's
accompanied by winds, lightning,
thunderbolts and I saw raining
down brimstone, fires and swords.
A great multitude of people dies.

OVERLAY: "The Cross of God's wrath".

GIROLAMO

After these, a very serene and
clear time and I saw another
golden cross. Above it the
writing: "Crux misericordiae
Dei". I have seen all generation
of men and women from all parts
of the world coming to worship
and embrace her.

(pause)

Brethren, if you want salvation
you must redeem yourselves to
Christian life according to God's
will.

OVERLAY: "The Cross of God's mercy".

He carries on attacking Innocenzo VIII.

GIROLAMO

(in a thundering voice)

We say nothing but true things,
but it is your sins that profan
against you. We lead men to
simplicity and women to honest
living; you lead them to lust,
and pomp and pride. You have
corrupted the world and men and
women into lechery, women into
dishonestly, children into sodomy
and licentiousness, and made
them become as prostitutes.

(continue)

Bacchanalia, corruption and lust
must end... on the throne of
Saint Peter must ascend a
Christian Spirit, rich in
flogging, morality and prayer.

(pause)

There is nothing good in the
Church... from the bottom to the
top.

(CONTINUA)

Bacchanalia: Greek nocturnal rite prising the God Bacchus and practiced by women, later extended to men.

The FAITHFUL are in despair, their face are terrified.

DISSOLVE TO

23

INT. CLOISTER OF SAN MARCO - DAY

23

Duke PICO DELLA MIRANDOLA walks with Girolamo in the cloister.

PICO DELLA MIRANDOLA: 30yo., thin face, long hair covering ears, definded eyelashes. He is a excellently educated person, has been at Lorenzo's Literally Circle of the Court for over 10 years.

PICO

News has come that Innocento is dying.

GIROLAMO

God willing that the new Pope be less dissolute than his predecessor.

PICO

It will not be a religious choice, but a power choice... You know.

(pause)

The King of France and Lodovico il Moro for different reasons are claiming rights to the Kingdom of Naples.

(pause)

Cardinal Ascanio, Lodovico's brother, will be the Great Elector of your friend Oliviero Carafa, while Giuliano della Rovere though octogenarian will introduce himself.

GIROLAMO

(retorically)

Giuliano is linked to the King of Naples?!

PICO

Yes!... only Carafa and Giuliano can ascend "ad limina Petri"... Callisto III's nephew of Cardinal Rodrigo has little chances.

OVERLAY: at St.Peter's Threshold

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

(with contempt)

They will continue in the
simoniacal waste and practice
lust and nepotism in the House of
God.

24 INT. ZENO PALACE - NIGHT

24

CARDINAL RODERJC LLIANCON DE BORJA: 63yo., catalan, round face, slightly fat, aquilin nose, fleshly mouth. Notorious libertine, unrestrained in the Bacchanalia of social gatherings, flaunts favoritism in the Roman Curia to all family members, his ambition is power.

IN THE RECEPTION HALL

Only a few days left until the Conclave.

In the opulent hall, elegant CHAMBERS with serving platters and goblets of wine, walk around through the guests: PRELATES, AMBASSADORS and BEAUTIFUL COURTESANS, without their husbands.

The palace communicates through the Church to the Vatican. The Cardinals' reception are held in the palace, always ending with erotic parties.

The palace is inhabited by three women very close to Rodrigo: ADRIANA MILA ORSINI, GIULIA FARNESE and LUCREZIA.

ADRIANA: 40yo., a beautiful Rodrigo's niece and Giulia's mother-in-law, is also the mentor of his daughter LUCREZIA.

GIULIA: 17yo., petite, oval face, long blond hair, green eyes. A shagging girl, she is named "Giulia Bella" by Rodrigo and she names him "my Lord". She has been his concubine for only a few years. She is perfectly at home in the intrigues of the Roman Curia. Giulia makes herself loved as Adriana directs the amorous intrigue aimed at quelling Rodrigo's unbridled sexuality.

LUCREZIA: 12yo., beautiful daughter of Rodrigo to whom Rodrigo pose paternal and incestuous love. She actively participate in Roman Life as she has been taught by Adriana e Giulia.

The three women enjoy the Cardinal's favour living of female complicity that anchors them in the intrigues of the Roman Curia.

The struggle for the throne of St. Peter is between Cardinals OLIVIERO CARAFA (sponsored by the Sforza family) and GIULIANO DALLA ROVERE (sponsored by the King of Naples). Rodrigo seems to be cut off by the circle of the potential elected Pope. The day after the Conclave begins.

(CONTINUA)

At the nightly reception there are my ambassadors from Italian Lordships. Giulia, wearing a corset highlighting a gentle bosom, everyone looks at her and seeks her out because of her beauty and her influence on Rodrigo. She in a flirtatious but polite manner goes from one conversation to another. She is lingering with Cardinal ASCANIO SFORZA.

ASCANIO
(persuasive)
Madame I hope Rodrigo tomorrow
will affix his vote in the ballot
box with Olivero's name.

Giulia rests her lips on goblet she is holding, sipping the delicate nectar then pulling the goblet away. Barely raising her eyes turns to Ascanio.

GIULIA
My lord doesn't aspire to the
Throne of Peter: he will vote for
you.

ASCANIO
Lodovico will be grateful to him.

GIULIA
(smiling)
Your eminence, you know how
foundly my lord holds Lodovico
and I am friend with Beatrice
d'Este, his bride.
(through smiling)
I would never want to give up my
friendship.

Adriana entertains herself with Cardinal DELLA ROVERE who invites her to intercede for him in the Conclave.

GIULIANO DELLA ROVERE
Your uncle has always been my
friend... I hope he will be there
tomorrow too.

ADRIANA
(pretending to be certain)
Don't doubt it Your Excellence.

The graceful Lucrezia is entertained by Cardinal Carafa.

CARAFa
Madame Lucrezia, I remain
enchanted watching your dancing.

LUCREZIA
I am flattered, your Eminence,
but remember that in my veins
flows Spanish blood and Madame

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

LUCREZIA (SEGUE)

Adriana has been a good teacher
to me.

CARAFÀ

Have a good hearth tomorrow and
remember Rodrigo about me.

At the reception ends, the waiters through the leftover
libations from the palace windows. People in the street is
waiting for them eagerly.

Little by little the guests go in the bedrooms with the
courtesans present. Rodrigo takes Giulia under his arm and
heads to her private room.

IN THE BEDROOM OF GIULIA

Rodrigo removes his cardinal robes. Giulia gets help to
unfasten her corset and remove her gown from a
Lady-in-Waiting, she slips on her robe and seats and the
dressing table. The Lady-in-Waiting combs her long blond
hair, which she moves over her breast covering them;
having finished preparing Giulia for the night, the
Lady-in-Waiting leaves. Rodrigo approaches and from behind
kisses her shoulders. She moves away from him, gets under
the sheets and on his chest converses.

GIULIA

My lord, they all ask me what
will you vote for tomorrow! They
want your Cardinals to stand for
them.

RODRIGO

I'm the needle in the balance and
they don't know it yet, they
haven't noticed me... better that
way.

(smiling)

When they will see eachother in
stalemate, I will be the solution
that works for everyone.

Kissing her repeatedly on the breast they spend the night.
The little light from the candlestick illuminates warm
colors the two bodies writhing to satisfy Rodrigo's carnal
drive.

DISSOLVE TO

25 INT. SISTIN CHAPEL - DAY

25

The fourth Conclave ballot is the decisive one. A long silence accompanies the steps of the PROTODEACON between the pews to collect the ballots. The cardinal reads the name of Rodrigo Borja 28 times.

PROTODEACON
(long pause)
Rodrigo Borja!

PROTODEACON
(long pause)
Rodrigo Borja!

PROTODEACON
(long pause)
Rodrigo Borja!

SOON AFTER

The Protodeacon gets up and with solemn voice pronounce the formula.

PROTODEACON
Nuntio vobis gaudium magnum:
habemus papam, eminentissimum et
reverendissimum dominum Cardinal
Roderjc Lliancon De Borja, qui
sibi imposuit nomen Alessandro
VI.

OVERLAY: I announce you a great joy: we have a Pope, most eminent and most reverend Cardinal Roderic Lliancon De Borja, that will take the name of Alessandro VI.

The Camerlengo collects the ballots and burns them. The chimey of the Sistin Chapel emits the white smoke.

DISSOLVE TO

26 INT. CLOISTER OF S.MARCO - DAY

26

Pico walks through the cloister together with Girolamo and they talk about the election of Pope Borja.

GIROLAMO
The new Peter will not be
dissimilar to Innocenzo.

PICO
After failing to be elected eight
years ago, now richer than before
he found it easy to hedge
political intransigence between
Lodovico and King Ferrante

(CONTINUA)

(reveling a secret)
The Banco degli Spannocchi,
depository of the Borjas, was
about to fail, so many wear the
mules loaded with gold and silver
on their way to Cardinal
Ascanio's house.

GIROLAMO

The best help were the simoniacal
gifts to most of the cardinal for
each had his share in the feast.

(continue)

A few abbeys, the important
legation of Avignone, and the
fortress of Ronciglione were
accomodated to Giuliano della
Rovere in good mesaure.

27 INT. CONVENT OF S.MARCO - DAY

27

At the entrance of the convent, wagons, driven by MEN with
napkins on their mouth and noses, carry plague victims,
others load the dead bodies wrapped in hemp fabric and
take them out of town.

Girolamo is in conversation with Friar Domenico.

GIROLAMO

Make the elderly fathers leave
tomorrow, give them food and
water to reach our countryside
communities.

FRA DOMENICO

The town is deserted, the stores
are empty, those who can wear the
mask of death, people walk to
their homes in fear.

28 INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROME) - DAY

28

PIETRO DE'MEDICI : 20yo., stout of build, phisically
muscolar, agile, an excellent horseman. He is inclined to
love women, he spends his time busy into amorous affairs
or playing "palla a pugno" or soccer. Prone by nature to
pride and sudden anger, he cares little for the city
government affairs.

PIETRO travels to Rome after obtaining a audience with the
Pope. The Pope offers his right hand with the Piscatorial
Ring, Pietro kneels and kisses it.

CARDINAL CARAFA, a friend of Savonarola, is attending the
meeting.

(CONTINUA)

PIETRO

Most Holy Father, your person is continually put in a bad light by a Dominican who, from the pulpit of San Marco thunders against the Roman Church.

BORJA

(surprised)

I heard about him!

PIETRO

Yes... Girolamo! A dominican friar of St.Marco's Convent.

(pause)

Accuses you of lust, simony and libertine conduct.

BORJA

I didn't know he was so shameless.

PIETRO

(begging)

Holiness... I beg you please expell this odd person from Florence.

BORJA

Go Pietro, I have already arranged just now for the Tuscan Convent, scourged by the plague, to come under the Lombard Congregation.

(pause)

That friar will not longer be a trouble to you.

DISSOLVE TO

29

INT. CLOISTER OF S.MARCO - DAY

29

Cardinal Carafa is in conversation with Girolamo, the two walk through the cloister.

GIROLAMO

What good wind is bringing you to Florence?

CARAFa

Dark clouds are gathering over your head... parlo di Pietro e di Papa Borja,

(pause)

urged His Holiness to take away your powers over the Convent.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

I received that letter, but I understood it on account of the plague

(pause)

I will find it impossible to realize the dream of the Florentine Congregation.

CARAFÀ

I know my influence on the Pope and how much he values me... I will try to change his mind.

DISSOLVE TO

30 INT. BEDROOM OF GIULIA (ZENO PALACE) - DAY

30

Inside the canopy, the Pope is wearing short white pijama, Giulia lying on the bed leaves her bareback exposed. He kisses her lower back and lovingly slaps her bottom.

BORJA

Wake up Giulia is late, in an hour time I have to give an audience... it's ten o'clock!

GIULIA

My lord it is dawn!

She puts her head under the pillow with no intention of getting up.

The figure of the elderly Pope is worsen by age and alcohol that make him almost ridiculous in front of the young lover.

Getting out of bed he slips in his sleepers, picks up the chamber pot at the side of the bed and urinates.

Morning toilette done, the servants bring the two breakfast to the small table in the bedroom.

31 INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROME) - DAY

31

Pope Borja enters the room. He has a severe hemicrania: decides to suspend the meeting and dismisses the high prelates.

BORJA

(tired)

This morning my head is buzzing... I will go and rest.

(CONTINUA)

Carafa, Cardinal of Naples, delays leaving the room, entertaining the Pope with pleasant topics.

CARAFÀ
(sarcastically)
Was the night to His liking?

BORJA
Good company is never expensive!

CARAFÀ
I would have prepared a Brief, in which that rebellious friar is submitted only to His Holiness.

