CHARLES

(Sensing his presence) It's all right, Father. You may come in.

PIPPIN

(With the voice of an old man) I'm sorry to disturb you, my son. I know you like to pray alone.

CHARLES

You know who I am, Father?

PIPPIN

Yes. Yes, of course, my son.

CHARLES

You want something father? Perhaps a favor or an advancement?

PIPPIN

No. I'm here just to be with you for one moment. Yes, to look in your eyes.

CHARLES

Oh, well. And what do you see?

PIPPIN

I see two eyes, a little cloudy with age, a sunset.
CHARLES

 Anything else?

 PIPPIN

 I see death of thousands, the slavery of more... terror and bloodshed.

 CHARLES

 You see all that in my eyes?

 PIPPIN

 Do you deny it?

 CHARLES

 Deny it? I'm proud of it. I brought order out of chaos. If slavery, bloodshed and terror are part of that order, so be it.

 PIPPIN

 (Losing the voice) But those are words form the past! Time has passed you by!

 (A pause, then the old man voice again) ...My son.

 CHARLES

 And your time has come... my son?

 PIPPIN

 (Taking down the hood on his robe) Yes, Father.
CHARLES

It's easy from where you stand to judge the things that I have done. Eagles, ospreys, even vultures had a better view. From the heights all things are very clear. But when I marched, the dust of the road was in my nose, and when I fought, the blood of the enemy was in my eyes. But, by God, I blew my breath across a continent and shaped an empire with it.

PIPPIN

Father, maybe you did the best you could, but things have to change!

CHARLES

Oh, and you’re the one to change them!?

PIPPIN

Yes! I am.

CHARLES

(Holding out a knife) Well, if you truly believe that, there is only one thing you can do.

PIPPIN

(Producing his own knife) Thank you, I brought my own.

CHARLES

Use it, or go and leave me to my prayers.
PIPPIN

What do you pray for, Father?

CHARLES

Strength. And may God give you the same.