

HOMINUM (RES)

di

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ON SCREEN: "SUNDAY".

Room of a small parish.

CHORUS in the background. Spirals of incense that vanish at the top. Sounds are OVATTED ...

Xavier (70, elderly) is seated on a bench, wearing the priest's tunic. Empty eyes, they look straight ahead ...

...Alleluja...

... a WOMAN (65) is waving angrily in front of Xavier. His fat hand tugs on a LITTLE BOY's elbow (20, fine features, baggy sweater, Emo style).

...Alleluja...

The woman looks at the priest ...

... he yawns, covering his mouth with his hand. He slips a hand under his robe, fumbles in his pocket, takes out a handkerchief, presses it to his mouth and COUGH heavily.

The audio returns to normal.

Alleluja

Xavier gets up from the bench.

The woman pushes her nephew (Daniel) in front of Xavier.

WOMAN

so?

FATHER XAVIER

(cross signs in the air)

Only hell. *In nomine patris, et filii, et spirictus sancti, go in peace.*

The woman remains in dismay. Xavier goes away crossing the threshold undoing his habit.

JUMP UT TO

Father Xavier closes the habit in the liturgical wardrobe.

VOICE (O.S)

Father?...

Xavier leaves.

(CONTINUA)

VOICE (O.S)  
(approaching)  
Father

A YOUNG PRIEST (35, Latin, Peruvian or Mexican traits) heels  
Xavier ...

...reaches him.

FATHER PABLO  
Father...

FATHER XAVIER  
What!?

FATHER PABLO  
We have the function for the poor  
today ... remember that life does  
not dwell only within the walls of  
the house of God ...

Xavier sighs.

FATHER PABLO  
there is also another thing...

FATHER XAVIER  
What?

Pablo fumbles in his pocket and takes out a white envelope  
with a red seal ...

... the Roman Papacy.

Xavier tears the envelope from Pablo's hands, greedy.

OPENS THE ENVELOPE. Silence.

FATHER PABLO  
News?

FATHER XAVIER  
I must go to Rome

Xavier reaches the nave of the church, heading towards the  
altar.

Father Pablo follows him trying to reach him with one arm.

FATHER XAVIER  
Farewell, den of sinners! They will  
appoint me bishop.

Xavier, at the top of the altar, stops, remains motionless with the letter in his hand. Not even an invisible lightning bolt had crossed it ...

remains motionless, as if turned to stone ...

Xavier COLLAPSES to the ground.

Pablo rushes to help him, shakes Xavier by the chest. Xavier's eyes are fixed on the crucifix, higher up, the reflection of the light passes through the windows ...

Alleluja...

FADE TO WHITE

2

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

2

FADES TO WHITE

ON SCREEN: MONDAY

Bedroom in a hospital. Pablo (Bible in hand) standing before the DOCTOR (45). Xavier (deep dark circles) sitting at the window is throwing crumbs at the sparrows ...

DOCTOR (O.S)  
(Ovatted voice sound)  
Do you understand?

Xavier doesn't answer, watches the birds nibble on the bits of bread.

DOCTOR(O.S)  
There are several dark masses in  
the gastrointestinal tract ...

A breeze of air moves the branches of the trees producing a hissing as sweet as a caress.

DOCTOR(F.C)  
(Softly, hesitating)  
... she has six, maybe ten, days  
left.

Father Pablo places a hand firmly on Xavier's shoulder as if to keep him from flying away

XAVIER  
(Standing)  
I have to go to Rome ...

(CONTINUA)

FATHER PABLO

Oh, I think maybe the best thing to  
do now is get some rest

Pablo seats Xavier on the chair and closes the window with a  
SNAP...

... a limbic, alienating silence falls in the room.

Pages of the Bible Echo Menacingly page after page...

Pablo's lips punctuate biblical verses like the HISS  
produced by a snake's tongue ...

A drop of sweat slides down Xavier's forehead ...

XAVIER

Water...

Pablo (pausing) looks at Xavier's table, the jug of water is  
empty. He closes the bible and leaves the room.

Xavier gets up and goes to the window, FLYING IT (noises,  
chirps), looks below ... it doesn't take anything to get  
out. He leans over the window...then notices his  
ecclesiastical collar resting on the windowsill...

JUMP CUT TO

Pablo enters with a bottle of water in his hand. His eyes  
see the empty bed. The bottle FALLS from his hand. Pablo  
goes to the bathroom, opens the door wide, nobody...

then notices the open window...

CUT TO

3

EXT. ROAD - DAY

3

Out of the hospital. Xavier (in pajamas) walks astray ...

WROOOM!

A car DASHES by him..

FATHER PABLO (O.S)

(Searching)

Father Xavier!?

Xavier peeks over his shoulder, in the distance he catches a  
glimpse of Pablo, quickens his pace.

