The Scene opens at her Uncle's Village, where there is a celebration in progress. (FADING)

MUSIC: Wild, Pagan, Drums SOUND: Laughing, shouting

lst GIRL: Come with us Tekakwitha - we're going to do the dream dance.

2nd GIRL: O, it's so much fun - when the young men choose their

lst GIRL: Yes - come Tekakwitha - let the braves see you dance and they will forget the cruel scars on your face - for you are as graceful as the wind in the reeds.

KATERI: Run along, girls. I don't want to - I'm trying to finish this cradle tonight.

2nd GIRL: Always some excuse to be alone - how can you bear it? lst GIRL: You'd better come. Tekakwitha - your uncle doesn't like it when you hide in the lodge. And he's angry at you because you tried to stop the trial by fire the other night.

KATERI: Yes, I know. But I hate it so - I can't bear to see anyone hurt - for no good reason.

2nd GIRL: But there is a reason - to show how brave the young men are! You are a coward. Tekakwitha - not like a true Indian maid at all - aren't you afraid that your sons will be weaklings, with such a mother?

KATERI: (LAUGHING) As I am not married, I will not worry about my sons.

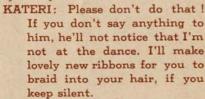
2nd GIRL: (SCORNFULLY) It's true you aren't a wife, yet, and you may find it hard to bring a husband to our lodge, if you hide yourself all the time. Aren't you afraid to incur your uncle's wrath?

lst GIRL: If you aren't, you should be - he wants you to repay his kindness to you by bringing a husband into the longhouse.

KATERI: I will try to repay my uncle's care by working hard.

lst GIRL: It's true you are always first at work and the last to stop. But you don't have any fun - won't you come with us?

2nd GIRL: We'll tell your uncle on you if you don't.



2nd GIRL: Promise? And will you make us baskets for our necklaces, too?





KATERI: Yes, gladly.

MUSIC: Up Wild, Pagan ...

SOUND: Excited cries in distance

1st GIRL: Come on - the dance is

beginning - hurry! MUSIC: Up louder and then fading

to BG.

KATERI: God of Christians - I believe - please give me courage to speak to the Blackrobe - and accept me as a Christian.

MUSIC: Dance Music X-fade to

MUSIC: Organ up and fading to BG.

BLACKROBE: Did you call me?

KATERI: My heart called you, Father, - the God of the Christians told you I wanted to speak to you.

BLACKROBE: Why did you want to speak to me?

KATERI: I want to be a Christian. I prayed for something to happen that would make it possible for me to speak to you - and God heard me. I sprained my foot and couldn't go with the others into the fields to harvest the grain - and now you have come.

BLACKROBE: What do you know of Christianity?

KATERI: My mother was a Christian, though she lived in pagan country. She taught me my prayers. I have said them ever since. O, they are simple prayers such as a child could remember - for my mother has been dead these many years.

BLACKROBE: (IN AMAZEMENT) And you have kept your belief in God ever since you were a little girl - and continued to say the prayers that your good mother taught you?

KATERI: Yes, but O, I would like to know more about God and how to pray to Him. I talk to Him and ask His help and I think He listens to me - but I want to be more worthy of Him.

BLACKROBE: I will help you, daughter. But, when you talk to God and pray with the simple words of a child, you are very pleasing to God. If you want to become a Christian, you must learn more about our dear Lord. Come to the mission and listen to the word of God — and we will see — we will see (FADING)

MUSIC: Up and out

BLACKROBE: I have watched you, my daughter, and I think the time has come for you to be prepared for baptism.

KATERI: Thank you - O, thank you!

BLACKROBE: Well - now - we will take first things first. Who made the world?

KATERI: God.