

Scene where Martin executes Magdeburg soldiers, spares his brother

EXT. EDGE OF HAMERSLEBEN, WITH TENTS AND HORSES - DAY

Maurice's banners are unfurled in the wind. One soldier tosses Magdeburg banners in a fire. Ten captured Magdeburg soldiers are bound with their backs to the center. Halbrecht is among them. Maurice's soldiers are preparing ten nooses under several trees on the edge of the town. Others toss dozens of slain soldiers off a mule-drawn flatbed and into a pile. Townsfolk gather around.

HANS

(to Martin)

"We must! The Duke of Saxony insisted."

Martin turns away from the captured soldiers, displeased.

HANS

"Firmness here will end the rebellion much sooner than will mercy. We are under orders."

MARTIN

"I was born in Magdeburg. I was raised there."

HANS

"It was my hometown, too, but Maurice is the city's lawful magistrate, and he has pronounced his judgment against these rebels. You are not only justified in executing them, you are obligated. They slaughtered every one of the Imperial soldiers when they took this town."

HALBRECHT

"Because they murdered unarmed citizens and brutalized survivors!"

Hans motions to a soldier guarding Halbrecht.

HANS

"Thrash that mouth, soldier!"

(turning to Martin)

"They gave you this mission, Martin, to see if your commitment to the Emperor transcended your commitment to Magdeburg. If you are soft, they will not trust you. Schwendi hates you - he will move to have you

executed as a spy if you let these men go. And he will have a good point."

MARTIN

(reluctantly)

"All right. Let's get it over with."

Hans turns to the soldiers guarding the prisoners, and motions toward the nooses. They walk them under the trees and tighten the nooses around their necks. A Cavalryman #2 rides up, dragging a soldier behind him by a rope.

MAURICE'S CAVALRYMAN #2

"Got another one."

He dismounts, cuts the rope, and turns over Wilhelm, who is battered and bleeding.

HANS

(to the soldiers)

"Hang another stretch of rope in a tree."

(to the crowd)

"This is how the Emperor treats those who rebel against His majesty!"

Martin walks up to the injured Magdeburg soldier. He is shocked when he recognizes him.

MARTIN

"Wilhelm?"

Martin stands over his injured brother. Martin addresses the cavalryman disapprovingly,

MARTIN

"Why did you drag him behind your horse?"

MAURICE'S CAVALRYMAN #2

"He struggled and threw himself off my horse twice, so I finally just dragged him."

WILHELM

"Martin?"

HANS

"Is that your brother?"

WILHELM

"Brother, how could you fight for the enemies of Magdeburg? Have you become a Judas, like Maurice and Melanchthon?"

MARTIN

(defensively, finger aimed at Wilhelm)

"I fight for the lawful leader of Magdeburg! You fight for rebels and traitors."

WILHELM

(begins to cry)

"Oh brother, we are not rebels."

The soldier begins to drag Wilhelm toward his noose.

MARTIN

(stretches forth his hand)

"Wait."

HANS

(steps closer to Martin to whisper)

"Be strong, Martin."

MARTIN

"I am in charge of this mission!"

Hans, frustrated at Martin, motions at the soldiers who've put the Magdeburgers' necks in nooses. The soldiers prod several horses several feet. Ropes attached to the horses are pulled over branches, lifting the Magdeburgers off the ground. They begin to strangle. Wilhelm painfully rises to his knees, distressed as he witnesses the hangings.

WILHELM

"Martin! What are you doing?"

MARTIN

"Wielding Roman 13's sword of vengeance, to execute wrath upon evil-doers."

WILHELM

"The rulers with that sword are not a terror to the good, but to the evil."

HANS

(whispering to Martin)

"This is the most important one to hang. It will prove to all that you are to be feared, and that you are committed to the Emperor. What if it were my brother? What would you expect me to do? The blood of Imperial soldiers stains his sword."

Martin stomps over to Captain Halbrecht, who is jerking in a noose. He snatches the polearm from a nearby soldier, and cuts the rope. Halbrecht falls, gasping.

HANS

"What are you doing?"

Martin unsheathes his sword, and raises it above Halbrecht. Wilhelm gasps, and turns his gaze away as the sound of a sword swing is heard, the civilian onlookers gasp, and then the sound of an object rolling on the ground toward Wilhelm. Wilhelm refuses to look at it.

MARTIN

"Mount a horse! Take this head to the City Council! To our father! Tell him to shun this rebellion, lay down his sword and submit to his Emperor, or this will be HIS head on the ground!"

Martin begins to sob as he shouts angrily.

MARTIN

"The head of our brothers and sisters, and our dear mother! Quit this treason against Germany's Emperor!"