(CONTINUA)

In the distance, Father Pablo scans the street, over there an elderly figure walks in his pajamas.

Xavier turns a corner off the main road.

FATHER PABLO (O.S)  
(Asking to a stranger)  
Have you seen an old man in  
pijama?

WOMAN (O.S)  
That way!

CUT TO

Xavier in an alley, no escape. Xavier has his back to the wall ...

FATHER PABLO  
(coming)  
Father!!

Father Pablo enters in the Xavier's corner.

Nobody...

...except for a pile of cartons and rags piled up.

From under the house of rags and cardboard, a BUM (48, Middle Eastern traits) is huddled with Xavier. The two remain silent ...

FATHER PABLO  
Father Xavier...?

Silence.

Xavier wants to get up but the bum puts his index finger to his mouth to invite him to shut up and wait ...

Father Pablo walks away.

Xavier's gaze investigates the bum's face, many wrinkles of suffering around the man's eyes ...

JUMP CUT

4

EXT. BRIDGE - SUNSET

4

ON SCREEN: TUESDAY

Xavier and Burak are leaning on the parapet of a bridge. From some doors the BASH of the river and some cars passing nearby.

XAVIER

Let me return the favor, if you want I can find you a house to stay ...

BURAK

I have fun without a home. Nice to sleep under the stars even if I miss my children yes. (beat) You clergyman shouldn't run away ... why do you run away?

XAVIER

(after a pause)  
Burash ... I don't know, I want to go to Rome for ... (hesitates)

BURAK (F.C)

My name is always Burak...

XAVIER

I didn't always want to be a priest ... as a boy I wanted to be a poet, but I never found my lines, Surak ...

BURAKI KEEP

calling myself Burak ... (Pause)  
Poetry dangerous to the heart ...

XAVIER

... I thought I could change the world with words ...

Burak rummages in his pocket for something.

BURAK

Then...?

XAVIER

Then I realized that to change you have to start with the spirit ...

Burak takes out a piece of bread and hands it to Xavier.

(CONTINUA)

BURAK

Mh?

Xavier shakes his head in disgust.

Burak then takes something from under his jacket, a can of lager ...

BURAK

Dangerous whoever closes out the world, forgets which world is inside ...

XAVIER

(taking the can from Burak)

All I did was say "no" ...

Xavier shrugs, starts to drink but thinks back, disgusted.

A pang makes him stagger forward. A grimace of pain, the hand pressing the bowels. Burak approaches him.

Xavier holds his bowels with his hand, in his eyes there is the reflection of Burak ...

JUMP CUT TO

5

MONTAGE

5

Scenes of the finer things in life through Xavier's eyes (in bum clothes)

ON SCREEN: WEDNSDAY

- Xavier observing the workers of a construction site, some retirees comment on the work in progress (morning).

- Xavier licks an ice cream sitting on a bench (late morning).

ON SCREEN: THURSDAY

- A dog passes by Xavier amicably in a garden, Xavier caresses him happily (afternoon).

- Xavier is a small figure in the design of the city.

CUT TO

6 INT. ORATORY - DAY

6

ON SCREEN: FRIDAY

Room of the oratory. Two chairs, a table. Pablo moves nervously around the room, on the phone with someone.

FATHER PABLO  
no, no, don't put me on hold-  
(exasperated).

Father Pablo abruptly cuts off the call. He sighs, rubs his eyes, letting himself go on the chair.

TOC TOC-

Father Pablo looks at the door, there is a badly dressed figure like a pile of garbage ...

FATHER PABLO (O.S)  
The canteen for the homeless is not  
today ...

Burak takes a step forward, his gaze stays on Father Pablo who takes out the phone again, dials the police number ...

Father Pablo whirls around. The sweaty forehead sends a few drops to the eyes.

FATHER PABLO  
Where is he!?

CUT TO

7 INT. PUB - TABLE - NIGHT

7

ON SCREEN: SATURDAY

Interior of a pub. Rustic coffee table, plastic chairs. Two MEN (38.50) in the throes of boiling alcohol rejoice as they raise their pints. Xavier at their table joins in laughing.

BARISTA (24) looks at their table with unusual interest ...

MAN 1 (O.S)  
If you're a priest, I swear I'll  
get my face tattooed!

Man 2 drinks heavily from the mug. holds back a belch. MAN 1 chuckles.

(CONTINUA)

XAVIER

Origen says in his "Homilies" ...  
extra ecclesia, nulla salus,  
"outside the church there is no  
salvation" ...

Man 2 stops drinking.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

... extra ecclesiam nemo salvatur,  
"outside the church no one will be  
saved" Salus extra ecclesiam non  
est, "There is no salvation outside  
the church" ...

Man 1 listens attentively as if those words sounded like  
mother's reproach.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

... civitas Dei. Anyone who does not belong to the CIVITAS D.

