[Notes] Stay true to Love — The Passion of Joan of Arc

A simple story on a trial of faith, against men's cruelty, comtempt, sanctimony, and cunning. The burning takes a prolonged screen time, reifying the tragedy to an unspeakable blackness. Joan became a shadow in the smoke, an existence that defies language and sympathy. (To the viewer's solace, she passed out before the fire could inflict further torment.)

Raw footage. The torture scene was shot symbolically, but everything else was dealt without distancing — from the doctor's treatment, cutting a vein at the inner elbow and taking the oozing blood into a crucible, to the spit, to peripheral events such as the breastfeeding. And, of course, the extreme, close-up faces.

Loving God is a bodily experience. Joan's craving for the God's body has almost subdued her will to be true and faithful. Before the final execution, Joan receives a sacrament as she wills, given to her by the upright young priest. She extends her tongue to hold the round piece of communion wafer and drew it inward into her mouth, gently yet ecstatically.

The scene reminded me of a friend's speech in a seminar on the Chinese philosophy of technology. She offered two entrances into the subject, and . Citing the etymoglogy of the characters, she suggested how the part, , la langue, serves as a sinuous apparatus into the technological world. She went on with the character , this one meaning how we use the faculty of to mediate what's alien to our body, and, half-jokingly, she added that was also what we do to "entrer le corps de notre amoureux." A few chuckles from the group.

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Note: I watched a freely available, restored 80-minute English version by the Open Archive on the stream service Tubi, and therefore missing the french intertitles. Here, I could only discuss the film in an inexact, watered-down English. I hope to watch again in the CC version.