BORJA
You know... now it's up to the Lombard Congregation!?
(pause)
I can't go back on my decisions!

The Pope let him doing, he pulls the Piscatorial Ring from his finger and seals the Brief annulling the previous one.

DISSOLVE TO

32 INT. TENT OF THE KING (SARZANELLO) - NIGHT

32

OVERLAY NOVEMBER 1494

King CARLO VIII passes through the Alps, passing through the Florentine Republic.

Pietro de'Medici, without waiting for authorization by the Signoria, heads to the tent camp.

PIETRO
His Majesty you came in Italy with your army to reach Naples and get back what has been taken away from you by the Angioini Family.
(pause)
I know you would like to pass by Florence but I fear you will reduce like Fivizzano and Sarzanello by fire and sword. You know how much I care about my wealth.
(pausa)
I am here asking for clemency for myself too.

KING CARLO VIII
You have always been an opponent to me... I don't see what I should do with you?!

(CONTINUA)

PIETRO

Majesty... Ask and you will be given!

KING CARLO VIII

I want Pisa and Livorno plus 120.000 Fiorini... so you will be able to leave freely in your Florence.

PIETRO

You are asking too much, but I obey.

33

INT. PALACE OF DE'PANDOLFINI (SIGNA) - DAY

33

The florentine people after learning of Pietro's agreement, rise up on his return, trying to lynch him.

The Signoria appointed Girolamo as ambassador of peace. The King seated at the podium of the audience hall, welcome the Friar together with FIVE NOBLES.

KING CARLO VIII

News has come that you have kicked Pietro out!

GIROLAMO

It's not due to people willing, but by God willing!

(intimidating voice)

Be known your Majesty that any ingiustice suffered by Florence will be judged by God.

The King takes the Monk's threats seriously; he agrees with him to enter Florence only to rest his troops and not to let the blood flow.

KING CARLO VIII

Florentine, not like Pietro, have been friendly... be aware that Florence is not my destination, but Naples.

(pause)

I will stay just the necessary time to refresh my army.

GIROLAMO

If that's your intention... you are welcome

(pause)

but know that a Medici will no longer enter the City.

34 MONTAGE - KING CARLO VIII ENTERS IN FLORENCE - DAY 34

1- The king enters Florence horseriding, guarded by his CAPTAINS: he stays in Palazzo De'Medici;

2- While he passes through the city with the court, people shout at him showing hostility.

35 INT. HEARING ROOM (PALAZZO DE'MEDICI) - DAY 35

PIER CAPPONI, invited by the Signoria, pays his tribute to the King. He's accompanied by a young Captain, MARCUCCIO SALVIATI, able and skilled leader, expert in the art of war, handsome, he always has a sword by his body side.

PIER CAPPONI: florentine nobles, handsome, proud face, politician and commander and supporter of the Frair.

PIER CAPPONI

His Majesty, since the day you arrived many troubles happened between florentine and your soldiers

(pause)

It's time for you to leave!

A Capitan, next to the king, gives the king a parchment. The King smiles sarcastically gives it to Pier Capponi.

KING CARLO VIII

(severe)

You come to urge my leaving from Florence... I'll do it at my conditions!

Pier Capponi carefully reads the paper. His face darkens.

PIER CAPPONI

(firmly)

You are not thinking of becoming new Lord of Florence after Pietro has been kicked out?!

Pier Capponi furious, rip off the parchment.

PIER CAPPONI

WE'LL SEE IF OUR SWORDS CUT LIKE YOURS... IF YOU PLAY YOUR TRUMPETS, WE WILL PLAY OUR BELLS.

Pier Capponi and Marcuccio Salviati leave.

SOON AFTER

(CONTINUA)

MARCUCCIO
(to Pier Capponi)
Sir, I'll inform my men in
town... and don't make it happen.

The swears to set Florence on fire that same night.

36 INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF SIGNORIA - NIGHT

36

A King's court FRENCH NOBLE secretly visits his friend Pier Capponi. He would like to inform him of King's intentions. The two go to the Signoria to give him an heads up.

NOBILE
King Carlo swore to put
Florence by fire and sword
tonight.

MARCUCCIO
(worried)
We have little time to organize
our defence.

The Assembly becomes a Babel of voices, everyone is panicking. A Member, the last behind the benches, remembers Frair Girolamo's prophecy:

SIGNORIA'S MEMBER
(calmly)
"When you will find yourself in
troubles and distress, you will
be drunk and loose your mind"
(firmly)
GO TO THE MAN OF GOD... FRAIR
GIROLAMO... GO TO THE MAN OF GOD!

The Signoria summon up Girolamo again.

37 INT. PALACE DE'MEDICI - NIGHT

37

AT THE ENTRANCE

The Guards' CAPITAIN stops Girolamo. The frair, firmly wanting a hearing with the King.

GIROLAMO
(powerful voice)
The King doesn't know it yet, but
he wants to speak with me!

CAPITAN
(perplexed)
Go Frair!... Make sure you're
right!

(CONTINUA)

Inside the palace Girolamo gets blocked a few more times, but he always go through. The King, seating on his chair, is ordering to his CAPTAINS to start the sacking of Florence. The King welcomes him. Girolamo raises the copper Crucifix that carries on his waist.

GIROLAMO

HE'S THE MAKER OF THE SKY AND EARTH!... Don't honor me but him, who is King of the Kings, Lord of the Lords, and shakes the world and gives victory to Princes following his willing and justice; he punishes and gives misfortune to the ungodly and unjust Kings.

(pause)

And he will ruin you with all your soldiers if you don't give up all this much cruelty, cancelling the promise you made me a few days ago not to damage Florence. All the friends and God's servant that following His willing and justice honor you, will shout against you at the God's Throne and will destroy all your army.

(pause)

So, give up your grim intentions, made against this innocent and faithful people.

The king and his captains seem worried.

GIROLAMO

You know, Majesty, that God's willing is that you leave, otherwise you and your army will find death.

Girolamo leaves the room without waiting for a response.

38

INT. CONVENT ORATORY - NIGHT

38

Girolamo meets Valori and Pier Capponi in the oratory: they are worried.

VALORI

How did it go?

GIROLAMO

I left him holding his intentions... but he will think about it!

(CONTINUA)

PIER CAPPONI

Marcuccio's men are ready to
fight, if and when the sack of
the city.

VALORI

In the street there is silence
but the florentine don't sleep,
they are ready behind the
windows.

GIROLAMO

Now brothers let's knee and pray
that God gives to King Charles
good advise.

39

INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

39

The Assembly of the Signoria has been meeting all night. A
ENVOY enters the room.

ENVOY

The King with his parade of
captains left the city.

GONFALONIER

Girolamo made him think twice.

MEMBER OF THE SIGNORIA

The bells are ringing in
celebration

ENVOY

In the street the florentine did
throw their hats on the sky and
shout to celebrate.

GONFALONIER

We all know the importance of
Girolamo!

(to the envoy)

Go and take here the friar, we
need to know what government the
city should have, now that Pietro
is gone and the nightmare of King
Charles too, we need to give back
to Florence a good life.

In the room a buzz starts, some pro others against
listening to Girolamo. Four parties: BIGI (supporters of
the Medici), BIANCHI (supporters of people's government),
ARRABBIATI (against the friar), PIAGNONI (supporters of
the friar).

SOON AFTER

(CONTINUA)

Girolamo arrives in the center of the room. The assembly keeps quiet.

GONFALONIER

Friar, after all this risks we would like to know from you what to do with the city!

(pause)

Firenze pays his respect to you!

GIROLAMO

(powerful voice)

I was a foreigner and I came here... you called me to read to the novices... but that wasn't my role... now you ask me what to do with the City?

(pause)

Let's leave the hateful Medici system of pretending tolls at your convenience, ask for it based on wealth... Unrest will stop.

(pause)

Establish a Monte di Pietà and close down the jewish's and the rich merchants' usury shops.

Monte di Pietà: Franciscan institution to grant lending upon pledge.

BIGIO

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH FLORENCE?... YOUR OWN PERSONAL KINGDOM?

(pause)

THE MEDICI MADE FLORENCE'S FORTUNE

GIROLAMO

YES!... YOUR FORTUNE AND YOUR BUSINESS.

The assembly keeps quiet. Girolamo takes a long silence.

GIROLAMO

Establish "Night Officials" that can arrest who breaks the law and takes the citizens' complaints, ban low-cut dresses to women and sophisticated hairstyles.

The assembly listens silently.

ARRABBIATO

FRIAR, THINK ABOUT PRAYERS AND DO IT WELL... NOT LIKE YOU ARE DOING.

(CONTINUA)

Girolamo ignoring him carries on.

GIROLAMO

Florence must be governed by the Justice Standard Bearer and by Eight Priors... until they will not become tyrants, change the rulers every two months.

(pause)

Abolish the Medici's Councils and give back to the People the power they deserve... establish a eighty people council to propose new laws and a major Council and the Signoria to ratify.

(pause)

REMEMBER THAT YOUR LAWS SHOULD NOT PREVAIL GOD'S ONES.

Bigi and Arrabbiati making noise to disapprove while Bianchi and Piagnoni applause.

PIAGNONE

As you can see the fortune seem to have turned his shoulder against Florence... we trust you.

BIANCO

We are surrounded by enemies, Lodovico wants to be the lord here... and Pisa doesn't recognize our power anymore.

(pause)

Famine and plague are spreading, city is in misery. Exchange has stop and the florentine vaults are exhausted.

ARRABBIATO

(critically)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE THE POPE'S CHAIR? AND PUT THE TIARA ON YOUR HEAD?

BIANCO

(to the assembly)

LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT THAT FRIAR HAS TO SAY!

(pause)

Alessandro VI plots against Florence to donate it to his sons.

Piagnoni and Bianchi gets the majority and the Signoria approves Frate Girolamo's Government.

40

MONTAGE - NEW LIFE IN FIRENZE - DAY

40

1- Florentine citizens walk around the city wearing Girolamo's clothes and keeping the Bible under their arm. In front of lenders' money shops, long lines of people receive their money and tokens;

2- In San Marco's monastery, YOUNGSTER attend theology lectures, moral lectures, Bible lectures, painting, architecture and sculpture. Girolamo distributes to the POOR the personal belongings of his brothers. The convent is flourishing of activities;

3- Girolamo is now the most important person in Florence: he walks in the street with rough robes, florentines stop him and kiss his hands;

4- Brothels are looted. WOMEN leave apart lavish dresses and pay penance. The NIGHT OFFICIALS search through the city from dawn to sunset, arresting anyone practicing homosexuality, sodomy, prostitution and bacchanalia;

5- On the street and squares, often piagnoni and arrabbiati clash;

6- A group of YOUNG MADMEN without moral and with a licentious life, SON OF NOBLE FAMILIES, usually meet at sunset to do their raids: they are the COMPAGNACCI, the most vicious opponents of the Frair. Their leader is DOFFO SPINI, a young resourceful and bellicouse. His spokesman at the Signoria is VIERI DE'MEDICI, tall, blonde curly hair, wise eyesight. Both of them come from a noble family fallen in disgrace due to bad business management.

41

INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROMA) - DAY

41

Pope Borja, feeling continuously attacked after Girolamo's last lectures, is angry.

Fr. MARIANO DA GENNAZZANO (from the Medici Party) a DOMINICAN BISHOP and VALENTINO BORJA (bishop of Valencia) have been summoned up by the Pope.

Valentino (baptised Cesare): tall, thin, bare face, moustache, he has a oriental look.

Valentino is the second son of Borja, envious of his senior brother Juan (receptient of his father's inheritance). Valentino prefers military life to ecclesiastical, and shows greater villainy and immorality then his father.

VALENTINO

That Frair keeps attacking you with outrageous sermons... he writes letters against you to Lodovico and other rulers.

(CONTINUA)

FR. GENNAZZANO
It's true his Holiness!

BORJA
(to the Bishop)
I want you to hold a public
debate against that Frair!

The bishop is embarrassed.

BISHOP
Holy Father... I'll do that but
we must have the right weapons to
get over him.

BORJA
What weapons?

BISHOP
(whispering)
This Frair says one should not
keep concubines, nor girlish
lusty dancers, nor trading holy
wealth.
(pause)
What can I say to this Frair?!

BORJA
(questioning)
What should I do?

VALENTINO
Award him and friend him...
honour with the Cardinal's Red
Hat as soon as he will put his
prophecies aside and think again
about what he said.

PAPA BORJA
Go and offer him the Red Hat.
(pause)
it's my last offer before
excommunication.

42 INT. CATHEDRAL OF FIRENZE - DAY

42

In the Cathedral a staircase has been set to seat all the
believers. The Signoria attends to know if the Frair will
accept Pope's offer.

