



The Desolating Abomination

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

For many years, the abomination of human cloning has eluded the grasp of those Godless scientists who seek it. But now one man has stumbled across the key to this scientific hubris: Dr. Mastella. That man's discovery threatens to unleash upon the world a tide of soulless abominations in man's – God's – shape. This must not be allowed to occur, and as no one else seems to be taking the necessary steps, you've taken it upon yourselves to do what must be done.

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A few years ago, card was visiting the Vatican, and due to a bureaucratic mix-up there weren't any limos available to ferry him around during his visit. Father Camerlengo Dante Pascuzzi kindly loaned his to title Ngozi for the duration of his visit.

This left Father Camerlengo Dante without transportation around the city, and so he took to using taxis to get around. One such taxi ride back from a meeting was in the cab of Allesandro Nocetti. During that ride, a news article came on reporting that a scientist in Bavaria claimed to have successfully cloned a human being. Allesandro let out a string of expletives about Godless scientists, followed by "Sorry, Father."

Father Camerlengo Dante, as it happens, agreed precisely with the sentiments expressed so... eloquently by Allesandro, and a lively conversation ensued on the subject of overreaching scientists and their efforts. Rather than end the conversation when he reached his destination, Father Camerlengo Dante suggested that they continue the conversation over coffee, which they did.

The report of a successful human cloning turned out to be false, but that conversation over coffee was just the first of many. These conversations became a fixture in the weekly schedule of both men.

Over time, Father Camerlengo Dante realized another man he had dealings with, Leroy Jenkins, shared their beliefs and invited him to join their discussions. Leroy was only infrequently in town, as he generally only was in Europe when President Robertson of the United States wanted to send a personal envoy to the Vatican, but when he was in Vatican City he was certain to be found at lunch with Father Camerlengo Dante and Allesandro.

To these men, it was abundantly clear that human cloning would be a terrible perversion of God's creation. God created man in his own image... for man to attempt the same is naught but the greatest of hubris – and to create a soulless animal in the guise of the image of God is perhaps the greatest affront to Him imaginable.

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Last week, Father Camerlengo Dante discovered that another Godless scientist believed he'd conquered the secrets of human cloning – and had secretly contacted the Pope, wanting to demonstrate it and get the Pope's blessing on his discovery. Worse

still, the Pope was not immediately opposed to it – despite all the arguments that Father Camerlengo Dante marshalled, the Pope was considering making a favorable statement on the subject.

It was Allesandro who suggested that you should take matters into your own hands – *someone* had to stop this. The reclusive scientist, Dr. Clemente Mastella, was apparently based nearby, according to the letter that Father Camerlengo Dante had read. At first, Father Camerlengo Dante resisted the idea, but the argument of “If we don’t, who will?” was one he couldn’t answer.

Someone had to end this scientist’s research – apparently the Pope’s personal physician reviewed the claims made in the letter and found they were likely to be true – and God had delivered the information necessary to do something into *your* hands. After some soul-searching, the two of you ended up resolving that you would do what was necessary – kill Dr. Mastella and destroy his lab.

Allesandro knew of a way to get his hands on some incendiary explosives, and three days ago the two of you headed out to Dr. Mastella’s lab in Allesandro’s cab. Leroy was driving, so that Allesandro could focus his attention on the explosives.

You secreted the cab in the vicinity, and broke into the lab. The plan was that you’d break in, Allesandro would set the incendiaries while Father Camerlengo Dante kept watch for anyone showing up. Then, you’d hide nearby and wait for the Doctor to arrive. Once he was inside, you’d set off the explosives. The, Allesandro and Father Camerlengo Dante would run to the car where Leroy would be keeping the car ready to go.

What happened instead is that the Doctor arrived while Allesandro was setting the charges. Father Camerlengo Dante saw him coming, and warned Allesandro that he was here.

When Dr. Mastella opened the door, Allesandro shot the Doctor dead.

After that, Allesandro quickly finished setting the charges, put the Doctor’s body near one of them. The two of you got out of there, and detonated the charges, destroying the lab.

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You hoped that was the end of it. The Doctor dead for his sins and his research destroyed, safe from the grasp of those who’d follow in his footsteps.

But yesterday, Leroy came to lunch with some disturbing news – at the scientist’s laboratory, he’d seen a cat jump out of a window at the sound of the shots. That morning on the way to lunch, he’d seen the same cat. The cat got away from him, slipping into the sewer system, but not before he noticed something that neither of you saw at the laboratory: the cat seems to be carrying an odd device on its collar. If the cat is carrying information from the Doctor’s lab, everything you did could have been useless.

You *must* find that cat and make sure that it’s not carrying any information that would allow people to replicate Dr. Mastella’s work.

Goals:

- Prevent the secrets of human cloning from being discovered. That abomination cannot be allowed to occur.

Local Members:

- Father Camerlengo Dante Pascuzzi (Ken Clary): The Papal Camerlengo, a very powerful man in the Catholic Church.
- Allesandro Nocetti (Clayton Sims): A local taxi driver.
- Leroy Jenkins (Eli Stickgold): Governor of Texas, and a frequent American delegate to Vatican City.