“It’s not easy being me.

I know that’s a very selfish thing to say, but then, I’ve been feeling selfish lately.

“And selfish is something I’m not allowed to be.

“People expect—need—me to be selfless.

“Or they did need me...

“...once.”
DID YOU SAY YOU WERE FEELING SELFISH OR SORRY FOR YOURSELF?

WELL, MAYBE THE MAN WHO'S NOT NEEDED DONT NOTICE THE JUST PLAYED TO NEARLY A FULL HOUSE.

HE NOTICED, BUT YOU KNOW THAT DICTATOR? THE ONE WHERE CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO YOU-KNOW- WHATNESS?

FEEL FOLK WANT IT TO?

DO YOU BLAME THEM FOR BEING AFRAID?

I'M AFRAID...

...THEY BLAME ME.
GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION. I SEE YOUR POINT.

THAT'S JUST IT—I'M WONDERING IF I EVER HAD ONE.

AND IT'S NOT GUILT. IT'S DISTRACT BY ASSOCIATION.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE?

YEWS, THERE IS, AND IT'S NOT SUBTLE. I ASSURE YOU FOR NOT SEEING IT, BEING A JOB. YOUR VISION OF THE WORLD IS LIKE YOUR CARS—BLACK AND WHITE.

THANK YOU, FATHER.

DON'T MENTION IT, BABY.

NOT SINCE BEFORE I TOOK MY VOWS, WHICH WAS...

SAY OR TAKE? FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT IN A LONG TIME.

AND WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO TAKE THEM BACK.
GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION. I SEE YOUR POINT.

THAT'S JUST IT—I'M WONDERING IF I EVER HAD ONE.
AND IT'S NOT GUILT, IT'S DISTRUST BY ASSOCIATION.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE?

YEAH, THERE IS, AND IT'S NOT SUBTLE. I ABHOR YOU FOR NOT SEEING IT, BEING A COP. YOUR VISION OF THE WORLD IS LIKE YOUR CARS—BLACK AND WHITE.

THANK YOU, FATHER.

DON'T MENTION IT, BABY.

NOT SINCE BEFORE I TOOK MY VOWS, WHICH WAS...

GIVE OR TAKE? FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT IN A LONG TIME.

AND WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO TAKE THEM BACK.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

ABOUT FEELING SELFish. YOU WANT TO BE ALONE.

LUPÉ, IT'S THE LAST THING I WANT, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT WE ARE.

IF THIS PAST YEAR DID NOTHING ELSE, IT'S PROVEN THAT TO ME.

THAT'S FUNNY, 'CAUSE THIS YEAR TAUGHT ME HOW UNBELIEVABLY CONNECTED WE ALL ARE... EVERYONE OF US, EVERYWHERE... EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER...

I CRIED WHEN I REALIZED THAT.

YOU CRY?

THAT'S ABOUT TO.

THEN YOU SHOULD GO, LIEUTENANT.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, DANIEL.

I HAVE DOCTORS TO DO THAT FOR ME, LUPE.

MAKE SURE THEY DO THEIR JOB.
I'm not bad at reading expressions.

I imagine the one you see most is fear.

Not enough...

At least in the faces I'd like to see it in.

And too much...

...in faces that have nothing to be afraid of.

Do you know how many times I've flown over this church?

More than you can count?

No.
I must say, it's more impressive on the inside than the out.

But then, anything full of secrets usually is.

What secrets are you referring to?

The ones you keep.

Me? I have secrets you're interested in?

Don't you? I thought it was part of your vocation.

Other people's secrets.
YOU MEAN CONFESSIONS?

JESUS... IF YOU'RE ASKING WHAT I THINK YOU ARE...

--CAN YOU READ MINDS?

--TO DIVULGE ANY--

--YOU WON'T?

I CAN'T, NOT EVEN TO YOU.
IT'S NOT ABOUT SECRETS--IT'S ABOUT TRUST--AND I CAN'T BETRAY THAT.

THEN I CAN TRUST YOU?

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HERE FOR...
CAN I GET YOU SOME WATER?

GOOD.

IS THE WORLD?

WHAT? GOOD?

NO, ALL RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

THAT QUESTION IS THE REASON I'M HERE.

IS THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO?

YOU MEAN, SINCE—

OF COURSE I DON'T. I KNOW THE WORLD IS MUCH WORSE OFF.

I KNOW THAT.

I KNOW MINE IS.
When I heard them, I was in bed.

You sleep?

I was in bed, and then...
"...I was in the stars. If you ever get the chance...

"It's truly breathtaking...

"...even though it's impossible to breathe."
IT WAS THE LANTERN. HE'S LIKE ME...WITH ABILITIES THAT...

ACTUALLY, HE'S MORE...

YOU MEAN HUMAN.

NO.

I LEFT HIM THERE, FREE, TO FIGHT HIS BATTLE. HE DIDN'T NEED MY HELP.
"...and I came home.