GIROLAMO
(thundering)
I will never disobey the Roman
Church and I will believe in
whatever It believes.
(continue)

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)

However... if the orders are against Charity and the Gospel then I'm allowed to disobey as it is written: OPORTET OBBEDIRE MAGIS DEO QUAM HOMINIBUS.

OVERLAY: "We must obey to God rather than to the men"

GIROLAMO

You know why Rome is against me... are not of religious nature, but also political. Florence will fall again under Lodovico and the Pope... I WILL NOT OBEY TO MEN.

(pause)

I DON'T WANT HATS, NOR BIG OR SMALL MITERS, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING BUT WHAT YOU GAVE TO ALL YOUR SAINTS: THE HAT OF MARTYRODOME.

DISSOLVE TO

43

INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

43

The Government of Florence goes to the Arrabbiati. The standard bearer summon up ABBOTS, PRIORS, THEOLOGISTS AND CLERICS to question him. Girolamo, in the center of the room, waits the saviour's questions. Fr. Domenico seats in the closest seats to his friend.

STANDARD BEARER

(blaming)

Friar!... We all want answers about your sermons!

Fra GAROFANINO the most senior frair takes the stage.

FRA GAROFANINO

(reprimandly)

No one serving God gets involved in wordly business.

Girolamo gets defensive.

GIROLAMO

I try to preach following the old way of Saints and Apostles, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, I would not believe that get involved in State business would be wrong if following the right way, as it has been done by Saints and Righteous men.

(CONTINUA)

Girolamo raise is look up to the assembly.

GIROLAMO

When an action follows God's
willing and everyone good, you
should not call it secular
business but therefore spiritual
and holy.

Girolamo notice that many saviours come from his Religious
Order and, getting closer to Fra Domenico, whispers:

GIROLAMO

My mother's son are against me.

A SAVIOUR raises up, tired of not getting answers he is
looking for, with great emphasis:

SAVIOUR

SPEAK OPENLY AND CLEAR, IF YOU
GET THIS WORDS FROM GOD... OR
NOT! WE WILL BELIEVE YOU IF THEY
COME FROM GOD!

GIROLAMO

I openly spoke to the world, I
didn't keep anything to myself in
secret.

The Standard Bearer, upset by the answers, disband the
meeting.

44

INT. CELL OF GIROLAMO (CONVENT OF SAN MARCO)- DAY

44

Fr.Domenico and Fr.Silvestro are in Savonarola's cell, who
is sick: he layes on the table, under a boiled wool, his
eyes are red and pouff, he's weak struggling to stand
still.

FR.DOMENICO

How are you today?

GIROLAMO

My body is in pain, but my soul
is full of the Lord.

Fr.Silvestro brings a hot cup of tea.

FR.SILVESTRO

(kindly)

The doctor frair says your life
had been at risk... drink this
up, it will help you!

(CONTINUA)

FR.DOMENICO
We prayed for you.
(whispering)
You were rumbling.

GIROLAMO
Your prays have been listened
to... I can stand still and flu
is gone.

Fr.Domenico hands him a letter.

FR.DOMENICO
It has come yesterday... it's
from Rome!

Girolamo opens it and silently read it through.

GIROLAMO
His Holiness would like to
urgently meet me.

FR.DOMENICO
You know how much the Signoria
denigrated you in front of the
Holy Father... Away from Florence
it would be easy to trap you.
(pause)
I suggest you not to go.

FR.SILVESTRO
The atmosphere in the city is
quite tense, out there you would
not be safe. Doffo Spini promised
to kill you... you are too weak
to face this challenge.

GIROLAMO
(thoughtful)
Disobey to the Pope or be killed
by the Compagnacci!?
(pause)
Praying will lead me.

DISSOLVE TO

45 INT. STUDY OF GIROLAMO - DAY

45

Francesco Valori and Marcuccio Salviati are meeting
Girolamo.

VALORI
Father, you are at great risk
walking around Florence...
Compagnacci are behind the corner
to attempt your life.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

My destiny is already decided...
it's God's willing.

VALORI

Doffo Spini can count on Vieri
de'Medici.

(pause)

We'd like you pay attention, for
this reason Marcuccio and his men
can be next to you... he's
trustful man, valued soldier and
fearful of God.

GIROLAMO

I often saw him attending my
lectures... I'll accept your
help.

46

INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROMA) - DAY

46

Doffo Spini and Pietro de'Medici are in the hearing room
of the Pope, SECRETARY BURCARDO attends too. They talk
about Girolamo.

DOFFO SPINI

Holiness, his teaching are
heretical, his prophecies scare
the city.

BORJA

Sickness gave him an excuse to
disobey to my Brief and not
coming to Rome.

PIETRO

If he's out of Florence, my army
can come in town and reconquest
him. His Holiness would be
glad... I've always been
faithful.

DOFFO SPINI

Now he goes around with an army.

BORJA

(to Burcardo)

ORDER HIM TO COME TO ROME AND BAN
HIM TO LECTURE!

DISSOLVE TO

47 INT. CLOISTER OF SAN MARCO - DAY

47

Girolamo speaks with Fr.Domenico and Fr.Silvestro: with their hands in the tunic sleeves.

FR.SILVESTRO

How do you think you will void those orders?

GIROLAMO

(looking at Fr.Domenico)

You can take my place at the Pergamum!

FR.DOMENICO

There is more to come... Just outside Florence, in the bush, there's Pietro's army

(pause)

If you go to Rome they would enter the city... It would be the end for our Republic... the dissolute life would come back.

GIROLAMO

I'm still not well enough to go to Rome... I'll not go!

The Guardian Frair gives Girolamo a new letter from Rome.

FR.SILVESTRO

What's up?

Girolamo's face darkens.

GIROLAMO

His Holiness submitted us again to another Congregation.

FRA SILVESTRO

We'll lose our freedom of movement!

FRA DOMENICO

Every trace of our reforms will be gone!

GIROLAMO

No brothers... We are not oblige to obey.. Rome can not change the Order's Constitution.

Their faces are worried, they understand that's war between Pope Borja and Girolamo.

DISSOLVE TO

48

INT. PRIVATE ROOMS OF VALENTINO (ROMA) - GIORNO

48

Valentino, back after speaking with the Pope, has summoned up his friend JUAN LOPEZ, Arcibishop of Perugia.

VALENTINO

(firmly)

My friend, prepare the excommunication for that Dominican Frair from Florence.

JUAN LOPEZ

(uncertain)

It's not my business.. but your father's.

(pause)

Without His Holiness' authorization, it would be weird!

VALENTINO

You write that Brief!... I'll take care of my father!

(pause)

You will be well rewarded!

JUAN LOPEZ

What should I write?

VALENTINO

Write he's an heretic and doesn't respect the Pope... now he doesn't even obey to His orders!

DISSOLVE TO

49

EXT. CONVENT SAN MARCO - DAY

49

Girolamo and Marcuccio's ARMED ESCORT leaves the convent. Doffo Spini and his people are dirtying the external wall with manure and writing with whitewash offensive and obscene phrases.

DOFFO SPINI

HE IS COMING OUT!

(referred to the manure)

LET'S THROW IT!

GIROLAMO

(surprised)

BAD MEN...GOD LOOKS AT YOU!

The armed escort takes out the daggers. Marcuccio fiercly opposes the Compagnacci avoiding the fight.

(CONTINUA)

MARCUCCIO
(to his men)
PROTECT THE FRIAR... TAKE HIM
INSIDE!

Girolamo and the armed escort go back in quickly.

50 INT. LIBRARY OF THE CONVENT - DAY 50

Girolamo tells Fr.Domenico and Fr.Silvestro what happened.

FR.DOMENICO
Signoria is now mainly
Arrabbiata... Vieri de'Medici is
close friend of many.

FR.SILVESTRO
I suggest carefulness... better
if you stay inside the monastery
for a while.

FR.DOMENICO
Compagnacci promised to kill you.

FR.SILVESTRO
Signoria doesn't care about you.

GIROLAMO
(to Fr.Silvestro)
I'll listen to you, my dear
friend... but on Ascension day I
will speak with the people of
Florence.

DISSOLVE TO

51 INT. TAVERN OF FIRENZE - NIGHT 51

A dim light tavern, lower than street level; inside,
through the grates you can just see passers-by's feet.

Doffo Spini with other Compagnacci are seating at a table
with glasses full of wine. Some of them kiss and hug each
other in the middle of a great bedlam of voices.

VIERI DE'MEDICI walks in, nobleman, tall, blonde curly
hair, wise eyes, seats next to Doffo.

VIERI
Tomorrow the Friar will be
praying... NOW THE WE LEAD THE
SIGNORIA, WE CAN'T ALLOW IT|

The Compagnacci shouting approve it.

(CONTINUA)

A WAITRESS wearing a very low-cut blouse, has one side of her skirt rolled up at the waist, showing her LEGS down to her crotch; some Compagnacci put their hands above the thigh, she, not worried, brings the plates to the tables. A JOKER dressed with a well-worn dress, plays the lute singing obscene rhymes about Girolamo and walking around the tables.

JOKER (V.O.)

Revoca l'ira tua da noi, Signore;
(pausa)
non riguardare alla nostra
pazzia.

DOFFO SPINI

TIME HAS COME TO GET RID OF
HIM... FOREVER!

(pause)

Let's ask Baia for help, master
of fireworks!... let's take him
straight to Heaven!

They clap their hands on the table, except Vieri.

JOKER (V.O.)

... Se la religione ipocrisia
è fatta sol per questo seduttore.

VIERI

NO!

(pause)

We could accidentally kill the
believers... the Signoria would
be angry...

(pause)

IT CAN'T BE DONE!

DOFFO

We could soil the Church and
Pergamum with manure and make
trouble during the preaching of
that hereticus... and kill him.

COMPAGNACCIO

I've a donkey skin that still
stinks... let's put it on the
pergamum, the stinky flesh will
poison the whole church... and
poisoned nails on the pergamum
where he puts his hands.

DOFFO SPINI

(smiling)

At a signal from me we assault
the Pergamum.... I will pierce
that Friar with my dagger.

(CONTINUA)

Dagger: short sword with two cuts.

The Compagnacci continue their obscene effusions; then late at night they leave and head to lord over the Cathedral.

52 INT. CELL OF GIROLAMO (CONVENT SAN MARCO)- NIGHT 52

Francesco Valori is taken by Fr.Domenico to the cell of Girolamo, who is praying with his head bow in his hands. The two wait him finishing.

VALORI

A bad news has come!... tomorrow
in the Cathedral Doffo would
attempt your life.

(pause)

His people is dirtying the
Church.

FR.DOMENICO

Please don't go tomorrow.

GIROLAMO

Men will not stop God's word!

53 INT. CATHEDRAL OF FIRENZE - DAY 53

OVERLAY: 4th May 1497

The frairs early in the morning clean the Cathedral.

SOON AFTER

Compagnacci stand at the walls. Doffo Spini and Vieri are next to the almoner.

VIERI

The now know what we did.

DOFFO SPINI

Someone between our people have
spoken.

Girolamo enters the room with the armed escort, get to the Pergamum and, thundering, points Doffo Spini.

GIROLAMO

HERE IS THE DEVIL TAKING MASS!

Doffo Spini with a kick throws the almoner.

DOFFO SPINI

FRAIR! YOU WILL NOT LEAVE ALIVE!

(CONTINUA)

Doffo and his people take out the daggers surrounding the Pergamum, the armed escort close ranks. The light from the top of the Cathedral lights BLADES that cross with hard metal noise.

Girolamo manage to go leave the Cathedral well protected by his people. Many wounded from both sides. The trap has failed, he run to the convent with his ARMY.

54

INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

54

The Signoria Assembly animously discuss the Frair aggression.

GONFALONIER

(Arrabbiati party)

We can't allow that Friar to make prophecies and speak of heretical doctrines... he is the cause of our unluck... he sold us to the French and made Alessandro VI against us.

(pause)

WE HAVE TO PUSH HIM AWAY!

Arrabbiati clap their hands. The Piagnone Valori takes the stage.

VALORI

(powerful)

You are increasing hate agaist the Frair, as if the Pope's and Lodovico's one are not enough... We should instead be grateful.

(pause)

You are supporting Doffo that is abusing of it against the Friar and whom is friend of him... His people threw stones against my palace and my family.

(pause)

The preaching are unattended, the dirt in the streets is back.

GONFALONIER

It's not this way!... The lifestyle imposed is against citizens' willing.

The BIGI are in line with the ARRABBIATI, while the WHITES are uncertain. Their faces look scared of acting against the friar.

BIGIO

His prophecies influenced the city and many are scared.

(CONTINUA)

BIANCO

We want Pietro back!

VALORI

You know who is responsible for the troubles: COMPAGNACCI!

(pause)

IT HAS BEEN AN AGGRESSION, YOU ARE ALL ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT.

