

Journey of the Seeds
Episode 22
Farewell

by

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INT. SPANISH VILLAGE - OUTSIRTS - 1547 A.D. - SUNSET

A man on the horse (JORGE CASILLAS, 65-70 years old, Inquizitor) rides into it. Several men are guarding him, they wear uniform. Jorge is indifferent to the people around him. He looks around - the village is definitely in decay. Almost nobody is on the street. A lone boy runs somewhere to the center of the village. Jorge rides after him.

INT. SPANISH VILLAGE - CENTER - 1547 A.D. - SUNSET

Jorge rides through the main square of the village. There is a big scaffold in the middle, full of wood. A man is tied on it, there are signs of tortures on his body. He spits blood from time to time - he has no tongue anymore. He doesn't even scream, just stares at the crowd around him. The whole population of village is there, around the scaffold, but the line of guards stands between the scaffold and the crowd. Someone from the crowd looks up, at the one of the buildings on the square. The crowd looks up as well and roars. Jorge rides to the boy he noticed before, who's standing aside of the crowd, but stares at the scaffold as everyone else.

JORGE

What's happening here?

THE BOY

(not turning to him)

Pablo is going being burned.

JORGE

What did he did?

THE BOY

He was looking after the horses of don Angelo, was his groom.

Jorge seems surprised.

THE BOY

But the Inuizitor said he's a heretic and servant of Devil. He said so about many other people, and don Juan too. That's why he left us.

JORGE

Are you sure?

THE BOY

I am. They say it's revenge of the witch to don Juan. They say the Inquizitor will burn us all...

(CONTINUED)

The boy turns and sees Jorge and his cassoak. He becomes pale.

THE BOY

Forgive me, forgive me, Father...

Before Jorge reacts, the boy runs away and disappears in the crowd. One of Jorge guards wants to follow him, but Jorge stops him with gesture. He looks at the man on the scaffold again.

VOICES FROM THE CROWD

Inquisitor! Dog! Murderer!

Jorge looks up, but his eyes are too weak, he only sees the silhouette in the window. He rides to that building. One of his guards helps him to get off the horse. Jorge is at the door.

JORGE

(to the guards)

Wait here for me.

He enters the building. On the scaffold, the executioner starts burning the torch.

INT. TOWN HALL - SAME TIME

Jorge slowly moves up the stairs. Enters the small room. Manuel is sitting there, writing a letter at the table. There is a hearth is burning and a lone candle on the table. The window is opened. First screams of the man being burned alive on the square. Manuel seems not noticing neither the screams, nor Jorge at his door.

JORGE

Dry wood.

Manuel rises his head and looks at Jorge as if he sees it for the first time in his life, but doesn't seem surprised at all. He returns to his writing. Jorge with effort makes a few steps and sits in front of him.

JORGE

You still use dry wood for the executions.

Manuel stops writing. Puts the feather aside. Looks at Jorge.

(CONTINUED)

MANUEL

Is there an execution in the domain
of the Holy Inquisition about which
i am not informed?

Pause. Screams of the dying and roar of the crowd can be
heard from the square.

JORGE

The people there don't agree with
you.

MANUEL

Why should i care about the
misconceptions of the peasants?
What do they know about herecy?
About evil? Nothing. I enlighten
them.

JORGE

The methods you chose...

MANUEL

(interrupting)

Methods? They are the only ones
applicable here. The man down
there, the one who's screaming...
do you what he was accused of?

JORGE

No. But i believe you do.

The screams on the street become louder. Manuel stands up,
comes to the window. Looks down.

MANUEL

Not 3 months ago the same people
stayed at the same place and were
smiling and laughing, looking at
the same scaffold. Tell me, why
there is such a difference in their
behavior?

Jorge doesn't answer. Manuel returns to his seat.

JORGE

They are afraid to be the next in
this fire.

MANUEL

Fire purifies. What's bad in that?

Someone knocks at the door and NOVICE enters the room.

(CONTINUED)

NOVICE

Forgive my interruption, Father Manuel, but the htadman of the village is asking for a visit.

Both Manuel and Jorge can hear the crowd on the square. They shout louder.

MANUEL

I'll speak to him later, child. Bring us a bottle of wine. Cardinal Casillas and I are going to have a long conversation.

The novice looks at Manuel, a glimpse of fear in his eyes. He quickly lowers his head again.

