I'M SORRY



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10. I'M SORRY



In this painting, by Klavdiy Lebedev (1852-1916), an aging Ivan the Terrible is trying to make amends for all the wrongs he has done in his life. He is asking the Father Superior, of Psystovo-Pechorsky Monastery, to permit him to take tonsure (shave the hair from his scalp in monkish fashion) at the monastery. Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art. PD

<u>Near the end</u> of his life, wanting to find forgiveness, Ivan - <u>it is said</u> - dramatically changed his attitude and behavior. He was obsessed with <u>sorrow and guilt</u> for all he had done, including killing his son.

<u>Praying</u> for those he had executed, he forgave them of whatever supposed crime they had committed. He also paid for prayers to be said for the souls of the murdered.

The Tsar was re-christened as a monk, taking the name of "Jonah," perhaps out of respect for the man (St. Jonah) who founded the <u>Pskov-Caves Monastery</u> (Russia's oldest-in-existence) which Ivan had <u>visited</u>.

Death for the fearsome ruler came at age 54. Setting up a chess board on his bed, for a match (it is said) with his friend <u>Boris Godunov</u>, he died quietly and naturally inside the <u>Kremlin's walls</u>. He was interred (reportedly wearing the clothes of a monk instead of an emperor) in the <u>Archangel Cathedral</u> where other Russian royals, who lived before and after him, have also been <u>laid to rest</u>.

The aftermath of his death was catastrophic for the country. Many of his gains were lost during the fourteenyear rule (1584-98) of his son Fyodor I (who was married to Boris Godunov's sister).

Fyodor had neither the skills nor the grooming of his older brother. During his rule (where power was essentially held by Godunov), <u>serfdom</u> was introduced. When Fyodor died, ending the Rurik dynasty, <u>Boris Godunov</u> (the link depicts the <u>church on his estate</u> near Moscow) was <u>elected Tsar</u>.

Four hundred years later, the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin <u>commissioned</u> the Russian film maker Sergei Eisenstein to <u>make a movie</u> about his hero, <u>Ivan Grozny</u>. (Follow the link to view a clip from that <u>famous film</u>.)

After Stalin died, Ivan's <u>remains were exhumed</u>. Forensic studies revealed that arthritis had crippled him, and his bones showed syphilitic signs.

Such studies, of course, can not tell us whether Ivan the Terrible's problems were emotional, physical - or both.

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

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/I-M-SORRY-Ivan-the-Terrible

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/I-M-SORRY-Ivan-the-Terrible

Media Stream



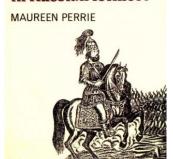
Ivan IV - An Aging Tsar

Image online, Russian State Archives.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-IV-An-Aging-Tsar

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN ORAL AND LITERATE CULTURE

The image of Ivan the Terrible in Russian folklore



The Image of Ivan the Terrible in Russian Folklore - M. Perrie

Image online, courtesy Google Books.

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Ivan the Terrible - Seeks Forgiveness for His Crimes

Painting by Klavdiy Vasilievich Lebedev (1852-1916) - image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at:

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Ivan the Terrible - Personal Bible

Photo online, courtesy Moscow-Kremlin museums.



Ivan the Terrible - Goes to a Monastery

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<u>Pskov-Caves Monastery - Journey of Ivan the Terrible</u>

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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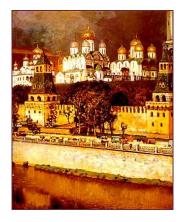
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Boris Godunov - Friend of Ivan IV

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Kremlin - Sanctuary of Ivan the Terrible

Image of the Kremlin, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Archangel Cathedral - Moscow

Image of Archangel Cathedral, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Boris Godunov - Visiting the Study of His Son

Image online, Web Gallery of Art.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-Visiting-the-Study-of-His-Son



Interior Plated Door of the Archangel Cathedral Image online, courtesy Russian-language Wikipedia.

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Russian Leaders Laid to Rest at Archangel Cathedral

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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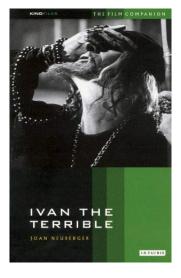
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Leaders-Laid-to-Rest-at-Archangel-Cathedral



Boris Godunov's Estate Church

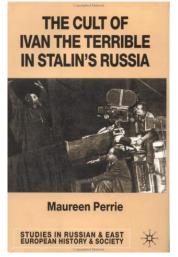
Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Ivan the Terrible - Joan Neuberger

Image of book cover, online courtesy Google Books.



The Cult of Ivan the Terrible in Stalin's Russia - M. Perrie

Book-cover image online, courtesy Google Books.

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Poster - Ivan The Terrible, Part I

Image of poster, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Poster-Ivan-The-Terrible-Part-I-



Ivan the Terrible - Massacres and Intercession

From *Ivan the Terrible* - part of the series *The Most Evil Men in History*. Online, courtesy the <u>Discovery Channel</u> at YouTube.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ivan-the-Terrible-Massacres-and-Intercession



Boris Godunov Coronation - Tsar of All the Russians

Video clip online, courtesy RADAMES1983's Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boris-Godunov-Coronation-Tsar-of-All-the-Russians



Ivan the Terrible - Closing Scene, Part 1

Scene from Sergei Eisenstein's film, Ivan Grozny (Ivan the Terrible), Part 1.

Writer, producer, director - Sergei Eisenstein

Starring Nikolai Cherkasov as Ivan IV

Music - Sergei Prokofiev

Release Dates, Part 1:

Soviet Union - December 30, 1944

USA - March 8, 1947

Length - 99 minutes, Part 1

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lvan-the-Terrible-Closing-Scene-Part-1