GONFALONIER

That Friar's preaching are schismatic.

(pause)

HE MUST STOP PREACHING!

Assembly decide not to exhiliate the Frair and not to punish the Compagnacci.

55

INT. CATHEDRAL OF FIRENZE - DAY

55

Girolamo received the excommunication: from the Pergamum thunders.

GIROLAMO

I told you that the price for a great sacrifice will always be great ungreatfullness... and that in Rome, the enemies of the Truth will always prosecute the Servants of Christ.

(pause)

Don't think my excommunication is useless... not in front of God, nor the Church... Punishment made up on false evidence to harm God and the Truth. However not finding a reliable evidence to excommunicate me, they suggested to the Pope the fake instead of the true proofs referring that I spread harmful teaching and heresy.

(pause)

If this doctrine I preach is an evil dogma, they can hold on the one they prefer as we will face death for our creed.

The city splits in two: the desperates and the joyful ones.

The three frairs are thoughtful while walking through the cloister porch.

FRA SILVESTRO

In the city everyone is talking about Juan's homicide, Duke of Gandia and Captain of the Pope's Guards.

FRA DOMENICO

Juan and Valentino that evening had dinner at their mother Vanozza home... at the end they left on their horses.

(pause)

Juan, privately, went to Lucrezia at Zeno's Palace.

(pause)

It seems like between the three there was an incestuous love, but she was in love with Juan, not with Valentino.

FRA SILVESTRO

A woodworker late in the night saw two men looking for a secret place along the Tevere river... A knight came and throw the dead body in a muddy bend in the river.

(pause)

Juan has been found there two days later, stabbed nine times.

(pause)

A groom waiting for him in front of Lucrezia's house had been stabbed too by unknown.

FRA DOMENICO

Everyone whisper the name of Valentino.

GIROLAMO

(referring to Valentino)

He would get a rid of a love rival and a contender to his father's inheritance.

(pause)

Holy licentiousness is the cause of all these facts.

FRA SILVESTRO

Alessandro for the grif stays locked in his rooms depressed.

(pause)

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

FRA SILVESTRO (SEGUE)
For him it would be losing two
sons.

GIROLAMO
He will always keep in his heart
the pain for the two disgraces.

FRA DOMENICO
(to Girolamo)
That would be a good time to ask
to withdraw you excommunication.

GIROLAMO
(thoughtful)
Yes... but it could also be a
relief and encouragement to repair
the sins within the Church and
encourage penance.

57 INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

57

At Christmas the Signoria is back to the Piagnoni
leadership.

A brief from the Pope arrived: the Frair must be arrested.

GONFALONIER
(to the assembly)
The Pope ordered us to arrest the
Frair and handle to him!

ARRABBIATO
It doesn't seem savvy to go
against his orders.

PIAGNONE
We all know how the
excommunication has been built
up... IT'S A FAKE!

GONFALONIER
UNTIL I WILL HOLD THIS OFFICE THE
FRAIR WILL STAY IN FLORENCE...
AND FREE!

58 INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROMA) - DAY

58

The pope meets with Fra Mariano da Gennazzano. On his
right a CARDINAL, on his left BURCARDO.

FRA GENNAZZANO
(slimely)
He's back again thundering from
the Pergamum... he calls you a
"rusty iron".

(CONTINUA)

CARDINAL

In Rome everyone is talking about his boldness against His Holiness.

BORJA

IT'S TIME TO END THIS UP.

(to Burcardo)

I WANT HIM HERE! IN FRONT OF ME!... OR JAILED!

(pause)

If they disobey I will issue a Papal Ban on the City... I will take away all the florentine wealth and bring it to Rome.

59 EXT. CHURCH OF SAN MARCO - DAY

59

During Carnival, Girolamo stays inside the convent: On the Pergamum there is Fr.Domenico.

FR.DOMENICO

Florence throw away latin, vulgar, lecherous books as well as all the paintings that can encourage deceiful behaviours.

(pause)

Lords, gentlemen, honest youngster... each one of you should go house by house, neighborhood by neighborhood, and ask for the Anathema and collect those evil's utilities, blamed by God and Holy Church.

Anathema: that's it was called the lecherous and vulgar goods.

60 MONTAGGIO - P.ZZA DELLA SIGNORIA (FALÒ DELLA VANITÀ) - GIORNO

60

1- The youngster pickes up the Anathema, they cross sign and fill up the baskets they carry on their shoulder;

2- The baskets are dropped off at Piazza della Signoria and make up a pyramid pile: Boccaccio's and Petrarca's books, paintings, sexy women dresses, sumptous hats, parfumes and make up, playcards, dices and music instruments, alabaster and ivory stone carvings;

3- On "mardì gras" (last day of Carnival) in the Cathedral, the young believers white dressed with red small crossess and a olive garland on their head, lead by Fra Domenico, go to Piazza della Signoria. They sing and dance psalms and hymn to God on the railing of the Palace;

(CONTINUA)

RAILING: place three steps upside that starts from the front door of the palace and ends at the Marzocco (marble lion symbolizing the people's power).

4- The young light up the torches and burn down the vanity pyramid;

5- The florentines are overwhelmed. The bells from the Palace play on celebration.

61 INT. HEARING ROOM OF THE POPE (ROMA) - DAY 61

Burcardo reports to the Pope.

BURCARDO
(aseptic)
A letter has come from the Signoria in Florence... they don't want to arrest the Friar and they want to leave him free to preach.

BORJA
I DON'T WANT BLA BLA BLA BUT FACTS
(calming down)
I can stop the concessions and aids I normally send to Florence.

62 INT. CHURCH OF S.CROCE - DAY 62

The Franciscan FRANCESCO da PUGLIA preach from the Pergamum. He wears a coarse brown robe with the usual belt.

FRANCESCO DA PUGLIA: mid-height, slim, skinny face, bald.

He violently attacks Girolamo.

FR.FRANCESCO
It's 8 years now that the Frair preaches plagues over the city!... He says he saved and protects it.
(pause)
IT'S NOT TRUE!... HE DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH!... HE SCARED YOU AND IMPOSED YOU DEPRIVATIONS THROUGH THE EXCUSE OF COMING PLAGUES!

Some half-hearted believers look at each other and approve the franciscan's words.

(CONTINUA)

FR.FRANCESCO
HE'S A FAKE PROPHET! IF HIS
TEACHING IS THE SAME ONE OF THE
ROMAN CHURCH, HE SHOULD FACE WITH
ME THE HOLY VERDICT OF THE
ORDALIA.

ORDALIA: Trial of fire intended as God's willing.

In the Church there is also Fr.Domenico that rise up:

FR.DOMENICO
FRAIR! YOU SPEAK WITHOUT KNOWING
FRAIR GIROLAMO'S THOUGHT... HIS
WORDS ARE THE SAME OF GOD.
(pause)
I'LL TAKE THE TRIAL!

FR.FRANCESCO
(looking into his eyes)
THE TRIAL IN FRONT OF GOD IS NOT
FOR YOU... BUT FOR FRAIR GIROLAMO
THE HERETICUS!

The believer come out perplexed.

63

INT. TAVERN OF FIRENZE - DAY

63

In a loud contest, a Compagnaccio enters to inform Doffo Spini, seating helter-skelterly at the table with some of his drunk people.

A GIRLISH BOY brings wine to the tables, a Compagnaccio takes him by the hips and kiss his lips, while a LADY walking around the tables takes slaps on the butt.

COMPAGNACCIO
Well what can I say! You should
have been there... how the two
frairs were shouting!

DOFFO SPINI
That's what we were waiting
for... THE ORDALIA MUST BE DONE!

The Compagnacci clap their hands on the table as sign of approval.

DOFFO SPINI
THE SIGNORIA WILL ENFORCE IT!

64

INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

64

Doffo Spini is in front of the Signoria.

DOFFO SPINI

(referring to Girolamo)

That's the occasion to get a rid
of the Frair... if Fra Domenico
doesn't get through the trial, it
would be God's sign of the
Girolamo's mendacity.

GONFALONIER

It could not be taken
half-hearted.

MEMBER OF THE SIGNORIA

Let's publish publicly the order
in front of an attorney... Ceccon
would be best.

(pause)

He, after Pietro's expulsion,
took refuge in S.Marco... but is
well welcomed here too. He's good
at playing double stance!

(sibillyc)

Citizens say he is Lodovico's
spy.

GONFALONIER

(uncertain)

If Fra Domenico would die in the
Ordalia, we will kick Girolamo
out of Florence.

65

MONTAGE - RAILING OF SIGNORIA PALACE - DAY

65

1- The Signoria's PAGEBOYS bring a desk to the railing.
CECCON comes out of the Palace escorted by TWO GUARDS,
takes out of the bag a book, a fethery pen and a inkpot:
he seats on the chair and waits for the Ordalia
subscribers;

ATTORNEY CECCON: half aged man, tall and strong, round
belly, round face with glasses, bald. He wears the
attorney black suit.

2- The enemies of the Friar talk animously with the
Piagnoni, the latest are sure the Friar will pass the
trial. In the square riots and uprising start;

3- S. Marco frairs, in procession two by two, go through
the square heading to the attorney's desk. Fr.Domenico is
the first to sign, followed by the other Domenican friars
except Girolamo that disapproves;

4- Francesco da Puglia pass through the square without signing the petition and goes straight up to the Palace. The Minor Friars come late without signing it: the only one signing is Fr.RONDINELLI.

66 INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

66

Ceccon handle the signatures to the Gonfalonier who is unsure about what to do. Fr. Francesco is worried and not actually intentioned to support it.

CECCON
Dominican friars signed all up...
Except Girolamo.

GONFALONIER
(referring to the
Dominicans)
They are sure Domenico will pass
the trial and strongly want it...
more than the Minors!

CECCON
(referring to the
franciscans)
Among them, only Rondinello
signed.

Francesco da Puglia tries to fix the situation.

FR.FRANCESCO
(worried)
I don't want to put myself into
trial, I don't preach heretical
doctrines... Nor Frair
Rondinello.

GONFALONIER
(worried)
I believe I should inform the
Pope.

67 INT. PITTI PALACE (SECRET DINNER) - NIGHT

67

At the table, the members of the Signoria of the Arrabbiati are seated together with them Doffo Spini, Vieri, TWO CAPTAINS and Fr.Francesco white in the face. The SERVANTS bring to the table wild boar dishes and red wine globets.

GONFALONIER
(firmly)
WE ALL KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE!
(pause)
Tomorrow, in the square, the two
friars will walk on fire.

(CONTINUA)

FR.FRANCESCO
(visibly worried)
No!... Not me!
(justifying)
Not me nor Rondinello are here to
proof something... but that
Friar.

VIERI
(reassured)
The young Doffo will help you to
get out of the situation.
(pause)
It will be enough if your
Rondinello will say he would go
into the fire, without doing it.

DOFFO SPINI
We want to kill the Friar. It
will be easy to make a mess and
kill him... we will not get your
Fr.Rondinello into fire.

GONFALONIER
(to the two captains)
Tomorrow you check the square...
Be aware there will also be
Marcuccio with his people.
(pause)
Don't look elsewhere... Doffo
will think about the Friar.

MARCUCCIO SALVIATI: daring young Piagnone with fonded
experience in the army, beautiful, handsome, always
carrying a sword to his right side.

DOFFO SPINI
(to the Captains)
My men will be at the de'Pisani's
shed, you with yours on the
opposite side, so Marcuccio will
be forced to check both sides.

THE PISANI'S SHED: Wooden shed badly kept.

68

MONTAGE - ORDALIA - DAY

68

PREPARATION

1- The WOODMEN on carts carried by mules carry wood logs
for the stage that, from the marzocco, penetrate the
square up to the De Pisani's shed;

2- The Stage is covered with clay stones. The WOODMEN
carry wood baskets laying it on the Ordalia's path mixed
with bombard dust;

(CONTINUA)

3- The Lodge of the Orcagna: building on the left side of Palazzo della Signoria, it has three gothic round-headed arcades. Woodworkers are building a high table that split it in two sides, on each side a small altair has been built. On the side most exposed to Doffo Spini's companions, the Dominican Friars will stay, on the other the Minor.

ORDALIA: Saturday 7th April 1498

4- At dawn Fr.Francesco and Fr.Rondinello pass through the square rapidly and carefully; they enter the Palace of the Signoria;

5- In the Council Room, two friars walk nervously back and forward, from time to time they stop in front of the windows;

6- Access to the square is looked upon by ARMED GUARDS. The square is getting lively, the Doffo Spini's Compagnacci arrive and tie up their horses to the hooks of the shed;

7- The dominican friar two by two, after the Signoria's SOLDIERS, enter the square with a small Red Crucifix. The last of the procession are Fr.Domenico, wearing a red liturgy robe all the way to the feet, and Girolamo, carrying the Monstrance. Believers keep a small torch in their hands at the end of the parade;

8- The railing and the Ordalia stage are guarded by GUARDS with halberd. Marcuccio's people are protecting the frairs and escort them at the Lodge of the Orcagna;

9- Girolamo puts the Monstrance on the altair, Domenico kneels to pray, the other friars imitate him. The Minors walk up and down their area;

10- The florentine people make noise looking at the Palace and calling out loud the Rondinello.

