

BLACKROBE: And how many Gods are there?

KATERI: Only one.

BLACKROBE: Yes — but there are three persons in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — you see this stem with the three leaves (FADING)

MUSIC: *Up and out*

BLACKROBE: Have you thought about the name I suggested for your baptism?

KATERI: Yes, father, I want to be called Katharine.

BLACKROBE: Do you wish to be baptised?

KATERI: I do.

BLACKROBE: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and pomps?

KATERI: I do renounce ... (FADING).

BLACKROBE: (FADING IN) I baptize thee, Katharine, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. . . . Say with me:

BLACKROBE and KATERI: I believe in God, the Father almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost . . . (FADING).

MUSIC: *Organ: Credo: Indian Choir: X-Fade to*

SOUND: *Beating of drums: Sounds of screaming children*

UNCLE: So — you — Tekakwitha — so this is the way you repay me for taking you into my lodge. You go running to the Blackrobe and deny the gods of your forefathers. (SPITS IN CONTEMPT) You have defied me in everything — when I found a young man who was willing to overlook your ugly face — what did you do? Do you accept him gratefully and so bring another brave into my lodge? O no! Not you! You cringed and ran away and hid in the forest — so that I lost face with the man. And now — now you put me to shame in my own hut by running to the Blackrobe!

KATERI: Dear Uncle — indeed — indeed I am thankful that you have looked after me all these years — and I know how unworthy I am — and how ugly! I will try harder than ever to follow your wishes in everything but this. I will work from dawn till dawn — but I am determined to remain a Christian — even if you kill me — as perhaps you have the right to do — still I will die with the name of Christ on my lips.



UNCLE: (LAUGHING IN DERISION) So — well we will see if you can keep it up. Brave words you say — but can you hold to them? It happens all the time, the priests take my people away and for a while they are excited and full of this new religion — but then they come back to their senses — it may be right for Frenchmen, this Christianity — but it is not for us — this religion of a weakling who was murdered by his own people and who did not fight to protect himself! Ah, no — you will not be any better than the rest of the silly people who went to the priests for a time. You will find out — it is not so good to stand alone against the whole tribe. We will see.

MUSIC: *Up and out*

UNCLE: What is this, Tekakwitha? You will not come to the fields to do your work?

KATERI: I cannot work on the Sabbath!

UNCLE: Ha! Now that you are a Christian — you are lazy — lazier than ever!

KATERI: I am sorry — but today is a day of rest — I cannot work. Tomorrow I will do double my share.

UNCLE: Perhaps it will rain tomorrow — it is today that the corn needs planting. Well — stay in the lodge alone if you like — but I tell you this, my girl, there will be no food for you all day. I do not feed those who will not work.

KATERI: Very well — that is fair enough.

UNCLE: (LAUGHING) Wait until your stomach is empty and then tell me how you like it. (CALLING) Come, gather up every scrap of food. We will not feed the Christian today.

MUSIC: *Up and out*

SOUND: *Children's voices shouting at play*

UNCLE: (SHOUTING) Children!

SOUND: *Fading to BG.*

UNCLE: Children — would you like a new game to play?

CHILDREN: Yes — yes — what?

UNCLE: When Tekakwitha goes by, I want you all to call out to her — not by her — name — but by the name of Christian. Let me hear you — call out:

CHILDREN: (LAUGHING AND SHOUTING) Christian! Christian!

UNCLE: Louder — much Louder!

CHILDREN: CHRISTIAN! CHRISTIAN! CHRISTIAN!

UNCLE: That's right — now remember — when you see Tekakwitha going by, I want you to call out to her like that — Don't talk to her at all — just call "Christian" at her.

SOUND: *Children's voices laughing and calling "Christian"*

MUSIC: *Up and out*