

ST JOAN

George Bernard Shaw

JOAN:

Where would you all have been now if I had heeded that sort of truth? There is no help, no counsel, in any of you. Yes: I am alone on earth: I have always been alone. My father told my brothers to drown me if I would not stay to mind his sheep while France was bleeding to death: France might perish if only our lambs were safe. I thought France would have friends at the court of the king of France; and I find only wolves fighting for pieces of her poor torn body. I thought God would have friends everywhere, because He is the friend of everyone; and in my innocence I believed that you who now cast me out be like strong towers to keep harm from me. But I am wiser now; and nobody is any the worse for being wiser. Do not think that you can frighten me by telling me that I am alone. France is alone: and God is alone. And what is my loneliness before the loneliness of my country and my God. In see now that the loneliness of God is His strength: what would he be if he listened to your jealous little counsels? Well, my loneliness shall be my strength too; it is better to be alone with God; his friendship will not fail me, nor His council, nor His love. In his strength I will dare, and dare, and dare, until I die. I will go out now to the common people. And let the love in their eyes comfort me for the hate in yours. You will all be glad to see me burnt; but if I go through the fire I shall go through it to their hearts for ever and ever. And so, God be with me!