

THE WIZARD OF VENICE

by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Two figures approach slowly from the distance during the opening titles.

In the front is the WIZARD, who's wearing a black cloak with hood, that's half-hiding his face.

Behind him, loaded with baggage and trying to catch up with him, the ASSISTANT, who's wearing old, worn out clothes and he's messed up.

In a while, as he catches up with him, the assistant turns to the wizard, somewhat anxious.

ASSISTANT

I don't like this. I don't like  
this a bit.

The wizard doesn't answer, continuing to look forward.

ASSISTANT

Are you sure this is the right  
way?

The wizard continues to be silent, looking forward.

ASSISTANT

Boss, I have a question for you,  
if you don't mind...

The wizard seems not to give him attention.

ASSISTANT

Why do we always have to go to  
small villages? We passed so many  
towns. Of course you'll tell me,  
we just escaped lynching the last  
time. Somewhere I justify you...  
But these peasants...  
(scratching his unwashed  
head)  
Intolerable! Too stingy, damn  
them.

The wizard continues not to give him attention.

ASSISTANT

Honestly, boss, how long time are  
we together on the road?

He looks at the sky, thinks, counts something with his  
fingers, mumbling.

ASSISTANT  
Damn, is it eight years already?!

The wizard turns and looks at his assistant.

ASSISTANT  
(apologizing)  
Focus, focus, boss. But when  
we'll see any money? Patience,  
you'll tell me, I know. I have no  
problem with patience!  
(scratching his belly)  
But "it's" protesting..

The wizard nods to his assistant.

The assistant tries to straighten his hair a bit.

The wizard looks forward in silence.

INT. BARN - DAY

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
Listen, people! Listen! The  
terrifying and famous wizard of  
Venice, for one and only  
performance!

The wizard's assistant does the village crier as peasants  
have already gathered in the center of the square where the  
wizard is standing.

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
Who dares to feel the unknown?  
Who thinks that can resist to the  
insuperable power of the wizard?

The wizard stands silent, always wearing his cloak, while  
the peasants point him and gossip secretly.

The assistant approaches next to the wizard.

ASSISTANT  
Keep off the children, please!  
Noone knows what might happen..  
You sir!  
(pointing someone)  
Yes you! Are you ready to  
confront the wizard of Venice?

A PEASANT timidly approaches the wizard.

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
Attention, please!

The peasant is surprised and freezes.

The wizard approaches close to him.

ASSISTANT

You think you can resist to his  
power?

The wizard looks intensely the peasant in the eyes, who  
shakes from fear.

ASSISTANT

Don't even try! It's useless!

Suddenly, the peasant collapses. The crowd reacts with awe.

The wizard's assistant helps the peasant to get up.

ASSISTANT

(shouting)

This is the power of the wizard!  
Don't be afraid though! He can  
control it exceptionally!

The peasant returns to the crowd, disconcerted.

ASSISTANT

(shouting)

Gentlemen! Now you'll witness the  
most difficult magic ever taken  
place! I need a volunteer! Noone?

The assistant approaches the PRIEST.

ASSISTANT

Maybe the father would like to  
try...?

The priest nods that he doesn't want to.

ASSISTANT

A man of God, with strong faith,  
like you, what has to fear?

PRIEST

I don't believe in magic!

ASSISTANT

A reason for you then, to prove  
him wrong and a reason for him,  
to show his power!

The priest approaches the wizard, suspiciously.

ASSISTANT

(to the priest)

Father, your cross!

The priest looks at him strangely.

ASSISTANT  
(to the priest)  
Hand your cross to the wizard and  
he will vanish it!

The crowd reacts with awe.

The priest removes the cross from his neck and hands it to the wizard.

The assistant brings a small square box and places it on a small table.

The wizard opens it from the upper side and places the cross inside.

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
And now... Attention, please!

The priest watches, suspicious.

The wizard closes the box and places his hands on his head. He closes his eyes and everyone watches astonished. He opens his eyes and removes his hands from his head.

ASSISTANT  
(to the priest)  
Now open the box!

The priest opens the box and sees, astonished, that it's empty.

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
It vanished!

The crowd applauds with enthusiasm.

The priest almost perplexed, looks at the wizard.

PRIEST  
I want my cross back!

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
Where is the cross, I wonder?  
Whoever knows something, let him  
speak!

The wizard approaches his assistant and pulls out the cross from his pocket.

ASSISTANT  
(shouting)  
I confess! I had it!  
(MORE)

ASSISTANT (cont'd)  
His magical abilities transported  
it to my pocket!

PRIEST  
Hand it back!

He grabs the cross and puts it in his frock's pocket.

PRIEST  
(shouting)  
You should be ashamed!

Everybody's silent.

PRIEST  
You come here and fool the people  
with cheap tricks... You take  
advantage of their ignorance and  
innocence! Shame on you! Take a  
look at a wizard...

He approaches the wizard and removes violently his hood.

PRIEST  
(shouting)  
Look!

The wizard stands still and silent.

PRIEST  
(to the wizard)  
You think you are a wizard? You  
are a clown! There are many like  
you in Venice, eh?

ASSISTANT  
Please...

PRIEST  
(shouting)  
Silence! Look at them! Two  
wretched beggars is what they  
are! Two thieves! They think they  
can fool you. No, sinners, you  
can't! No!

The peasants, disturbed, infuriate and approach the wizard  
and his assistant, ready to lynch them.

The wizard nods to his assistant and he gathers whatever he  
can from their tools and gets out of the stable.

The wizard turns and looks at a KID from the peasants,  
that's left on the side, who's gimp. He nods him to come  
closer.

The kid approaches slowly with his cane and the wizard touches his forehead with his hands and after a while removes them.

The cane falls from the kid's hands and he stands on his feet. He looks at the wizard, then the priest and starts running towards the exit.

Before he exits, stops for a moment and glances the wizard. He gets out, running.

The wizard perplexed.

PRIEST  
(shouting)  
Don't step your foot again here!  
You quack wizard!

The wizard approaches the priest, pulls out the priest's cross from his hood and puts it on the priest's neck.

Everybody's silent.

The wizard puts on his hood and gets out of the stable.

Everybody's silent, noone reacts.

The priest, perplexed and defeated, doesn't know what to do.

All the peasants look strangely at the priest.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The wizard and his assistant go away from the village.

The assistant, loaded with the baggage, tries to catch up with the wizard.

As he catches up with him, turns and looks at the wizard, who looks forward, silent, like nothing has happened.

The assistant turns his head forward too and they slowly disappear to the distance during the end credits.

FADE OUT.