Chapter 7

GUILTY!

Monologue

You glorified ruler of all Russia,
Your Eminence Metropolitan of Moscow,
Most esteemed,
Excellent judges,

My name is Maximos and I am a monk in the Holy Monastery of Vatopedion Mount Athos. I come from a brilliant Byzantine order and I was born in Arta.

I found myself in Moscow, at the invitation of the ruler, to correct the old translation of the Psalter and to translate new Patristic works to help the Russian people blessed by God to walk a path of piety and justice to the extent of my insignificant powers. My wish was to return to my Monastery of Repentance as soon as possible.

I stand before you a second time. In 1525, I was put on trial and unjustly condemned unjustly to a life sentence for falsifying the texts I undertook and for criticizing the ordination of bishops without the consent of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Today, six years later, while I was hoping be rid of slander and harsh injustice, I am accused not only of these but also of questioning the right of the Monasteries to possess vast fortunes, as well as of my criticism of corruption and injustice commited together for political and ecclesiastical power.

As I did then, I present to you my deepest regret for any translational mistakes, assuring you that my sole purpose was to contribute to the spiritual regeneration of the people and the strengthening of the state, encompassing the unalloyed Orthodox faith and the ethos of the Holy Fathers.

I never once turned personally against the church or a political figure. I feel only gratitude to those who trusted me and favoured me with generous donations. For them and for all the people, I must defend the future of the rulers and the ordinary people. The future will bright if it is based on the constant fight against human passions, eroding human relationships and constantly relegating ordinary people to the level of equines.

My duty to the ruler has made me to show indirectly and with immense respect to his greatness, a path of righteousness, integrity, and practical faith so that the people may claim him to be a ruler by the image of Christ, worthy of obedience, not of fear but of good will, to be a permanent model of practice and spiritual perfection. Even now I beg him not to involve the Church in his plans. There is one category for the world and another of the

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ΕΝΟΧΟΣ!¶
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¶
Εκλαμπρότατε ηγεμόνα πασών των Ρωσιών,¶
Σεβασμιώτατε Μητροπολίτη Μόσχας,¶
Σεβασμιώτατοι,¶
Εξοχότατοι δικαστές,¶

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Ονομάζομαι Μάξιμος και είμαι μοναχός στην Ιερά Μονή Βατοπαιδίου του Αγίου Όρους. ...

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Church. Now that the Russian nation is spreading its wings, it needs a Church filled by those who have made it great: the patience, endurance, courage and the precision of doctrine. All this adorns today the Mother Church of Constantine, who despite the yoke, lost neither its Orthodoxy nor its holiness.

Finally, my greatest purpose was to defend the freedom of the Church from any lawless ties with the every power of this world. To defend its power to courageously point out the heresy and the unrighteous, its mission to invoke every sinner, ruler or bondman. I have defended the living, free, authentic Church, the salt of the world.
I did not insult, I did not despise, I did not hurt, I did not fall, I did not attack, I hated no one. That is what I will have in mind, when the Divine Judge asks me to give account for my soul and the people who entrusted me.

Glorified, Respected, Most Excellent Judges, I beg of you: Correct the injustice that I have suffered for six years now in prison, something which even the worst criminals do not suffer. Show mercy, Holy Eminence, and allow me to rejoin the Achranton of Mysteries, Show mercy in glory and allow the madman to finish his mundane service to his beloved Vatopedi.

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Τέλος, ο πιο μεγάλος μου σκοπός ήταν να υπερασπιστώ την ελευθερίατης Εκκλησίας από κάθε άνομο δεσμό με την κάθε λογής εξουσία του κόσμου τούτου. Να υπερασπιστώ τη δύναμή της να επισημαίνει με θάρρος την αίρεση και το άδικο, την αποστολή της να καλεί σε διαρκή μετάνοια τον κάθε αμαρτωλό, ηγεμόνα ή κολλήγο.Υπερασπίστηκα την ζωντανή, την ελεύθερη, την αυθεντικήΕκκλησία, το αλάτι του κόσμου. ¶

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