


I've never seen a tribe more prone to slaughtering its enemies than the Christians. And I'm not talking about their god. Gods kill, it's what they do.

I'm talking about the priests who identify the enemy, define the terms, and urge armies into war. One way this season and another way the next, claiming divine blessing each time.



If there's any commandment that's true and honest...



...it's thou shalt make a priest rich. Somehow, no matter who wins or loses, the Church profits.

Pagans believe in many gods.
Pagans freely accept the Christian's
nailed god as real and never deny its
existence or its worship.



The Christians insist there is only
one god--theirs alone--and seek to
persecute any who disagree.

But these rituals
impress me.



The devotion
frightens me.



And I'm struck
with doubt...



...what if they're right?





BEHOLD THIS HOLY RELIC!



THE ROMAN SWORD THAT PIERCED THE SIDE OF CHRIST HIMSELF, SON OF GOD, KING OF KINGS!



HIS HOLY BLOOD HAS INFUSED THE BLADE WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, MAKING ANY MAN WHO WIELDS IT AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD, AN AGENT OF HEAVEN, AKIN TO GABRIEL!

INVINCIBLE!



HOW DO YOU KEEP THIS SHIT STRAIGHT, MAGNUS? IS CHRIST THE GOD, OR IS IT THE FATHER? IS IT BOTH? IF HIS SON'S BLOOD IS MAGICAL, WHO THE FUCK IS GABRIEL? IS THE HOLY SPIRIT A PERSON?

HOW'S YOUR FACE?

YOU KNOCKED A TOOTH LOOSE. I'LL LIVE.



AND THAT WHELP, THAT UNNATURAL LITTLE GIRL JULIA, I THINK SHE'S HERE.



LET THE ARMIES OF CORRUPT ROME COME! LET THEM CHALLENGE US. THEIR RANKS WILL COLLAPSE AT THE SIGHT OF OUR SUPREMACY. THE PONTIFF WILL KISS MY RING...

...AND THEN I'LL SLIT HIS THROAT!

MAYBE SHIT IN THAT TALL HAT OF HIS!

GOD'S WILL!

OAKENFORT'S MEN KILLED HER FATHER. STANDS TO REASON SHE'LL MAKE A RUN AT THE GUY.

SHE'LL FAIL.

MAYBE.

WHO WILL DARE OPPOSE US?

WHO?

SHE'S A CHILD.

SHE ROSE UP FROM BEING A SLAVE. SHE'S SMART, SHE'S RESOURCEFUL.

WHO DARES?

HE DOES!