NOVICE

Yes, Father Manuel.

He leaves. Manuel stares at Jorge, now they are at the table in front of each other.

MANUEL

I doubt that you came here just to ask about the sort of wood we use here for our procedures.

JORGE

Isn't the willingness to see an old student not enough?

MANUEL

It would have been enough, if i didn't know you, Jorge. There's something more.

Pause.

MANUEL

Why are you here, Jorge?

JORGE

Bishop in Madrid feel nervous, Manuel. They nervous of the events the occuring in the provinces, in Aragon above all the others.

MANUEL

(interrupting)

Yes, i heard about the rebellions. It is not a threat here. The church controls this place and the lands nearby. I control it.

(CONTINUED)

They hear some barking ofar outside. Again, and again. Jorge looks at Manuel, waitning for explanations.

MANUEL

There're plenty of dogs in the village, and the winter is hard. The smell the corpse - it's being delivered to the graveyard.

JORGE

According to what i saw, people are also starving.

MANUEL

Crops are poor this year. And this heretic left no coin to sustain the trade here.

JORGE

Heretic? You mean Juan de Pero. Yes, i see you prosecution documents... i found them convinient enough for the court.

Manuel face crosses a grimace when he heard the name.

MANUEL

(gloomily)

This man escaped before we could arrest him. I sent the letters to all cathedrals and cities from here to Prague, but still nothing... but i will get him.

Jorge looks at him. He sees the changes in his tone while Manuel is speaking of this man.

JORGE

(carefully)

No doubt, Juan deserved this. And the Holy church is grateful for the land we confiscated, including this village, Manuel. But...

MANUEL

(cold)

Go on.

JORGE

Why do you still trying to throw your anger on the vilagers? The man here wasn't the first one, we both know it. The things you do here...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JORGE (cont'd)
well, even Thomas (Torquemada)
would have been horrified.

Manuel's face become darker as he hears it.

JORGE
Rumors are in the court of king
Carl, in the Basilica de San
Francisco el Grande, some are
afraid, that Pius (The Pope) can
hear them in Rome.

Manuel doesn't answer.

JORGE
You know that Church doesn't need
conflict in the provinces in this
time. Especially, if, as they
say... the witch is involved...

Manuel quickly looks right at Jorge, his eyes reflect great
anger, but he remains extremely cold.

MANUEL
Witch?

At this very moment the novice enters with the tray and a
bottle of wine on it. Hearing the last word, he nearly drops
it. Still, manages to hold. He goes to the table, puts the
bottle with shaking hands and almost runs away. Still, he
stops at the door.

NOVICE
Anything else, Father Manuel?

Manuel doesn't reply, takes the bottle. Novice leaves.
Manuel pours some wine into two cups and gives one to Jorge.
Jorge takes it, Manuel puts his on the table.

MANUEL
Witch.

Jorge is absolutely indiffrent to this word, makes a gulp
and looks at Manuel.

MANUEL
That's what they say... that's what
they think, that's what they
believe...

JORGE

If you have something to say
different from this position, i'm
listening to you.

Pause.

MANUEL

Are you asking as the Cardinal or
like as a man?

JORGE

I'm asking as your friend. You
still owe me.

Manuel takes the cup, drinks a little.

MANUEL

I owe you nothing.

Jorge nearly stands up, he's in anger now.

JORGE

You owe me everything! I was the
one who taught you, you guided you
in your path! What you were without
me? A lesser son of the father
whose pride cost his family wealth,
titles and life?

Manuel winces.

JORGE

So you owe me something. I made
this trip to understand why the
mothers all over the Spain are
frightening their children with the
name of the best man i ever knew.

Long pause. Jorge is breathing heavily, takes the cup,
drinks.

JORGE

So don't waste our time and tell me
what happened betwee you, de Pero
and that wi... woman.

Manuel makes few gulps, remembering something.

MANUEL

There was a girl in village, not of
the local people. Her parents died
of the disease several years ago,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MANUEL (cont'd)
so she was a kind of a... forgot
the word...

Another gulp.

MANUEL
She was healing people. The herbs
and some things like that.
Unfortunately for her, she was very
beautiful. Very beautiful.

Pause. A shade of smile appears on Manuel's face but
vanishes away quickly.

MANUEL
As we know, de Pero was a weak man
in terms of human... vices. He used
to take what he wants.

