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- Listen to what I have just thought of! It's my birthday in six days. On that day many guests from Galilee and Pereia will gather here, guests from Jerusalem will also come ... When the feast is on its peak, I will ask Salome to dance in front of everyone in my honour. We know that Salome dances beautifully. When she finishes her dance, I will tell her in a "half-drunken" voice, so that everybody can hear: "Ask whatever you want from me and I will give it to you, even if you asked for a half of my kingdom." After that Herodias will approach you, Salome, and tell you silently, but still loud enough for someone to hear: "Ask for the head of John the Baptist on a golden plate." Then you will say in front of all: "I ask you for the head of John the Baptist on a golden plate." Then I will start to fidget and hesitate. I will be sorry to have the Baptist killed, the man who is admired by my subjects, but ...as I am a ruler who keeps his word, I have no other choice but to send the guards to bring me the Baptist's head. When the guards return with the Baptist's head on the plate, Herodias will take golden needles and, in front of all of them, pierce John's filthy tongue that has slandered me so many times. Here, this is my plan, let people think that because of a woman's whim John lost his head, and not because I felt he was my opponent.

I shuddered at the inhuman plot born in Antipas' head. Luckily, his mother disapproved.

- I don't like this. As I understand, you want everybody to think that I am to blame for the Baptist's death, Salome and I. You want to direct the hatred and the fury of the folk upon us.

- What's wrong with that? May they hate you as much as they please, it can cause you no harm. If they were to, however, hate me who am holding power in my hands, then this hatred could give birth to a rebellion, which could be harmful to all of us. Do understand: I have to get rid of that prophet and avoid unrest as well. You have to admit that I have thought of a cunning solution. And this is the right moment, a new prophet has appeared who proclaimed himself to be Jesus Christ, the Jews are busy with him now. They will get over the Baptist much more easily at this moment than they would have a few months ago.

- You have made up all this very nicely to save your skin and to direct the hatred of the people at me † said mother.

- Everybody has hated you ever since I brought you to this town.

- I don't like your plan † mother was persistent.

- Whether you like it or not, you will have to do as I say. Because of me, and because of you.

- In that case, I will listen to the voice of the great prophet and return you to my dear brother. As far as I know, he can hardly wait for you to fall in his hands.

- And why do you need that nonsense of bringing the head on a golden plate? † Herodias asked.

- You know what the people are like, they like great gestures, big shows. You will see that they will talk about it more because of the golden plate than about the reason why I imprisoned John.

- I don't like it at all † mother kept her doubting opinion about Antipas's plan.

- Neither do I, but I couldn't think of anything more clever than this, and that prophet has become a nightmare I want to get rid of as soon as possible † Antipas replied to her.

Then Antipas also revealed the plan for the celebration of the day in the year when the construction of Tiberias started.

I was flooded by despair owing to the notion that Antipas would send John the Baptist to death, and that he will do so with my help.

