**INT DAY: DON'S OFFICE (SUMMER 1945)**

 The PARAMOUNT Logo is presented austerely over a black

 background. There is a moment's hesitation, and then the

 simple words in white lettering:

 **THE GODFATHER**

 While this remains, we hear: "I believe in America."

 Suddenly we are watching in CLOSE VIEW, AMERIGO BONASERA, a

 man of sixty, dressed in a black suit, on the verge of great

 emotion.

 **BONASERA**

 America has made my fortune.

 As he speaks, THE VIEW imperceptibly begins to loosen.

 **BONASERA**

 I raised my daughter in the American

 fashion; I gave her freedom, but

 taught her never to dishonor her

 family. She found a boy friend,

 not an Italian. She went to the

 movies with him, stayed out late.

 Two months ago he took her for a

 drive, with another boy friend.

 They made her drink whiskey and

 then they tried to take advantage

 of her. She resisted; she kept her

 honor. So they beat her like an

 animal. When I went to the hospital

 her nose was broken, her jaw was

 shattered and held together by

 wire, and she could not even weep

 because of the pain.

 He can barely speak; he is weeping now.

 **BONASERA**

 I went to the Police like a good

 American. These two boys were

 arrested and brought to trial. The

 judge sentenced them to three years

 in prison, and suspended the

 sentence. Suspended sentence!

 They went free that very day. I

 stood in the courtroom like a fool,

 and those bastards, they smiled at

 me. Then I said to my wife, for

 Justice, we must go to The Godfather.

 By now, THE VIEW is full, and we see Don Corleone's office

 in his home.

 The blinds are closed, and so the room is dark, and with

 patterned shadows. We are watching BONASERA over the

 shoulder of DON CORLEONE. TOM HAGEN sits near a small

 table, examining some paperwork, and SONNY CORLEONE stands

 impatiently by the window nearest his father, sipping from a

 glass of wine. We can HEAR music, and the laughter and

 voices of many people outside.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 Bonasera, we know each other for

 years, but this is the first time

 you come to me for help. I don't

 remember the last time you invited

 me to your house for coffee...even

 though our wives are friends.

 **BONASERA**

 What do you want of me? I'll give

 you anything you want, but do what

 I ask!

 **DON CORLEONE**

 And what is that Bonasera?

 BONASERA whispers into the DON's ear.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 No. You ask for too much.

 **BONASERA**

 I ask for Justice.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 The Court gave you justice.

 **BONASERA**

 An eye for an eye!

 **DON CORLEONE**

 But your daughter is still alive.

 **BONASERA**

 Then make them suffer as she

 suffers. How much shall I pay you.

 Both HAGEN and SONNY react.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 You never think to protect yourself

 with real friends. You think it's

 enough to be an American. All

 right, the Police protects you,

 there are Courts of Law, so you

 don't need a friend like me.

 But now you come to me and say Don

 Corleone, you must give me justice.

 And you don't ask in respect or

 friendship. And you don't think to

 call me Godfather; instead you come

 to my house on the day my daughter

 is to be married and you ask me to

 do murder...for money.

 **BONASERA**

 America has been good to me...

 **DON CORLEONE**

 Then take the justice from the

 judge, the bitter with the sweet,

 Bonasera. But if you come to me

 with your friendship, your loyalty,

 then your enemies become my enemies,

 and then, believe me, they would

 fear you...

 Slowly, Bonasera bows his head and murmurs.

 **BONASERA**

 Be my friend.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 Good. From me you'll get Justice.

 **BONASERA**

 Godfather.

 **DON CORLEONE**

 Some day, and that day may never

 come, I would like to call upon you

 to do me a service in return.