

SCENE EIGHT: THE KING'S COURT

(Frollo goes to the Bastille. KING LOUIS XI appears.)

CONGREGATION

On the very next morning—

CONGREGANT (KING LOUIS XI)

King Louis the Eleventh, nicknamed the Prudent—

CONGREGANTS

Received a visitor—

Who arrived—

Unannounced.

FROLLO

Your Majesty.

KING LOUIS XI

My astrologer told me I'd have an unexpected guest.

FROLLO

Your Majesty. There is a Gypsy witch who has been endangering our citizens with her sorcery. She must be stopped. I need special powers to protect the people and the Church.

KING LOUIS XI

Frollo, you are a good man. But you know how I hate to be overly hasty...

FROLLO

I do, Your Majesty. But I would be careful, lest the people think you are weak. And the burghers around the city feel the need to get the upper hand.

KING LOUIS XI

Very well. Do what you feel you must. But be— well...

FROLLO, KING LOUIS XI

Prudent?

FROLLO

I assure you I will do only what's necessary.