The gloomy silence almost a hint of death bitches the  
enthusiasm of the two bon temponi.

One beat.

Man 1 laughs loudly. He slaps Man 2 on the back. Man 2 nods  
hysterically.

JUMP CUT TO

Montage

- In the Pub, Man 1 laughs as he gets something tattooed on  
his forehead.
- Pub, Man 2 dances on the table.
- Pub, Xavier downs a beer.
- Pub, Man 2 gets something tattooed on his buttock.
- Pub, Xavier toasts with Man 1 and Man 2

MAN 2

You said you have to go to Rome ...  
we can help you.

Man 1 takes some money from his wallet and puts it in  
Xavier's pocket.

Xavier holds up a beer and drinks in honor of the two men.

CUT TO

8 INT. STREET - NIGHT

8

ON SCREEN: SUNDAY

Lonely suburban street like the night. Xavier walks, lolling a little, somewhere the WHISTLE of a train is heard in the distance.

VOICES

A MAN (35) hangs over a GIRL holding her wrists and knocking her to the ground. The poor woman MOANS and kicks to defend herself.

Xavier, touching his belly in pain, runs towards the scene, determined.

XAVIER  
(struggling to get the words  
out of his mouth)  
Leave her alone!

The man, taken by surprise, is dumbfounded when he finds himself in front of the old man. The situation seems so absurd that he lets go and walks away.

XAVIER  
(Extending a hand to lift the  
girl)  
How are you child?

Xavier turns to the attacker, now far away.

XAVIER  
That's not what we do, pig! Pig !!!

Noise of FAST footsteps.

Something falls on Xavier pushing him to the ground.

DANIEL (O.S)  
No!

The man delivers 1,2,3 powerful kicks to Xavier helpless on the ground, bends down to rummage through his pockets and extract the money he had, leaving him on the ground like a Christ detached from the cross ...

beat, after.

(CONTINUA)

A blurred face observes Xavier closely, the short and manicured hair of a woman, the pink lips under the bright tone of the lipstick and the face that now takes on lighter features ...

... a BOY (crossdressed, Daniel, 21), the grandson of the parishioner (see scene 1).

XAVIER  
(shocked, painful)  
YOU!?

Daniele gently caresses Xavier's face. She lifts him off the ground and puts him on her lap ...

XAVIER  
Don't touch me

DANIEL (O.S)  
I called an ambulance

XAVIER  
Leave...

DANIEL  
(hesits)  
But-

XAVIER  
Leave!

Daniel walks away leaving Xavier on the ground, dirty, wounded by the shabby clothes he tells about something shabby.

Xavier on the ground speaks to the void, his lip repeats the word "why" ?. Small tears line the lines on the side of his eyes.

XAVIER (O.S)  
(to girl)  
Do me a favour, please...

Daniel turns.

Xavier reaches out a hand, inviting her to bend over with him.

Daniele leans over Xavier.

XAVIER  
(In a low voice, taking  
Daniele's hand)  
(CONTINUA)

(CONTINUA)

XAVIER (SEGUE)  
*Pray for me...*

DANIEL  
(unconvinced)  
But I'm-

XAVIER  
(Suffering)  
Sssh. In the eyes of the father, we  
are all human, his children ...

XAVIER E DANIELE  
(bisbigliando insieme)  
*Our father who art in heaven*

JUMP CUT

9 EXT. STREET - DAY

9

ON SCREEN: MONDAY

Xavier struggling up from the ground, clinging to Daniele's hands.

XAVIER  
(to Daniel)  
...Do you have something to write  
on?

Daniel rummages in her purse, pulls out a bright purple lipstick, worthy of a cam-girl.

XAVIER  
You write "I walk the life, a beam  
of light made of shadows".

DANIEL  
What are they?

XAVIER  
My lines...

Saverio, getting up with immense effort, limps along the road, his slender and skeletal figure is nothing more than that of a modern martyr.

FADE TO WHITE

CREDITS

THE END.

10 ALTERNATE ENDING (AFTER SCENE 8)

10

Someone SLAMS the car door. FOOTSTEPS.

FATHER PABLO (F.C)

Xavier!

Pablo runs on his knees next to Xavier, looking at him in horror and fear. He picks it up like a wounded man and lifts it up.

XAVIER

(lifeless)

This sweet young saved me ...

Father Pablo looks at Daniele confused as he heads for the car holding Xavier.

FATHER PABLO

Everything will be fine, let's go home ...

XAVIER

You write, "I walk life, a beam of light made of shadows" ...

Father Pablo rummages in his jacket pulling out a pen but he's messed up.

FATHER PABLO

...then?

No reply. Xavier is silent, the world above him seems to light up in white ...

FADE TO WHITE

ENDING CREDITS

THE END.