

INT DAY: THE OLIVE OIL FACTORY

DON CORLEONE leads MICHAEL through the corridors of the building.

DON CORLEONE

This old building has seen its day.
No way to do business...too small,
too old.

They enter the DON's glass-panelled office.

DON CORLEONE

Have you thought about a wife? A
family?

MICHAEL

(pained)

No.

DON CORLEONE

I understand, Michael. But you
must make a family, you know.

MICHAEL

I want children, I want a family.
But I don't know when.

DON CORLEONE

Accept what's happened, Michael.

MICHAEL

I could accept everything that's
happened; I could accept it, but
that I never had a choice. From
the time I was born, you had laid
this all out for me.

DON CORLEONE

No, I wanted other things for you.

MICHAEL

You wanted me to be your son.

DON CORLEONE

Yes, but sons who would be

professors, scientists,
musicians...and grandchildren who
could be, who knows, a Governor, a
President even, nothing's impossible
here in America.

MICHAEL

Then why have I become a man like
you?

DON CORLEONE

You are like me, we refuse to be
fools, to be puppets dancing on a
string pulled by other men. I
hoped the time for guns and killing
and massacres was over. That was
my misfortune. That was your
misfortune. I was hunted on the
streets of Corleone when I was
twelve years old because of who my
father was. I had no choice.

MICHAEL

A man has to choose what he will be.
I believe that.

DON CORLEONE

What else do you believe in?

MICHAEL doesn't answer.

DON CORLEONE

Believe in a family. Can you
believe in your country? Those
Pezzonovante of the State who
decide what we shall do with our
lives? Who declare wars they wish
us to fight in to protect what they
own. Do you put your fate in the
hands of men whose only talent is
that they tricked a bloc of people
to vote for them? Michael, in five
years the Corleone family can be
completely legitimate. Very
difficult things have to happen to
make that possible. I can't do
them anymore, but you can, if you

choose to.

MICHAEL listens.

DON CORLEONE

Believe in a family; believe in a Code of Honor, older and higher, believe in Roots that go back thousands of years into your Race. Make a family, Michael, and protect it. These are our affairs, sono cosa nostra, Governments only protect men who have their own individual power. Be one of those men...you have the choice.