



0. EDGARDO REJECTS HIS FAMILY - Story Preface

1. UNSETTLING QUESTIONS

2. BAD LAWS

3. ...ALLOW BAD ACTIONS

4. A LEGAL KIDNAPPING

5. LAWS in the PAPAL STATES

6. PARENTAL ANGUISH and a KIDNAPPING

7. INTERCESSION FAILS

8. POPE PIUS IX GETS INVOLVED

9. EDGARDO MORTARA CONVERTS

10. THE PAPAL STATES FALL

11. EDGARDO REFUSES to ESCAPE

12. EDGARDO REJECTS HIS FAMILY

13. HOW CAN A SINGLE ACTION CHANGE OUR DESTINY?

14. UNSETTLING QUESTIONS, HOPEFUL ANSWERS

15. MORE BACKGROUND MATERIAL

This image depicts Edgardo Mortara as a priest of the Catholic Church. When he was old-enough to make his own decisions, he chose the life of a priest over life with his family. The question remains: Was this really his free-will choice or was it strictly the result of his childhood kidnapping?

Edgardo's parents, who were living in Florence when Rome was liberated, tried to see their son. They wanted to persuade him to come home. He wanted to leave the country.

Here, (from *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara* by David L. Kertzer) is Edgardo's description of a near-encounter with his father:

On October 22, 1870, at ten at night, accompanied by one of the friars, both of us dressed in street clothes, we made our way through the convent garden in order to elude the surveillance of the guards who were stationed there. We went to the central train station, where, my mentor told me, he spotted my father. Deeply frightened, I begged in my heart that I be spared the encounter, and in fact my prayer was answered and, without any incident, I got on the train for Bologna. (Page 241.)

His plan was not to return to his hometown, however. Bologna was just a stopping point. Edgardo's plan was to take the train to an Austrian convent.

His plan was never to return to his family.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EDGARDO-REJECTS-HIS-FAMILY-Kidnapping-of-Edgardo-Mortara>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EDGARDO-REJECTS-HIS-FAMILY-Kidnapping-of-Edgardo-Mortara>