69 INT. LODGE OF THE ORCAGNA - DAY 69

A Captain enters the Palace.

70 INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY 70

The Captain enters. Fr.Francesco and Fr.Rondinello walk around nervously while talking to the Gonfalonier.

ALT. COUNCIL ROOM, LODGE OF THE ORCAGNA

CAPTAIN

(to the two friars)

Fr.Domenico is ready... they are waiting for you.

(CONTINUA)

Rondinello is terrified and Fr.Francesco replies on his behalf.

FR.FRANCESCO
(to the Captain)
That friar's robe has been
charmed by Girolamo... Rondinello
will not come downstairs with it!

FRA DOMENICO
(to the friars)
Ask the Minor for a robe... I
will wear that...
(to the captain)
Go... report what I said.

FRA FRANCESCO
(to the captain)
Fr.Domenico should leave his
people and stay with us Minors
(pause)
Even an hand touch from Girolamo
will charm him.

FRA DOMENICO
(rivolto ai suoi)
Let me go with them... I will
wait there for Rondinello.

The citizens loose their patience, someone whispers that the Ordalia is not going to happen due to Girolamo.

FR.FRANCESCO
(to the captain)
That friar should not go into the
fire with the crucifix in his
hands.

FR.DOMENICO
(to the captain)
This is not good to me, because
I'm a soldier of Christ, for
Christ I fight and with Christ I
would like to go into the fire.

The Signoria finally gets downstairs and take a seat, immediately afterwards the two franciscan friars come out.

71

EXT. SIGNORIA SQUARE - DAY

71

AT THE DE'PISANI SHED

Doffo looks at the groom.

(CONTINUA)

DOFFO SPINI

Go!

The horses bolt.

DOFFO SPINI

TAKE HIM!

The Compagnacci assault the Lodge to take Girolamo.

MARCUCCIO

YOU HAVE TO RUN OVER ME!

(to his people)

CROSS THE DAGGERS!

AT THE ORCAGNA LODGE

Girolamo stand still in front of the assaulters, his friars kneeling at the altair are praying.

GIROLAMO

GOD WILL PUNISH YOU!

The attack fails and calm is restored.

Suddenly, the sky gets darker, a violent thunderstorm over Firenze with thunders, lightning and hail. The Signoria gets back into the palace and cancel the trail. The florentine people shout against Girolamo.

SOON AFTER

The Captain together with two Guards goes back to Girolamo.

CAPTAIN

The Signoria said that, being you here until the vespers, you can go back to the convent.

(looking at his soldiers)

They'll come with you.

GIROLAMO

(firmly)

We'll not go until we have good and safe escort for my friars and myself.

(looking at the soldiers)

They are not enough to stop the pleb.

SOON AFTER

The Captain after talking with the Signoria, accompanied by Marcuccio, goes back to Girolamo.

(CONTINUA)

CAPTAIN

I can use all my men to escort
you.

MARCUCCIO

Father trust him! I'll be with
you as well... I'll protect you
until I live.

LEAVING THE SQUARE

Marcuccio, the last man of the escort, looking at the
angry plebs, with his SWORD traces a sign on the ground.

MARCUCCIO

THE ONE WHO WILL PASS THIS SIGN
WILL SEE HOW POWERFUL ARE
MARCUCCIO'S SWORDS.

Doffo Spini from the shed shout to Girolamo.

DOFFO SPINI

I WILL KILL YOU!

From the square a man shouts.

MAN

(To Girolamo)

AH... BAD PERSON, LEAVE THE HOLY
HOST.

DOFFO SPINI

I'LL KILL YOU!

A COMPAGNACCIO get closer to the frairs. Marcuccio punch
him with the sword, he falls down.

The Guard's Captain and Marcuccio with their soldiers help
Girolamo and the Friars to leave.

The Compagnacci burn down the pile for the Ordalia. The
Arrabbiati shout swear words to Girolamo, while the Minors
sing for the victory.

72

INT. TAVERN OF FIRENZE - NIGHT

72

Doffo Spini and his people are seating at a table with
goblets full of wine having dinner. A SEXY WAITRESS goes
back and forward from the kitchen: she served a large
plate with grilled meat. The Compagnacci sing swear songs
against the Friar.

DOFFO SPINI

(referring to Girolamo)

Tomorrow he would like to speak
from the Pergamum of Saint Marco.

(CONTINUA)

(pause)
WE SHOULD STOP HIM.

VIERI
(smiling)
The Gonfalonier will issue a ban
that will keep him away from
Firenze forever.

DOFFO SPINI
If we take him, he granted me
that he will arrest him.

COMPAGNACCI
HURRAH! HURRAH!

DOFFO SPINI
TOMORROW AT SAN MARCO TO FIGHT!
(pause)
WE MUST TAKE HIM!

73 EXT. CATHEDRAL OF FIRENZE - DAY

73

OVERLAY: PALM SUNDAY

CATHEDRAL CHURCHYARD

The Compagnacci, throwing stones, don't allow the believers
to enter the church.

OLD BELIEVER
GOD WILL ASK YOU ABOUT THAT!

DOFFO SPINI
OLD MAN! RUN BACK HOME AND CHECK
THAT IT WILL NOT BURNOUT WITH
YOUR FAMILY INSIDE.

The believers scared by the riots run away.

DOFFO SPINI
C'MON... LET'S GO TO THE CONVENT
TO TAKE THE HERETIC

ALONG THE WAY.

Horde run quickly to the Convent, followed by Marcuccio's
men. The florentines against the Friar increase, while his
supporters get beaten.

MARCUCCIO
FATHER... FOLLOW ME.

Marcuccio strikes blows on every side with his dagger
hitting many assaulters who, wounded, are on the floor.

74

MONTAGE - CONVENT OF SAN MARCO (RIOTS) - DAY

74

1- The HORDE lead by Doffo Spini arrives to the Churchyard shouting. They enter the church throwing stones and faeces against the Friar;

2- The believers attending the Service celebrated by Girolamo: the friars run to the vestry, WOMEN follow the friars with their SONS and get to the vegetable garden;

3- The soldiers of Marcuccio and Valori punch back the attackers;

4- The friars block the entrances. The bell of the convent play the alarm. Inside there are 200 friars. The battle moves to the churchyard.

75

INT. LIBRARY OF SAN MARCO CONVENT - DAY

75

Girolamo, Valori and Marcuccio locked in the library, talk about the situation. The Friar is standing, next to him a desk with a Crucifix. The FRIARS leaning against the walls, listen silently.

GIROLAMO

Let me go to them.

(pause)

My sons, it's time.

The friars kneel to his feet to hold him there.

FRA DOMENICO

Don't try to go out!

VALORI

Father... if you still love Florence, for those holy words you spread around and will get you the holiness of the blessed... Well! care about you life, in which we hold our freedom.

(pause)

Your martyrdom will ruin our city.

(pause)

To spend away health for those living is paramount!.. to waste without a reason is sinful! When a man brings more benefits alive than death.. then he should live.

GIROLAMO

(sadly)

It is already a long time I'm meant to die.

(CONTINUA)

(pause)

Blessed the man who fight with
fiercly mercy in this life to
gain the eternal one.

The sound of arquebus from outside are heard inside.

PIAGNONE

(to Girolamo)

We're in great danger... Father
let us ask peasants for help...
don't you hear the arquebus?

MARCUCCIO

The Church doors are locked!
Let's hope God will allow it to
open!

FRA SILVESTRO

(bleached)

We should think about that poor
women... we can leave with them
from the garden door.

Women and their sons enter the room, scared and crying.

WOMAN 1

Father save us!... or at least
save our pity sons!

MARCUCCIO

We should make sure those women
leave.

GIROLAMO

My dear sisters don't worry, God
doesn't yet claim your life. Go
in the garden and leave... the
way is safe.

WOMAN 2

Give me your blessing... I will
stay here to fight for my faith
and yours.

FRA GIROLAMO

(to Valori)

What did I do to those
florentines?... What did bad this
pity Friar while teaching the
love for Jesus and freedom,
resulting from his guts? ... Is
this the way the people pay for
my unrest and my pains?

(pause)

I wanted for Florence a free and
honored government and for this

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

FRA GIROLAMO (SEGUE)

reason I was so straight against
the bad habits. I saw the city of
arrogance full of dirt and I
spread my voice to advise it to
follow the right path.

(louder voice)

But my voice was too much
harrassing.

Marcuccio's soldier enters the room.

SOLDIER

Father! Our enemies are at the
door and try to take them down.
Help us praying because our
weapons are not enough.

GIROLAMO

ITALY! ITALY! What did I do to
you?... I showed you your
misfortunes, telling you the
scourge was coming, that I was
the little instrument of God's
willing... You didn't believe me
but God was merciful until now.

(pause)

ROME! ROME! Don't be joyful for
this sufferings you put in my
heart because, at God's sign,
from the sky swords will come
over you and will change your joy
in misery. God gave you his
sentence and it can't be changed.
You are sick of sins and
troubles, on the doomsday you'll
try to change your side but you
will not be able to.

(pause)

I will ask for peace with your
enemies: "we are the army of God.
You should first find peace with
Whom sent us to you"

(pause)

Oh God! I can see piles of death
in your squares, rivers of blood
flow through you streets.

Girolamo lifts the Crucifix from the table and stare at
it.

GIROLAMO

Oh Jesus! What are thy going to
do with all those dead bodies...
With what aim will thy hose Italy
with the blood of your sons?

(pause)

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)
TAKE MY LIFE AND FORGIVE!... take
my life, of a sinner, but save
the innocents.

MARCUCCIO
Father! We are just a few... The
Signoria's Guards are coming to
support Doffo.

VALORI
Father! I fear for my family, I'd
like to reach them... I'll be
back as soon as possible.

GIROLAMO
Go and protect them!

BENEDETTO aka the MINIATORE ("miniatures painter"), sturdy
friar between the portliest of the Convent, enters the
room. He dresses the robe of the Dominican Order wearing a
rusty armour underneath, a helmet, a shield, and have a
long sword in his hand.

FR.BENEDETTO
GIVE ME SPACE! GIVE ME SPACE! Oh!
I'm here too my brothers and I
believe it's not a sin if I wear
an armour underneath my robe... I
also have swords for everyone. I
hided them a while ago... now
it's time to use it!

GIROLAMO
(reproaching him)
My son, go immediately to
dismantle yourself... These are
not the armies of the faithful
men! We have something more, the
armies used by our Lord: charity,
patience, modesty... don't make
me cry for my brothers too.

FR.BENEDETTO
Reverend Father... when things
get to a certain point, one
should not sweep it under the
carpet.

A nervous PIAGNONE enters the room.

PIAGNONE 1
COME SIRSI!... THEY ARE BURNING
DOWN THE CHURCH DOOR!

(CONTINUA)

MARCUCCIO

I suggest you reverend friars to
take the arms... would you let
yourself be slaughtered and give
the butcher your neck like lambs?

(pause)

HERE YOU ARE JUST A TINY BIT
CLOSER TO DEATH, DO YOU GET
IT?... A TINY BIT CLOSER TO
DEATH!

Another PIAGNONE, the one protecting the Church, enters.

PIAGNONE 2

The door is down... they are
fighting in front of the
Crucifix.

Marcuccio run to the Church followed by his soldiers
together with Fr. Benedetto Miniatore.

GIROLAMO

My brothers.. don't shake and
hold straight your faith.

(pause)

Follow me through the convent,
this is our last procession.

Girolamo give his blessing, friars kiss his hands, and
follow him: he start singing a psalm. The fight becomes
cruel. The Convent echoes the preach by one side and the
battle on the other.

76

EXT. PIAZZA SANTISSIMA ANNUNZIATA - NIGHT

76

Valori, with the dagger in his hand, having left the
Convent, walk cautious up to the square.

BASILICA PORCH

He sees the light of his building in fire and his SPOUSE
at the window shouting.

SPOUSE

HELP!... HELP!... SAVE ME!

VALORI

Damn!

Now he runs. A Compagnaccio is hiding behind the first
column of the Basilica, he faces Valori and thrust his
sword in the chest. Valori crawl a few meters to the
Basilica looking for help.

77

EXT./INT. CONVENT OF SAN MARCO - DAY

77

At the entrance, Marcuccio's Soldiers tries to fight back with picche and balestre. The friars arrive at the altair singing the psalms and stop in the middle of the battle.

