

Scene 4 – Battlements, 18th May

[The Young and Senior Knights are assembled, along with some Maltese Men. Henri and Alessandro are standing at the back – closest to the audience.]

Henri What's happening here? Are we in for yet another religious celebration?

Alessandro Not this time my friend. The Ottoman galleys have been sighted.

Henri Are they coming here?

Alessandro Apparently – they're circling the island.

Henri So this is it then?

Alessandro Looks like it.

Henri And now we just sit here and wait for them?

Alessandro Pretty much – unless of course, you want to go and get a closer look at them?

Henri What – leave the city? I don't think that's a good idea.

Alessandro You're right. I suppose it could be quite dangerous.

Henri When shall we go?

Alessandro As soon as they land?

Henri Done. *[Lady Cecile enters.]*

Cecile Henri! Did you hear the news? How awful!

Henri Good morning milady. Yes, it seems like the fun is about to start.

Cecile You have a very strange idea of fun Chevalier de la Valette. Myself, I have a completely different notion. Do you know what I enjoy? *[She moves very close to Henri and whispers in his ear. His eyebrows shoot up at what he hears.]*

Henri That sounds... fascinating milady. *[Cecile is taken aback at this but she soon recovers.]*

Cecile You'll protect me from those beastly Ottomans won't you Henri?

Henri But of course milady.

Cecile Good. *[She walks away.]*

Alessandro Fascinating...

Henri I panicked.

Alessandro Henri, a whale is fascinating – magnetism is fascinating. Lady Cecile wanting to have a good time with you is a gift from heaven.

Henri I get the picture.

Alessandro What am I to do with you Henri? *[Sir Oliver Starkey enters.]*

Starkey The Grand Master. *[All is quiet as Grand Master La Valette enters.]*

Song 5 – Die Defending

La Valette ATTEND ME NOW MY NOBLE BROTHERS
FOR I RECEIVED NEWS OF LATE;
TURKS ARE INVADING,
WE’LL NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT.

SO LET YOUR MEN BE EVER-WAKING,
FOR THEY’LL HENCEFORTH SLEEP NO MORE.
THERE’S NO MISTAKING,
THE TURKS ARE BRINGING WAR.

APPROACHING THE COAST,
IS A FORMIDABLE HOST.
OF HEATHENS AND SLAVES,
HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THEIR GRAVES.

DIE DEFENDING,
DESTROYING THE INFIDEL.
WE’LL BE SENDING
OUR ENEMIES BACK TO HELL.
THOUGH BLOOD WE MAY SPEND,
WE WILL NEITHER BREAK NOR BEND.
KEEP DEFENDING
TILL THE END.

I KNOW THIS YEAR WILL BE RELENTLESS
IN THE HORRORS IT WILL BRING.
WE’LL HARVEST CORPSES,
WHEN WINTER FADES TO SPRING.

SO LET US HASTEN TO THE ALTAR,

TAKE OUR HOLY SACRAMENTS,
STAND BEFORE MALTA
UPON THE BATTLEMENTS.

WE'LL FIGHT TILL THE DEATH,
BATTLE TILL THE FINAL BREATH,
DIVE INTO THE FRAY,
KEEP THE HEATHENS AT BAY.

DIE DEFENDING,
DESTROYING THE INFIDEL.
WE'LL BE SENDING
OUR ENEMIES BACK TO HELL.
THOUGH BLOOD WE MAY SPEND,
WE WILL NEITHER BREAK NOR BEND.
KEEP DEFENDING
TILL THE END.

DESTROYING THE INFIDEL.
WE'LL BE SENDING
OUR ENEMIES BACK TO HELL.
THOUGH BLOOD WE MAY SPEND,
WE WILL NEITHER BREAK NOR BEND.
KEEP DEFENDING
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