

THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS

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Simply Scripts - '22 Summer Quickie Challenge
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FADE IN

TITLE CARD:

Earth's exploratory CMC (Continued Mankind Colony) on Mars was established 37 years ago. After a 270 day journey, the space craft ORIGIN's search party has returned to earth on Easter Sunday, March 30th, 2059, with specific instructions.

EXT. DAY - SAINT PETER'S SQUARE - THE VATICAN

In the distance, two lone FIGURES in haz mat suits walk slowly through the vast deserted plaza. Their meandering to the entrance of the SISTINE CHAPEL seems to take an eternity.

INT. DAY - SISTINE CHAPEL/ALTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The two walk matter of factly down the endless hallway through the ten chambers of the chapel to the ALTER ROOM ignoring what we see: the antiquities, Michelangelo's paintings and his iconic ceiling, *The Creation of David* --

Until they stop at the Alter of the Sistine Chapel, behind which is Michaelangelo's magnificent floor to ceiling fresco, *The Last Judgment*. This stops them in their tracks.

Or, is it the large installation of rows upon rows of VIDEO SCREENS with fluttering "video noise" that has been erected in front of the alter and fresco?

In front of the video screens is yet another mystery: an empty WHEELCHAIR with its back to them, next to which is a MUSIC STAND holding a large HAND HELD VIDEO DEVICE.

One of the figures picks up the device and activates the screen.

POV

The video loads to reveal the feeble 267th Catholic **POPE, PETER XIV**, as he prepares to speak to us.

He is flanked on both sides by two small groups of NUNS, The Daughters of Mary the Helper. Gathered around, filling the Alter area are BISHOPS from around the world, legions of PAPAL PRIESTS and groups of ALTER BOYS and GIRLS.

Behind the Pope, the video screens reveal endless teeming CROWDS subtitled with the names of major cities: New York, Berlin, Hong Kong, Sidney, Paris, Bangkok, Honolulu, Auckland, Buenos Aires, Jerusalem, Riyad and many, many more.

The video screens pulsate, zooming in and out showing street scenes of wild desperate drunken dancing, fornication, praying, destruction, violence, clinging to religious statues, savagery, birth, death. Total pandemonium.

POPE PETER XIV

(In Italian)

Dio mi ha parlato e, come ti ho
detto, ho fede che parlerà a me...
e ora a te... oggi a mezzogiorno.

TRANSLATOR

(A non-gender modulated
robotic voice)

God has spoken to me, and as I have told you, I have faith that he will speak to me -- and you! -- today at noon.

A DIGITAL COUNTDOWN CLOCK APPEARS LOWER SCREEN LEFT

11:57

TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)

I heard the tears of sorrow in
God's voice. God is saddened by
mankind's behavior like no other
time since The Creation.

(Pause)

I fear the very worst, and I say
now to you, seek redemption
whatever your faith. Whatever your
holy beliefs, or non beliefs.

(Long pause)

Join me. Do not be ashamed, I beg
you get on your knees now and seek
forgiveness while you can.

The nuns lift The Pope from his wheelchair and help him kneel on a small RED VELVET CUSHION ceremoniously placed under his knees.

11:58

His voice drifts into whispered prayers, kissing the small crucifix on the chain around his neck as he strains to lift his head and eyes to the heavens.

The crowds ignore the Pope's televised plea. Riots and brutal battles at Churches, Mosques, Temples and Synagogues around the world fill the video screens.

The Pope in his intense prayers falls forward knocking off his MITER and smashing his forehead on the hard marble floor.

The nuns rush to pick him up and seat him again in his wheelchair, putting his HEADDRESS back on.

His forehead is bleeding, but he brushes away any help. He motions the nuns to turn him around to see the screens and...

12:00

The apparition of a GIANT JESUS CHRIST in white holy robes appears hovering in sky over the masses on all screens.

Arms open. Floating and steeped in a holy glow. Looking down. Tears streaming on his cheeks.

A stillness overtakes the world as humanity looks up in awe and silence.

THE VOICE OF GOD

(Firm. Irritated.)