DOFFO SPINI
LISTEN THEM!... THEY TRY TO
PROVOKE US!

MARCUCCIO
GO BACK RECKLESS!

Girolamo kneels at the altair praying. Friars do like him.

ARRABBIATO 1
AT THE CRUCIFIX!... those people
think we are joking.
(pause)
EVIL FRIARS... GO AWAY FROM THAT
ALTAIR, YOU ARE DESECRATING IT!

GIROLAMO
Salvum fac populum tuum, Domine.

OVERLAY: "Save your people, thy Lord."

THE FRIARS
Salvum fac populum tuum, Domine.

ARRABBIATO 1
SALVUM... THE HANGMAN HAVE TO
TAKE YOU HOODED EVILS!

Marcuccio kills him with his dagger. He falls bleeding with the hands on his chest. The friars, bleached, keep praying.

DOFFO SPINI
EXCOMMUNICATED!... COME DOWN FROM
THAT STEPS! WE WILL KILL YOU ANY
WAY!

MARCUCCIO
DON'T WORRY!
(to the attackers)
THE EARTH WILL OPEN BENEATH YOU
BLASPHEMERS!
(pause)
GIVE ME SOME ROOM! GIVE ME SOME
ROOM!... GO AWAY FROM THE HOUSE
OF GOD!

ARRABBIATO 2
THE GALLOWES WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO
PAY FOR YOUR SINS... ONLY THE
FIRE! I PROMISE!

(CONTINUA)

The halberd of one of Marcuccio's soldiers gets his chest.

ARRABBIATO 2
(heartbroken)
MISERY!... I'M DYING!
(begging)
AT LEAST SAVE MY SOUL! SAVE MY
SOUL!

Fr. Benedetto stops fighting and helps him.

FR. BENEDETTO
Take him away from here... let's
take him in a place where he can
die quietly.

DOFFO SPINI
C'MON!... LET'S TRY TO SHOOT SOME
GOOD SHOTS WITH YOUR ARQUEBUS.

The door of the Church falls down crackling and burning,
spreading smoke and coals inside the Church. One of
Marcuccio's soldiers breaks a window with his arquebus.

SOLDIER
GET OUT FROM HERE!... GET OUT!

The attackers enter the Church. Girolamo gets up in front
of the tabernacle, turn around and stares at their eyes.

GIROLAMO
(powerful voice)
Get room brothers... get room to
those who come to take our
life!... Leave the arms and give
them your neck.
(to the attackers)
Wicked! come on the altar of
God's forgiveness to accomplish
his servants martyrdom... KILL
AND YOU'LL BE KILLED!

ARRABBIATO 3
(scared)
Calm down, let's listen to what
he has to say.

Girolamo speaks to the attackers entering the Church.

GIROLAMO
Come here and do what you have to
do.

ARRABBIATO 3
(to his companion)
Looking into his eyes a feel
weak: to be honest, I don't

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

ARRABBIATO 3 (SEGUE)
understand if he has God or the
Devil inside him.

MARCUCCIO
Father go and get safe and let us
die for you.

GIROLAMO
Listen florentines to my last
words... write it to Babylon that
incited this fire against me...
the Friar promise you that it
will turn against and burn it
down to the roots.
(pause)

This way Babilonia the plague
will come over you, you will be
invaded by the barbarians, you
will be wounded in your heart and
so much dirt will come out of you
that it will spread all over the
Christianity... Go away from the
city of sins you good priests,
this poor friar close to death is
telling you. You, faithful to
God, save your women, your
elderly and your sweet sons
because a hard plague is coming.

DOFFO SPINI
HE'S TRYING TO GET EXTRA TIME!...
GO OVER HIM!... GO OVER HIM!

MARCUCCIO
BEFORE YOU GET TO HIM, WE WILL
KILL YOU.

The attackers are now in control of the church and the
convent. The Compagnacci have their crossbow pointing
Marcuccio's man and the friars.

DOFFO SPINI
FIRE!... FIRE!

The last defenders of the friars die. The battle is over.

Girolamo still has power in his voice and looks at the
assaulters' eyes.

GIROLAMO
You Florence, you will have your
plague and it will be a hard one
because you killed the ones that
saved you from servant and pain,
is ruined your army and in pain
your citizens who wish they'd

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)
never born... and this will be
"cito et velociter" before you
know.

OVERLAY: "soon and quickly".

DOFFO SPINI
SHUT UP ANGRY WOLF!

GIROLAMO
Sons pray and stop fighting...
pray for those prosecuting us...
pray for everyone and for me so
that I can suffer with strenght
the trial of martyrodom.

PIAGNONE 1
The arms of the Signoria
arrived... the Convent will fall
head to tail.

ARRABBIATO 3
So we will not have to struggle
burying those heretics
excommunicated

The TOWN CRIER of the Signoria with two guards enter the
church: everyone lower their arms.

TOWN CRIER
In the name of the Magnificent
Signoria we order that all the
defensor of the convent to go
back to their homes: who will not
comply will be charged as rebel
and his wealth confiscated
without caring about the person's
social status.

PIAGNONE 2
WE WANT THE SAFE CONDUCT!
(pause)
WHO WILL PROTECT OUR LIFE WHEN WE
WILL GET OUT THERE?

TOWN CRIER
The Signoria is in charge of your
safety!

DOFFO SPINI
(sarcastically smiling)
Revenge is done... that's enough.

GIROLAMO
Sons go back into your home

(CONTINUA)

MARCUCCIO

Father if you want this?!

GIROLAMO

(to the town crier)

Go to the palace and ask the Signoria to send a commissioner so I can find a deal... I will wait in the library.

(to his friars)

Come with me and don't stop praying.

The guards follow the procession and stop outside the library to stakeout.

78

EXT. CONVENT SAN MARCO - NIGHT

78

IN THE CHURCHYARD

More than one hundred DEAD and WOUNDED are taken care of. The Compagnacci roam around raiding any liturgical artifact: then put the loot on some carts. At dawn the POLICEMAN with the guards arrives to arrest Girolamo, Domenico and Silvestro.

AT THE GARDEN ENTRANCE DOOR

Girolamo's RIVALS are all waiting for the friars. Mixed in the crowd, some brave Piagnone that keeps quiet and hiding.

ARRABBIATO 1

Come out Friar... we will stalk you until the Signoria Palace.

CITIZEN

Fra Domenico and Fra Silvestro have been arrested too!

ARRABBIATO 2

That crazy horse of Frair Benedetto Miniatore get away with murder!

COMPAGNACCIO

For what he did in the Church, he would deserve 10 times the death sentence... that dark heart!

The Frairs chained get out the library escorted by the Policeman and the Guards. The crowd surround them shouting and insulting them.

(CONTINUA)

ARRABBIATO 1
(to Girolamo)
KILL HIM!... KILL HIM!

An Arrabbiato KICKS Girolamo in the BUTT.

ARRABBIATO 2
(sarcastically smiling)
Take this out from your butt and
guess who kicked you.

PIAGNONE
(whispering)
Nice touch!... not! to kick a
chained man from behind...
cowards!

CROWD (V.O.)
KILL!... KILL THE PIAGNONE!

An Arrabbiato gets closer to Girolamo's face with a torch.

ARRABBIATO 1
That's the real light!

79 INT. TORRE DELL'ARDOLFO - NIGHT

79

THE STAIRS

The Custodian is waiting for them at the entrance: a short
guy half-aged, good face, roughly dressed wearing a
leather belt with a large key deck.

A guard hardly knocks the door.

GUARD (V.O.)
OPEN!... OPEN!...

CUSTODIAN
(opening the peephole)
What's up?

GUARD (V.O.)
WE BROUGHT THE HERETIC!
(pause)
WE GOT HIM!

The custodian opens the door: all together start going up
the spiral staircase, dark, lighted only by torches on the
wall.

ALBERGHETTO CELL

The custodian stops in front of the cell, looking for the
right key.

(CONTINUA)

GUARD

HURRY UP... We have to come back
to the Convent to restore the
order.

The custodian, frightened, quickly opens the door. The guard lower Girolamo's head to get him in and kick him. Girolamo falls on the floor: the cell closes.

Girolamo stands up. The cell is dark, only a small window with a grate looking over Piazza della Signoria. Inside a table as bedding, on the floor a plate and a stain glass.

80 INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - DAY

80

OVERLAY: 11th April 1498

Girolamo's Memories are read at the Court of the Signoria, in front of TWO CANONICALS and Doffo Spini. The voice of the LECTURER echoes in the room.

LECTURER

(at the end)

...signed... Friar Girolamo
Savonarola.

CANONICAL

What has been written by the
Friar is not enough to condemn
him!

DOFFO SPINI

If polite manners are not enough,
we should act differently!

GONFALONIER

(ripping of the statements)

Sir Doffo you take care of
getting a convenient confession!

(pause)

Ask Ceccon for help... he is a
man of wider experience.

81 INT. ROOM OF THE TORTURE - DAY

81

Girolamo is in the middle between the Custodian and the Guard. They enter the room, it has no windows and is lighted by a torch. A wall is covered by a large red curtain.

Waiting for the friar are Doffo and TWO TORTURERS. Attorney Ceccon is sitting at a small desk hiding behind the curtain, with a small candle, an inktip and some papers.

(CONTINUA)

DOFFO SPINI
(to the torturers)
Take off the chains... undress
him!

GIROLAMO
What will you get today, I will
renegade tomorrow

DOFFO SPINI
SHUT UP!... YOUR MEMORIES DO NOT
CLEAR YOU
(to the torturers)
Tie up the left with a cord and
bring him up.

Girolamo shouts.

Doffo question him, from time to time he goes behind the
curtain to speak with the Attorney.

SOON AFTER

The friar is sent down and is fainted on the floor.

DOFFO SPINI
(to the torturers)
Call the Custodian!... Take him
back to his cell!

The custodian helps him.

CUSTODIAN
(whispering)
C'mon... make an effort and lean
on me.

He wears back the tunic.

SOON AFTER

Doffo Spini and Ceccon are left alone.

CECCON
His words are the same as his
Memories
(pause)
We don't have enough to condemn
the heretic.

DOFFO SPINI
You are not saying he will get
away with murder?!

Ceccon with ambiguity looks at Doffo Spini lowering his
glasses.

(CONTINUA)

CECCON

My lord... if I will get rewarded properly, I can write a second confession slightly different in words but heavily different in meaning, that will get the Friar charged.

(pause)

I would read him his own, but I will present mine to him for signing.

(pause)

Will he be able to sign it?

DOFFO SPINI

I ordered that he will undergo the trial only with his left arm... the right is untouched.

82

EXT./INT. CELL OF THE ALBERGHETTO - DAY

82

Girolamo, in pain for the tortures, prays with his elbow on the table.

The peephole of the cell opens: the custodian's eyes look at him.

CUSTODIAN

(to himself)

I had here so many guilty souls and I wasn't scared... but this Friar frighten me up.

(pause)

Look at him, he looks like a bundle of mops!... I would like to know who he's praying to.

(pause)

Oh! No doubts! he's looking downside so he's praying the devil.

The Custodian opens the cell, Girolamo hardly try to get up but falls back down.

GIROLAMO

(with a painful and feeble voice)

Jesus! Jesus!... If you left my body please get my sould stronger.

The Custodian, listening the name of Christ, calms down and get closer to the Friar.

(CONTINUA)

CUSTODIAN

Father... if you would like to lie down on the table, I will help you.

(pause)

You should take some food because keep praying without eating will weak your body down.

Girolamo with a glance ask to be left alone, he looks at the window, he calms down and looks painless.

CUSTODIAN

What are you staring at?... You make me scare.

GIROLAMO

My Son you would not ask me what I see if you would be suffering this pain!

(pause)

Leave me alone.

Girolamo kneels down and spread his arms on the table. The Custodian, after leaving, opens the peephole and looks at him: the Friar raise his eyes to the sky and begins talking to God.

GIROLAMO

Tell me, Magister, when I will not be here, will my word survive?... and these unmentionable pains will be fruitful?

(pause)

Don't be bothered by my questioning!... I showed your word with strong bravery and shouted in you Temple against those drinking wine and giving away poison in the Redemption globets. I dropped over those blinded, the globet of the Truth full of my tears.

(showing his tied wrists)

Look, my Saviour, how they listened to me.

CUSTODIAN

(not understanding who the Friar is talking to)
He calls some evil soul.

GIROLAMO

Oh!... Light up the pain from my mind if you think that I deserve the pain i'm suffering... When

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO (SEGUE)
ever your Celestial city will be
reflected in the earthy one and
will recognize it likewise?

The custodian doesn't understand the phrases whispered.

