



SESSION 21: TENTH CENTURY & FINAL SEPARATION – READING

“We do not deny to the Roman church the primacy among the five sister Patriarchates...But she has separated herself from us by her own deeds, when through pride she assumed a monarchy which does not belong to her office...How shall we accept decrees from her that have been issued without consulting us and even without our knowledge? If the Roman Pontiff, seated on the lofty throne of his glory, wishes to thunder at us...and if he wishes to judge us and even to rule us and our Churches, not by taking counsel with us but at his own arbitrary pleasure, what kind of brotherhood, or even what kind of parenthood can this be? We should be the slaves, not the sons, of such a Church, and the Roman See would not be the pious mother of sons but a hard and imperious mistress of slaves.”

- Bishop Nicetas of Nicomedia, ~1050