I sent my son to you in mercy to suffer for your sins. To those who sought redemption in earnest and good faith, I will welcome you to an unimaginable experience of eternal peace and serenity.

To those who have chosen the other path, you have been warned, and you will be damned.

(Long pause)

I gave you the Bible and countless religions to understand the consequences of your actions on earth. Have you not read the warnings? I gave you every chance.

Mankind has had centuries to read the Book of 2 Peter, Chapter 3, verses 10 through 13. And I quote:

"...the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

(MORE)

THE VOICE OF GOD (CONT'D)

"That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."

(Pause)

Are you not prepared for the end of times? Well, let me use the words of the Devil I have heard you say many times: *"You are fuck-itty fucked, Mother Fuckers!"*

The image of Jesus fades away. Mankind is enveloped in the flash of a horrifying fireball. All that remains is a low ringing sound and the buildings. The video device screen dissolves into VIDEO NOISE.

INT. DAY - ALTER ROOM

The figure turns off the device and puts it back on the stand, then checks the air in the chapel with a HANDHELD READER.

They removes their HEAD COVER. It's a man.

MAN

We're good.

The other figure removes their head cover. It's a woman.

WOMAN

I hate that thing!

MAN

Why, because it messes up your hair?

WOMAN

Yeah, that's part of it. And I never looked good in hats.

She pulls the pin out of her HAIR BUN, and her hair cascades over her shoulders in slow motion like a shampoo commercial.

They both undress nonchalantly, totally comfortable with their nudity. Amazing bodies. A god and goddess. Ken and Barbie, 2059!

MAN

Well now we know what happened! We need to upload that video because they wouldn't believe us if we just told them. Shit, that was freaky!

(Pause)

I never believed in God, I thought it was just bunch of bull shit.

WOMAN

Well, obviously not. That argument's over!

MAN

I think we also cleared up another question: is God a man or a woman? Sounded like a dude to me. Score one for the bros!

WOMAN

Naw, I don't agree. My Grandma sounded exactly like my Grandpa, and we never knew who was talking to us on the phone. Could easily have been a woman. The jury's still out on that one.

(Beat)

So, ah, when do you want to do what we're supposed to do?

MAN

Let's look around first.

INT. DAY - SACRISTY

They enter the room behind the alter. An array of ornate VESTMENTS for various holy days and occasions are draped over CLOTHES STANDS, lush velvet holy CAPES in a rainbow of colors hang on hooks, MITERS are perched on MANNEQUIN HEADS and CHALICES fall over each other on crowded shelves.

In the middle of the room is the CABINET for the sacramental wine. The man opens the door and finds a pyramid of BOTTLES.

MAN

Oh, my God, no pun intended!
They're all bottles of Brunello Di Montalcino, 2047! It's no sacrifice to drink this!

He finds a corkscrew in the cabinet, takes a bottle, two chalices and an armful of velvet capes.

MAN (CONT'D)
Well, Eve, shall we?

WOMAN/EVE
Ah, like, I've only been waiting
270 days for this, Adam.

INT. DAY - ALTER ROOM

They share two chalices of wine, and he carefully layers the capes to make a cushy bed over the cold bare alter marble platform, and puts the Pope's red kneeling cushion under her head.

WOMAN/EVE
You sure we should do it here? I
mean...

MAN/ADAM
What the hell, why not? Who cares?

MONTAGE

Every conceivable position of lusty, dirty (if there is such a thing) sex melds one into another, into another, edging higher and higher until falling off the high cliff of the last second of hold-your-breath anticipation -- into the deepest depth of the soul with a combined coma-inducing climax.

They lay motionless for an eternity, then peel off of each other, floating on a cloud of semiconsciousness.

MAN/ADAM (CONT'D)
Mission accomplished?

WOMAN/EVE
Ohhh yeah!

THE VOICE OF GOD
(Now clearly a woman and
very disgruntled)
Really?! You gotta do that on my
alter? Do you schmucks never learn?
Definitely not cool!
(Pause, then with attitude)
Bro!

Adam and Eve disintegrate in a burst of agonizing flames!

FADE TO BLACK