CUSTODIAN
(to himself)
Oh God!... he would like to see
Florence in the mirror. Those are
witchcrafts that stink of sulphur
and pitch from miles.
(pause)
Close to him I'm worried I'll
damn my soul.

GIROLAMO
Oh King of the oppresses!... When
will be the time the man will
feel you in his heart?... When
will be the time?!... Will it
ever be?

CUSTODIAN
(to himself)
Dominus! Dominus! He's waiting
for someone that will take him
away from me... What a bad
business I have to be the
custodian of a friar able to make
miracles.

GIROLAMO
Are you blaming me for my
doubts?... You too, at the same
time when suffering, doubted...
You invoked your Father asking
him why did he left you.
(pause)
Look what they do with your
servants?!... Those who elevate
you up are lowered down! Those
who glorify you are mocked! Those
who summon you to heal the
plagues of Christianity is
jailed! Those who keep quiet is
guilty for being quiet! those who
speak is crucified... now those
who call themself your servants,
show off blasphemies and are
trustee of their sins.

The custodian goes back to the cell. Girolamo turns
quickly to him screaming and ranting.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO
DON'T TOUCH HIM!... DON'T TOUCH
HIM! That you could be ashed!

The custodian scared jumps back:

CUSTODIAN
Blood!... What am I touching?
(pause)
Father, you have the flu that
burns your head.

GIROLAMO
(keeps raving)
Listen scoundrel... he nailed him
a second time and laugh in front
of his pain and new
martyrodom... so many
chandemies... so many
chandeliers.
(close his eyes)
Blood! step aside! let that
wonderful lady pass by... She is
Jezabele followed by the Lamb's
soldiers, who fornicate with her.
She is the daughter of the dragon
to whom all the Earth bow and
holds the keys of the death.

Jezabele: prophetess, daughter of Etbal, King Acab's wife,
she lead him to idol worship and fornication then kill off
God's prophets.

Girolamo bittery laughs and bows his head.

GIROLAMO
Oh my Jesus! Don't ask for
drinking! In your first
martyrodom they gave you vinegar
and gall, now they will give you
poison and wine... believe me!...
the second little brats are
fiercer than the first.
(pause)
They would like to intoxicate you
than they'll make you dance in
the middle of your excesses.

The Frare falls down on his knees with his head on the
table.

GIROLAMO
(with a suffering face)
I'M THIRSTY!... I'M THIRSTY!

The custodian comes back with a bowl of water that gives
to the Friar's lips.

(CONTINUA)

CUSTODIAN

Drink... and come to your senses.

GIROLAMO

Is this water from the Arno?

CUSTODE

It's clean water like the one I
drink.

The Friar delirious recalls the homicide of Juan Borja.

GIROLAMO

(staring his eyes)

Never would be water from the
Tevere!... Ever!

(talking about Juan Borja)

Oh! How did they banded you up,
poor boy... your clothes are full
of water and your body full of
blood.

(whispering)

Can you hear him?... he has a
thin thin voice.

The custodian strive his ear in the blank to listen.

GIROLAMO

Juan shouts: Valentino! Lucrezia!
Vanozza!... He was stabbed by his
brother and fool by the love of
one of his sisters and not
mourned by a blasphemous mother.

(about the Pope)

Scoundrel!... Scoundrel! He
should not mention the name of
God... HE SHOULD SHUT UP!

(pause)

I saw all this and attempted to
speak out... but each and any of
my word became a viper word that
turns against me.

CUSTODIAN

Stop father!... You scare me.

(whispering at his ear)

You are mad... Our Lord should
forgive you.

From the cell windows, happy citizens shouts in the
square.

CITIZENS (V.O.)

LONG LIVE POPE ALESSANDRO!...
DEATH TO THE FRIAR!

(CONTINUA)

CUSTODIAN

Father... can you hear the noise
from the square?

(pause)

The Pope, glad for your capture,
proclaim the forgiveness of the
city.

GIROLAMO

Tell me please how my pity
brothers suffer the hardship?

CUSTODIAN

They spend the all they praying
and strong on not to confess.

(pause)

Friar Domenico, who yesterday had
the "tormento della stanghetta",
was that much tormented that some
Signoria servants had to take to
the cell on his arms.

(pause)

Friar Silvestro had too the
"tratti di fune" tribulation and
said to the examiners that he's
scared from death because he's a
sinner.

"Tormento della stanghetta": the feet are manually
shrunked in wooden shoes.

"Tormento della fune": the body is lifted by a pulley
linked to the wrists, tied behind the back of the
tortured, breaking his shoulders.

GIROLAMO

You too, son, pray for me...
pray.

CUSTODIAN

You, called saint, need my
priars?

(pause)

You should understand that you
are not made to resist pain; tell
them the truth without doubts!

GIROLAMO

It's for the truth that I got to
this point... Our Lord was not
crucifixed for lies... you go
now.

The custodian leaves.

SOON AFTER

(CONTINUA)

The custodian's key turns into the keyhole, the door squeaking opens. The custodian enters.

CUSTODIAN

(to Girolamo)

Mister Doffo is here with attorney Ceccon on behalf of the Signoria!

(caring voice)

Get up... not to show yourself suffering.

DOFFO SPINI

(to the custodian)

Go away!

GIROLAMO

(to Doffo and Ceccon)

What do you want from me now?

DOFFO SPINI

(firmly)

THE TRUTH!... without confusing us with your oracles. You should understand that all the saints can not save you from the torment you deserve.

CECCON

(trying to convince him)

C'mon!... Speak out and don't waste our time.

DOFFO SPINI

Sir Ceccon already wrote down the trial with your words... SIGN IT THOU!

GIROLAMO

(to Doffo Spini)

Sir Ceccon is the hand of your wretched passions, he took on him the duty of faking my words.

CECCON

(upset)

Your villanies can not change the facts.

GIROLAMO

You have been called to my process without a reason, so I don't care about you words! But you will not forget my words since they pay you for this! Write it down then... and you, Doffo, question me!

(CONTINUA)

DOFFO SPINI

You have been questioned more than enough and you said more than what has been asked. His Holiness wanted you in Rome, we believed it was better to keep you in Florence, so that the city secrets were not spread around.

(pause)

Alessandro will send two commissairs to confirm the sentence.

(powerful tone)

C'MON!... CONFIRM WHAT IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

(hasty voice)

and careful not to talk back anymore, so when the commissioners will come they will get the trial done and dusted.

GIROLAMO

(staring at him in the eyes)

Doffo you... you are my worst enemy and it's ok that the florentine put you in charge of my trial.

(pause)

For whatever I would say, I would be condemned anyway.. so why you ask for the truth?... to get the martyrodom, my silence is enough.

CECCON

You already spoke enough!

GIROLAMO

You don't want to just kill me but punish me to legitimise your cowardice in front of the world.

(pause)

You will kill me but you will not punish me... stop hoping, gloomy judges, I will be killed but not punished... Jesus kept quiet in front of his judges, so the Ceccon of his times got desperate not having a word to write down.

DOFFO SPINI

(upset)

Do you think you are still in Saint Marco and preach to your pity kids and oldies?... Put aside those tails.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

Now I will tell you tails you don't know... Now you put your hands on innocent blood but God will give it back to you and onto your house.

(pause)

I feel bad for you, chosen for this job and because of that you will turn out badly... I will pray for your soul!

DOFFO SPINI

(quickly speaking)

We should finish the trial... if you don't subscribe and confirm it, we will take you back to the torture.

GIROLAMO

(looking at his eyes)

You will get other screams from me and you will think it's the truth and another Ceccon will write it down for the new trial.

(pause)

My pain will become strong words of conviction, my spasms will become faults... but my soul will stay still.

The Friar points the sky handcuffed.

GIROLAMO

My Justice is over there!

CECCON

Justice?!... Not the one you made up, twisting the Bible, but the one held by the Signoria's Court.

DOFFO SPINI

If you are so confident of being right that you get close to Our Lord

(pause)

why you don't call him to defend you?

CECCON

Do you do miracles!?!... So get out of our hands.

The face of Girolamo flares-up, his voice becomes powerful.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

"Si filius Dei es, descende de cruce"... THAT YOU SAID THE DAY YOU CRUCIFIXED HIM!

OVERLAY: "If you are the Son of God, leave the Cross."

GIROLAMO

Oh fool!... with his death, actually with his life Jesus sealed his holiness... and you crucifixed him?!

DOFFO SPINI

YOU ARE MAD!

Ceccon gets mocking.

CECCON

I, Francesco Sir Ceccon, attorney, became one of the foolish of Our Lord?... you are blaspheming, fool... or you lost your mind.

DOFFO SPINI

Do you want to be considered mad?... and get away with murder?

GIROLAMO

YOU... YOU GENERATION OF LOST MEN, THAT LIVE OVER ALL TIMES, CLEAR ENEMIES OF THE HOLY TRUTH THAT PUT SHAME ON YOUR SICK WAY OF LIFE MADE UP OF INFAMOUS AND OBSCENE PLEASURES.

(pause)

Write! attorney... write: Pharisees, scribes, with any name we should name you that mock the Gospel, you shout to the Magister: "...descende de cruce!" and now you ask me the same, mocking me as a silly mind and proud soul and you will shout it to everyone after me.

(pause)

Attorney, if you wrote my words, I WILL SIGN IT.

DOFFO SPINI

I'm not here for your preaching!... We know each other friar and I know who you are.

(pause)

You wanted to get smart with your strict and misleading piety and

(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

DOFFO SPINI (SEGUE)
with your revelations you spoke
out of your mind, favouring
enemies of Florence.

(pause)

You think we didn't know about
your letters to the most
important princes of the
Christian World?

The face of Doffo get closer to the Friar's eyes.

DOFFO SPINI

Oh!... It's time we check out on
you!

(pause)

You wanted to put Italy upside
down with your plagues... and at
the same time the Pope became our
enemy... Why did you write down a
book on a crowned tyrant when you
wanted to become a tyrant in a
holy dress too?... What did we
Florentine get listening to your
revelations?... If we entered the
Lega Santa, Pisa would have been
our, while now is under Venice.

(pause)

You are the unfortunate reason of
our bad and all this for your
excessive ambition. You supported
King Charles VIII because he was
an enemy of the Pope but you are
the most wormy plague of the
Roman Church.. you are the man
clashing with Pope Alessandro, to
get us under bad light with him!

GIROLAMO

I clash with the sin and to fight
those against Our Lord.

(to Doffo Spini)

Talking about politics, it's
pointless talking to you that
have short sight, as all Florence
knows.

DOFFO SPINI

Until you keep talking this way
we'll not get anywhere... You
wrote your own process, but it's
false, so we will not care it.
The attorney wrote it on your
words... now you have to sign it.

Girolamo proudly looks Doffo.

(CONTINUA)

GIROLAMO

I'll sign it from the cross!

Girolamo doesn't sign and looks Ceccon.

GIROLAMO

You did what you already decided.

(pause)

The trial was falsified, and I don't need to tell you how; since you were hiding while I was replying... someone saw you.

The Friar gives his back to the two gentlemen and gets closer to the window.

GIROLAMO

Right!... Leave me with my Lord and do what you have to do.

DOFFO SPINI

Without so many chats, I promise you the cross and... it will not be martyrdom, nor for being a thief, but as impostor! You bewitched the florentines with your life and now you would fool them with your death but you will not get there!

(pause)

YOU WILL DIE AS IMPOSTOR NOT AS MARTYR!

CECCON

Careful... we will question you again.

GIROLAMO

All that you will get with torture, is the result of my pain not from my heart... I WILL ALWAYS DENY WHAT YOU MADE ME TELL!

Doffo shouts to the custodians outside the cell.

DOFFO SPINI

HELLO?!... OPEN AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR PRISONER.

Doffo and Ceccon come out visibly upset.

83

INT. COUNCIL ROOM OF THE SIGNORIA - NIGHT

83

Girolamo get to see his friends again for one hour.

A solemn atmosphere is in the room. Girolamo looks at Fra Domenico and Fra Silvestro entering the room: distressed, limping, they hold each other. The two friars get closer to him dragging each other, they kneel and kiss the tunic.

GIROLAMO

Brothers, our time has come...
don't be scared, the Magister
will welcome us.

The friars look each other. Their eyes express their suffering.

FRA SILVESTRO

(lowering his eyes)

Father, during the tortures I
wavered and more than once I
confessed your teaching was far
from the Roman Church.

GIROLAMO

My son, mee to under torture said
things dictated by the pain, but
Our Lord will not blame us for
that.

FRA DOMENICO

(proudly)

I'm ready... I trust your word...
that's the Word of Jesus.

FRA SILVESTRO

Let me face the final trial with
your blessing.

The two kneel again.

GIROLAMO

I bless you... in the name of the
Father, the Son and the Holy
Ghost.

The three, after a deep hug, are taken away by their
JAILER and taken back to their cells.