Long pause. Manuel looks at Jorge, waiting for his reaction.
Jorge remains silent.

MANUEL
She rejected him. But he didn't
stop, felt insulted. As if it is
possible to insult a man like him.

Jorge pours more wine, looking at Manuel.

MANUEL
He accused her of witchery. Bought
some witnesses, made some "proofs"
and came to the Inquizitor, who
happened to stay at this damn place
this autumn.

Jorge sees that Manuel is difficult to talk about this
thing.

MANUEL
He came to me... and demanded the
open court. By the rules of Church
the cases of witchery can't be done
in close order. So...

JORGE
Don't continue, if you don't want
to - i understand.

MANUEL
No, i'll continue. The whole
village was standing and stared at
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MANUEL (cont'd)
her at that scaffold. With laughing
and smiles. The condemned her as a
witch and enjoyed that... hell. And
i had to watch that.

Manuel finishes the wine in the cup.

MANUEL
You know the irony? De Pero
arranged the execution and he made
sure that the wood was dry. Later,
i asked his butler where in the
forest he took such wood.

JORGE
Did he?

MANUEL
Yes, and tried how hot the fire
from it was.

Long pause. Jorge sees Manuel in such conditin for the first
time.

JORGE
Answer me, Manuel, were you close
to that woman?

Short laugh.

MANUEL
If it wasn't you who's asking me,
i'd send this person to the
questioning room without doubts.
No, i was not. I taught her reading
Latin, the way you once taught me.
She was extremely clever, with no
education at all. Yes, she was...

Manuel takes the cup and notices it's empty.

MANUEL
So, now i am here, surrounded by
the sinners that hate and fear me,
not realising that the only ones
capable for their sorrows are in
the mirror. But they don't even
have a mirror. So i show them it
the way i can.

Jorge listens and thinks. Long pause.

JORGE

Fire and steel are bad
approximation for mirrors.

MANUEL

The best and the only ones i
possess and know.

Jorge stands up, goes to the window and opens it. There is
silence in the square, only the smell of smoke.

JORGE

I agree to all the words you said,
Manuel. But you made wrong
conclusions.

MANUEL

(tries to grin)
Nothing changed in 30 years. But
this time i'm right.

JORGE

I'm 72. I doubt that i'll see next
winter. And as this day, when i see
St. Peter and the Gates approaches,
i fear it more and more. For all
the sinners i've doomed, all the
destinies i've broken. The Bible
teaches us of forgiveness, Manuel.
The God wants us to forgive each
other. I... sometimes i wonder
whether the path of our Church
is...

MANUEL

Forgiveness... i saw it in her eyes
while she was burning. I didn't
deserve it, but she forgave me. Of
all the verdicts i made, i wasn't
able to reject the one.

Manuel stand up and goes to the window.

God expeled us from Eden here, to
become worthy of it in afterlife.
What now i see now is not worthy,
Jorge. The forgiveness is
applicable in His hands, not ours.
I can't and won't stop.

Jorge returns to his seat.

(CONTINUED)

JORGE

If treat the sin as you do, there
Earth will lose its forests for the
fires.

MANUEL

Probably, it will do better for
everyone.

Long pause.

JORGE

I'm leaving Spain, Manuel. Going to
the colonies, to Cusco.

MANUEL

Going to bring the God's word to
the savages? Probably, you'll
succeed more what i do here.

JORGE

I want to offer you coming with me.
New world, you'll be free and leave
the rest of your life in order and
peace, bringing faith to those who
lack it.

Short pause.

MANUEL

I can't. I have things to do here.

Jorge stands up, he doesn't look dissapointed, he knew this
from the beginning. He takes out a book from his cassoak.
Puts it on the table.

JORGE

Then i'm leaving this here. It will
help you to return to God again.

MANUEL

God comes to me at nights in
flames. It doesn't allow me rest
until the work is done. And there's
plenty of.

Jorge nods in dissapontment. Makes few steps to Manuel.
Manuel stands up.

JORGE

Remember of the forgiveness,
Manuel. And good-bye, my brother.

(CONTINUED)

They look at each other. Both realize it's their final meeting.

MANUEL

Good-bye.

Jorge turns around and goes away, slowly, every step clutches in the silence. Manuel watches him going, sits only when he leaves. Looks at the book on the table, recognises it. Looks at the unfinished letter and feather. Takes it. Looks at the candle - it's almost gone. Keeps on writing.