"As I entered the atmosphere I gradually let myself hear what was being broadcast.

"To see if I was needed..."

"If there was something I'd missed..."
"And let me tell you, it's just as chilling for someone like me as it is for you."

"When every signal—"

"In every language."

"Is reporting exactly the same thing."
"I listened, and I heard it all. The pain in the voices, the anguish in the sighs, the uncertainty in the calm..."

"...but I couldn't hear what I needed to."

"And for the first time, I was really afraid, lost, without an rhythm."
"I searched everywhere. Believe me..."

"...everywhere twice."

"But still, I was still..."

"No rhythm."

"No heartbeat."

"None."

"My wife..."
I never knew you were... but, she was...?

What turned out to be a million people on Earth...

Disappearing without a trace.

And I was a million miles away when it happened.

That's symmetry for you.
BUT... YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOU ASKED ME TO HEAR YOUR...

I asked you to listen. I regret I wasn't here when the vanishing happened.
I might have been able to prevent it.

MIGHT...

BUT AFTER...

...what happened.

AFTER WHAT I DID...
I HAVE TO GO.
"I knew it was too late when I got the feeling I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"At first-- for a second-- the first thing that went through my head was 'Oops.'"

"Like it was a mistake."

"Then-- faster than a speeding bullet-- I understood that this wasn't just done-- it was the end."
“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD.”
The what?

I know he wasn't there just to save me, but he made me feel like he was.

Like my life mattered, like I really was important.

You forgot my toast.

No, I didn't.

I'll never forget that.
Hey, Father Leone. What can I get for you? The preacher's all out of the world.

Hi, John.

How's Randy? Ah! Yeah, kids.

He's not sick is he?

No...
LISTEN, FAT M. HERE THEY SHOULD HAVE BUT NICE, Y'KNOW? THEY WANT THOSE GET CONFUSE DON'T KNOW IT TO THINK?

THEIR FRIENDS... THE ABUSE, THE NAMES...

IT AIN'T EASY.

NO, IT'S NOT.

WE JUST THINK IT'S BETTER FOR HIM, IF MABA FOR A WHILE...

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

Y'KNOW, KIDS.

TELL HIM HE'S ALWAYS WELCOME BACK.

I WILL FATHER THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING.
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, FATHER?

NOTHING. I CAN'T LIVE WITH...

HEH.

WHAT'S THAT FUNNY?

NO, I'M SORRY. MY TIME... IS YOURS.

BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE ISN'T.

THEN LET ME MAKE THE MOST OF IT. THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, I MENTIONED MY SIN...
...TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD. BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED AND FAILED.

BETTER THAN ME?

WELL, THEY WERE JUST MEN.

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY FAILED?

BECAUSE... NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE A MAN TRIES TO SAVE, HIS OWN LIFE WILL ULTIMATELY PROVE TO BE THE ONE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.

WANNA SO IF YOU DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO HUMANITY, EVENTUALLY YOU WILL REGARD YOURSELF AS THE ONE MOST PURELY HUMAN?

THAT'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

IF YOU'RE A DOG.
HEH. NOW THAT'S FUNNY.
I UNDERSTAND.

WELL, LET HIM WITH THE BIGGEST SIN CAST THE FIRST...

THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.

THE VANISHING. FROM THE EARTH IT WAS UNDETECTABLE
BUT FROM THE SKY...
“Weather satellites recorded the anomaly, spreading out over the globe.

“...the trouble was, it only picked up the ripples...

“...and not the stone that caused them.

“But it did show roughly where they started from.

“A piece of earth that’s known for war...”
The vanishing originated somewhere in a 300-mile region.

Some might say so did life, civilization, faith...

...and death.

...a region, a desert where blood flows more freely than water.

I went, like I always do, with the intention to save humanity from a catastrophic threat.

But when I got there...

I decided to save you from yourselves.
I took your guns away from you.

All of them?

One.

Along with your rocket launchers, mortars, grenades, and knives.

I took them, and I destroyed them.
“ONE STONE.

“THAT’S ALL IT TOOK.

“INVADERS FROM MARS, CREATURES ON THE LOOSE, MAD SCIENTISTS AND GIANT ROBOTS..."

“BOYS AND GIRLS, HIDING UNDER BEDS AND IN CLOSETS. I’VE ALWAYS TRIED TO SHOW YOU THAT THERE’S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF..."

“...THAT FEAR WAS IN YOUR MIND.

“But then you showed me that the greatest threat to humanity..."
...IS IN YOUR
HEARTS.

I'M SOR-

I DON'T
KNOW. I
GUESS FOR
THE WAY
YOU FEEL.

DON'T TAKE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR HUMANITY.
BETTER ME
THAN YOU.

I'M SOR-

HERE.
Hey, even a perfect stone creates ripples.

Yes...
"IT DOES."
I'd always believed that because I had the absolute power to impose my will, I meant I had to absolutely have the will not to.