84

MONTAGE - SIGNORIA SQUARE - DAY

84

OVERLAY: 23RD MAY 1498

(CONTINUA)

1- From the Palace railing, near the Marzocco, a stage has been made 2mt high, stretched out for the all square. At the end a CROSS 5mt tall from which three ropes with a hangman's knot and three iron collars, underneath a large wooden pile;

2- On the railing there are carpets, three desks and chairs for the Courts;

3- The PEOPLE of Florence, from early morning, has crowded the square: Arrabbiati, Compagnacci, a few Piagnoni hiding between the crowd. The PEOPLE living in the palaces are at the window;

4- The guards of the Signoria surround and secure the gallows. Armed Squads, among the others the ones of Marcuccio, check and guarantee the order;

5- The enemies of the Friar shout asking for the execution to begin. Some kids get on the stage, others hide underneath: the guards send them away;

6- Citizens crowd next to the gallows. The Head of the Guards on his horse send them away with his whip;

7- The Ardolfo Tower bell plays death chimes;

8- The three condemned, with families and guards, dressed on with a white cassock, on bare feet and chained are taken in front of the First Court;

9- Each Friar has next to him a CONFESSOR and a CONFORTER, none of them seemingly abased. Silvestro has swollen eyes and fluhed face, Domenico is proud and looks in the sky, Girolamo seem outraged and strict;

10- The Custodian of Girolamo take him to the First Court in front of the Bishop. While kneeling to take off the chains, the supervisor caress the ankle and kiss the feet. Girolamo gives him a loving sight.

85

EXT. SQUARE OF THE SIGNORIA (EXECUTION) - DAY

85

FROM THE SQUARE

The CROWD shouts.

CITIZEN 1

HERE THEY ARE!... HERE THEY ARE
THE HERETICS!... THE LOSER
PROPHET...

CITIZEN 2

GIROLAMO!... DO SOME MIRACLES NOW
THAT'S THE RIGHT TIME AND WE WILL
BELIEVE YOU.

(CONTINUA)

PIAGNONA
(hiding and whispering)
Forgive!... Forgive!

FROM THE RAILING

The Bishop of Vasona, friend of Girolamo, whispers in his ears.

BISHOP
My friend... don't blame me for
what i'm doing, it was
Alessandro's order.

The Bishop, touched, gets the rite formula wrong a few times. His voice is hesisting.

BISHOP
Depono te, et degrado te ab
omnibus ordinibus, quo abes et
suscepisti.

OVERLAY: "I degrade and demote you from all the classes and the status where you have been and you have been welcomed."

FROM THE SQUARE

CITIZEN 3
(not knowing latin)
BLOOD!... WHAT IS THAT BISHOP
DOING?

FROM THE RAILING

BISHOP
Auferimus tibi calicem istum in
quo corpus et sanguinem Christi
consecrabas.

OVERLAY: "We have taken from you that goblet where you consacrate the body and the blood of Christ."

FROM THE SQUARE

The Bishop forget the words and Girolamo carry on reciting the formula.

GIROLAMO
...Dominus paris hereditatis meae
et calicis mei.

OVERLAY: "...Lord of my heritage and of my goblet".

TWO WOMEN PIAGNONE whispering comment.

(CONTINUA)

WOMAN 1
Oh!... Our Lady of Sorrows!

WOMAN 2
They take him the goblet away
because the Pope doesn't want him
to celebrate the Holy Mass.

FROM THE RAILING

The Bishop continue the downgrading, Girolamo has his
TONSURE.

BISHOP
Auctoritate Dei omnipotentis,
Patris, et Filii et Spiritus
Sancti, ac nostra auferimus tibi
habitum clericalem.

OVERLAY: "With the aucturity of God the Almighty, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit, we take away from you the clergy."

The noise of the florentine raises and covers the voice of
the bishop.

BISHOP
Separo te ab Ecclesia militante
atque triumphante.

OVERLAY: "I separate you from the militant and triumphant
Church."

Girolamo, looking in his eyes, amends him.

GIROLAMO
(pity voice)
...militante, non triumphante:
hoc enim tuum non est.

OVERLAY: "... militant, not triumphant: this doesn't
belong to you."

FROM THE SQUARE

A ELDERLY PERSON shouts.

ELDERLY PERSON
DAMN WHAT A BLOOD THAT FRIAR! HE
RECTIFIES ALSO THE BISHOP... HE
PRETENDS TO KNOW MORE THAN HIS
SUPERIORS!

FROM THE RAILING

The Bishop proceed downgrading the other two condemned.

AT THE SECOND COURT

(CONTINUA)

With the comforter and the confessor, Girolamo walks down the railing until the Court of Pope's COMMISSIONERS.

GIROLAMO
(to the Comforter)
Sir!... they took my robe but not
my Faith.

COMFORTER
(showing the Crucifix)
Here is the Faith!

Savonarola stops and kneels: he has a moment of weakness.

GIROLAMO
(talking to the Crucifix)
When I was showing to the
florentine Your Passion, I
believed I was stronger... but,
now that I see my cross, the soul
is leaving me behind.
(pause)
Don't leave me at the mercy of
the suffering and remember that
you too suffer and invoked Your
Father.

FROM THE SQUARE

CITIZEN 3
HURRY UP!

FROM THE RAILING

The Comforter is in front of the Friar, hiding the gallows.

GIROLAMO
You are hiding my cross but show
me the one of my Lord
(to Jesus)
I... I will lift my cross and
will go through the pain for your
love likewise you suffered for
the men.

COMFORTER
Father calm down!... Cheer up
with the good actions you did in
your life
(pause)
Oh God... what words will I use
to comfort a man like you?

GIROLAMO
Sir! The man keeping alive has
always some good words for those
going to death.

(CONTINUA)

Girolamo pronounce his last prophecy.

GIROLAMO

You are a good person and here,
before giving my soul back, I
would like to tell you some
things that will happen..

(pause)

Remember... I'm talking to you at
the moment of death, when the man
doesn't know any lie other than
his life.

(next to his ear)

The Church of God will be
defeated, torned apart and
discredited... Italy with the
crucifix in hand, held the whole
world in the other, so that the
eagle from Rome was chased by the
dove of the just. Also where the
flight of the eagle did not
arrive, the dove arrived so that
we were still in charge of our
countries. Barbarians quickly
sacked our cities and the weak
earthy weapons where not able to
stop it but later they were
defetedad by the rock of the
Faith.

FROM THE SQUARE

MAN

HOW MANY SECRETS HAS THAT
HERETICAL FRIAR!?

FROM THE RAILING

GIROLAMO

(to the comforter)

The dove is now a crow and Italy
has lost the word through which
ruled over the mind and the
hearts... so strangers don't pay
respect to it anymore and
Christianity will be a pile of
dried wood trunks.

(pause)

A new world, waiting for the
faith bath, will come but after
the blood. God Mercyful allowed
to plant a new and holy empire
there. Now that the old one is
full of corruption and
abominations... Florence will
have in a few years a tight and
Rome will be sacked.

(CONTINUA)

CONFORTATORE
(whispering and worried)
When Father?

GIROLAMO
When the Pope will be...

FROM THE SQUARE

POPOLO
DEATH!...DEATH!

FROM THE RAILING

The other two friars reach Girolamo.

COMFORTATOR
(begging)
Be strong!... Let's go.

The condemned are in front of the Commissioners of the
Pope: Friar Giovacchino and Remolino.

FRA GIOVACCHINO
Remolino.. you read the sentence!

REMOLINO
It is with the pleasure of His
Holiness Our Pontefix The Sixth,
to free you up from the pain of
the purgatory giving you the
plenary indulgence for your sins
and giving you back the first
innocence. Will you accept it?!

The three friar agree with the head.

FRA GIOVACCHINO
Now the Church paid his dues.
(raising the voice)
Hand them to the secular power!

FROM THE SQUARE

CITIZEN 1
IT SEEMS LIKE THE PASSION OF
CHRIST!

ARRABBIATO
Careful with your words... did
you not hear they are heretics?

PIAGNONA WOMAN
Oh Lord... Now they are in the
hand of the Signoria Court.

(CONTINUA)

ARRABBIATO

CHANGE THAT PILLAR, IT SEEMS LIKE
CHRIST'S CROSS... THEY WOULD LIKE
TO COUNTERFAIT THE PASSION OF
JESUS

(pause)

SOME PIAGNONI MADE IT ON PURPOSE.

AT THE GALLOWS

The policeman riding a horse, some Guards and the
woodworker approach the cross to shorten the arms.

POLICEMAN

(to the woodworker)

Reduce it so that doesn't seem
the cross of Our Lord.

Three Guards escort the Friars to the gallows, each one
followed by his Confessor and his Comfortator; the
policeman is waiting for them.

SOLDIER

(to the hangman)

Sir, I'll give these three
condamned to die!

GIROLAMO

Here I am!

FR.DOMENICO

I'm with you Girolamo!

FR.SILVESTRO

Me too!

FROM THE SQUARE

The square is completely quiet: the CROWD understand the
solemnity of the time.

Dressed as paesants, a few PIAGNONI NOBLES and their WOMEN
stealthly enter the square, positioning themselves near
Marcuccio.

MARCUCCIO

(to the nobles)

Don't worry, no one is going to
touch you.

WOMAN

Oh Lady of Sorrows!... I feel the
chills.

AT THE GALLOWS

(CONTINUA)

COMFORTER
(to Girolamo)
Do you have anything else to tell
me?

GIROLAMO
Tie my robe to my ankle so the
crowd will not see my nakedness.

COMFORTER
Sorry Father... It's too late.

GIROLAMO
Sir, bear in mind my words and
pray for my soul.

COMFORTER
I will remember it... all of it!

POLICEMAN
HURRY UP!

The Friars kneel, the confessors show them the Crucifix,
while the Comforters hide them the gallows.

POLICEMAN
SILVESTRO MARUFFI!

The Hangman takes the cord, the Friar shakes a bit. When
at the gallow, the hangman put the knot around is neck and
push him. He falls down.

FRA SILVESTRO
In manus tuas, Domine, commendo
spir...

OVERLAY: "In your hand, Lord, I put my sou..."

The last letters remain chocked in the throath.

FROM THE SQUARE

MAN (V.O.)
HERE IS ONE GONE!... NOW FRIAR
DOMENICO!

AT THE GALLOWES

The hangman takes Fr.Domenico to the stairs and put the
knot around his neck, he looks the sky while feeling
pushed.

POLICEMAN
GIROLAMO SAVONAROLA!

(CONTINUA)

Climbs the stairs whispering the Apostles' Creed, on top of it he looks at the crowd. A light blush on his face. The hangman wait a bit, fearful to put the knot around his neck.

FROM THE SQUARE

MAN (V.O.)
CAREFUL HE'LL NOT RUN AWAY FROM
YOU!... OR THE ANGELS OR THE
DEVILS CAN TAKE HIM AWAY.

AT THE GALLOW

The hangman, listening to the MOCKS, push him. Girolamo, gasping, kicks the air, in between Fr.Domenico and Fr.Silvestro.

The hangman quite shocked shakes, climb the stairs e put the iron collar on the dead bodies.

FROM THE SQUARE

CROWD (V.O.)
FIRE!... FIRE!

AT THE GALLOWS

The hangmen takes a torch and set fire to the gallow.

Some servants of the Signoria put some gunpowder on the wood.

END OF FLASHBACK

86

MONTAGE - THE BONFIRE - DAY

86

- 1- The SQUARE is wrapped in a surrealistic silence;
- 2- A sudden wind, from a nearby street, take off the smoke from the cross where the THREE DEAD BODIES are hanging;
- 3- The fire burns the cords at the wrists of Girolamo and a free arm moved by the fire waves, seemingly to call the pity florentine man to the bonfire.

BLACK SCREEN

OVERLAY: Text flowing upward

The Compagnacci, blameworthy life people, got crazy, some got blind, others died cut in pieces alike Doffo Spini.

Pope Alessandro VI officially died on 18th August 1503 by malaria, however some sources said that poisoning as reason of death.

(CONTINUA)

Rome and Florence had been ransacked on 1527 and 1529 by Lanzichenecchi, spanish soldiers and italian bandits sent by King Charles V of Asburg.

Girolamo, during the days of torture, wrote "Meditazione sopra il Miserere" later published in Germany by Martin Luther.

The Friar's sermons were included by Pope Paul IV in 1559 in the Index of Forbidden Books; while not accusing them of heresy, they had been removed on 1740 by Pope Benedict XIV.

In 1997, in the V centenary of his death, the "Postulazione Generale" of the Dominican Order asked to the Archdiocese of Florence the process of Beatification. The Commission, put together by the Archibishop of Florence, gave favorable opinion, however the clearence to begin the process, had never been given by the Holy Church.

FADE OUT