Please prepare / Character of King Losis

THE LAST FEW MOMENTS OF KING LOUIS XVI

By Julian Zhou (Clark Academy)

SERVANT: (ACTING AS NARRATOR) WE NOW TAKE YOU TO THE TEMPLE, THE FRENCH FORTRESS AND PRISON WHERE FORMER KING LOUIS THE XVI OF FRANCE SPENT HIS FINAL DAYS. THE SCENE IS MOMENTS BEFORE HIS EXECUTION. (NARRATOR CROSSES TO WHERE LOUIS STANDS, AND BECOMES LOUIS' SERVANT. SERVANT BEGINS TAKING NOTES AS LOUIS SPEAKS.

LOUIS: (Dictating his last statement to a servant,)People of France. I Your King, Louis XVI, wish to apologize no! That's not what I want to....

SERVANT: (WHILE WRITING) THE GUARD AT THE DOOR OF LOUIS' CELL ENTERS.

GUARD: Your Majesty, a Monsieur Garcon wishes to have a moment with you before you lose your head (stifles a laugh)

LOUIS: You think you're funny, don't you? (to himself) Garcon....the name sounds familiar (to guard) All right, let him in.

SERVANT: Monsieur Garcon enters.

GARCON: Your Majesty, do you remember me? You lent me some money when I was down on my luck, but now I am back on my feet, and I've come to return it. (Offers money to Louis)

LOUIS: Garcon! Now I remember you! You spent all your money drinking and playing cards, if I recall....well, I'm glad you're doing better but.....just what am I supposed to do with this money, especially since I'll soon be up in the sky, playing cards with St. Peter?

GARCON: Forgive me, Majesty, I didn't think.....

LOUIS: And besides that, if you read the papers, you are aware that thanks to inflation - for which I must admit I am responsible - the money you return to me is worth less than nothing!!!

GARCON: Wait, really? All this money? I thought.....

LOUIS: SILENCE! If you look out the window of my cell, you'll see people in the street, burning money for warmth, because that's about all it's good for at this point.

GARCON: Please forgive me, Majesty, I just wanted.....

LOUIS: Oh yeah, don't think I don't know what everybody is saying about me: Louis XVI destroyed the French economy!! LOUIS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHAOS IN OUR LIVES!!! Louis XVI made our money worthless. Never mind playing cards with Saint Peter: I should be playing chess with the devil. (LOUIS NOTICES THAT HIS SERVANT IS WRITING FURIOUSLY) DON'T WRITE THAT DOWN!!! That is not what I want as a final testament to the French people!!!

SERVANT: How do you spell 'CHAOS"?

LOUIS: I said stop writing, you fool. I'll tell you when to write! And what to write! (Back to GARCON) Now, as for you! What do you have to say for yourself?

GARCON: Your Majesty, I'm afraid I must insist...my days of reckless behavior are over, and now I must pay for the mistakes I made!

LOUIS: Hey! That's pretty good! Let those be my last words to the people! (To his servant) did you get that down, peasant?

SERVANT: I sure did, Louis. And I just wanted you to know - I never liked you.

(Re-enter guard.)

GUARD: Your Majesty, it's time for you to meet your fate. (Guard begins to tie Louis's hands behind his back and lead him away)

LOUIS: (to Garcon) Well, it looks like that's it for me. C'est La Vie. (to Garcon) I'll give this money to the guy who works the guillotine.

SERVANT: FOLLOWING THE EXECUTION OF LOUIS THE XVI, GARCON WENT ON TO BETTER THINGS - AND SO DID I. THE END!!!!!!!

THE END