"And when I did..."

"You did with the best intentions."

"Did I? I wonder..."

"Maybe I let my emotions get the better of me."

"How couldn't you?"

"The question is how could I—do I even have emotions that you understand?"

"I have..."

"...had—a wife—but is what I feel for her love, or what I think love is?"

"Am I capable of love?"
I'D SAY THAT THERE IS NO LOVE IN REVENGE.

AND I'D RESPOND -- AS A MAN -- SPARE ME YOUR Cliches. BUT THEN I'D LEARN...

I'D SAY THAT THERE IS NO LOVE IN REVENGE.

...THOUGH WE WANT TO DISMISS THEM, Cliches ARE WHAT THEY ARE...

...BecaUSE THERE'S NO SCIENCE BEHIND THEM, JUST AS EVERY ACTION...

I'D SAY THAT THERE IS NO LOVE IN REVENGE.

AND I'D RESPOND -- AS A MAN -- SPARE ME YOUR Cliches. BUT THEN I'D LEARN...

...THOUGH WE WANT TO DISMISS THEM, Cliches ARE WHAT THEY ARE...

...BecaUSE THERE'S NO SCIENCE BEHIND THEM, JUST AS EVERY ACTION...
"What I'd done by disarming a tiny country gave an entire region the will to war."
(GENERAL NOX...)

"...WE HAVE THE ROYAL GUARD BUCKLE..."

(THE KING WILL FALL TODAY. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, HE'S ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN...")

(--HIS DREAMS.)

"NO ASYLUM. I PROMISED YOU, AND THE REST OF THIS COUNTRY..."

(WE WILL ALL STAND OVER A KING ON HIS KNEES.)

(--OUR FIGUREHEAD. WE WILL MAKE HIM AN EXAMPLE.")

"IF WE LET HIM LEAVE THE COUNTRY HIS GUARD WILL SURRENDER. IT WOULD SAVE SOME LIVES.")

(IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR ALL IF WE LET THE KING ESCAPE, WITHOUT THEIR FIGUREHEAD.)

(I KNOW.)

(BUT AT WHAT COST?)

(...FOR OUR HOUSE.)
(NO, THAT...) 

(VES, HE'S FINISHED WITH OUR NEIGHBOR, AND NOW HAS COME...) 

(...FOR OUR HOUSE.)
(Was that...?)

(YES, HE'S FINISHED WITH OUR NEIGHBOR, AND NOW HAS COME...)

(...FOR OUR HOUSE.)
I ROLLED A RED ROPE!
MAN ON MAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

PUTTING AN END TO WHATEVER THE HELL IT IS YOU ARE...

TRYING TO DO

LIBERATING COUNTRIES?

SOUNDS LIKE A NICE WAY TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON.
STAND DOWN.

NOX...

WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH SUPERMAN...

...DO WE?

IF WE DO THAT, THEY'LL BE PICKED UP AND PUT BACK IN OUR HANDS...

NOT IF YOU THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITY.
I know why you came here, you saw war, and hoped to stop it.

Propel or not?

Because I am the authority now.

You don’t have to answer, but I do ask you to listen...

Listen to the people because they ignore the voice as it has been done here. Since the day they learned to speak...

...is morally wrong.
I know why you came here. You saw war, and hoped to stop it.

There's no denying, that is admirable.

But do you know why I'm here?

I saw oppression, and fought to end it.

And I have. Is that not admirable as well?

You don't have to answer, but I do ask you to listen...

Listen to the people, because to ignore their voice, as has been done here since the day they learned to speak...

...is morally wrong.

Their voice not only needs to be heard...

...but to be believed.
YOU CAME TO MY COUNTRY TO STOP A WAR.
THE WAR IS OVER.

NOX...

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

THERE WERE FIRES, RAGING...

IT'S TIME TO START THE HEALING...

...BUT THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD.
...people trapped under not only tons of rubble...

...but the weight of the world.

"The wounded."

"The dying."

"The orphaned."
I did what I could.

What I always do.

I cleaned up the mess you'd made.

That's a rather callous way to phrase what you did.

I mean, people look to you to save them—probably most of the time—from their own mistakes.

They do things—knowingly—wrong, and they look to you afterward to make them right.

Why do you bother?

Just seeing if you were paying attention.

Because I can.

I can't say I blame you for feeling that way, though.
I mean, people look to you to save them—probably most of the time—from their own mistakes.

Why do you bother?

They do things—knowingly—and they look to you afterward to make it right.

That doesn't mean you have to.

Yes, it does.

Why...

Because I can.

If it's not out of love?

You're not just a good one, you're an active listener.

It's part of my vocation.

Mine, too...
"...and though I can listen to everything, occasionally..."

"...I don't hear what I should."

"...So this is the device. How does it work?"

"(From what the Minister of Science admitted, General, now it doesn't.)"

"(So its capability was to fire once...?)"