

Ep 7.2 - AFTERSHOCKS
Episode Seven.two
of
TALES OF SAGE AND SAVANT

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ACT 1

FADE IN: OPENING MUSIC PHRASE

NARRATOR

Greetings and welcome to the audio-aetheric transmission The Tales of Sage and Savant, a Twinstar production. Brought to you on the first of each month from the Twinstar Studios in sunny Southern California, our tale stars Chip Michael as Professor Erasmus Savant, Eddie Louise as Doctor Petronella Sage, Emily Riley Piat as Mx. Abigail Entwhistle, and myself Justin Bremer as your humble narrator. It is our great pleasure to now bring you the second installment in our special double episode for the holiday season. This special program is sponsored by Alan Jeffries, Fine Clothier, and features the music of Unwoman. And now, without further ado, we bring you The Tales of Sage & Savant!

FULL THEME MUSIC

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

When last we saw our intrepid pair, they were inhabiting the bodies of a mother and infant in renaissance Naples, a metropolis devastated by earthquake. It has been nearly three weeks since we last checked in and a terrible moral conundrum has developed. Dr. Sage is beginning to experience fond feelings for her titular husband in this time and place, creating an ethical dilemma - she knows she will be leaving, but should she try and prepare the man for the inevitable heartbreak? And what about the Professor? His departure might mean infantide - how is a scientist to square her values and act ethically in such a quandry?

Sound: Baby cooing

MARSILIO

Have you noticed how content little
Luka has become since we moved into
the shed?

DR SAGE

{Distracted} Hmm? Has he?

MARSILIO

Why yes, my love. He was such a
fussy baby before the earthquake,
do you not remember? Now his
disposition is much more...

DR SAGE

Jocular?

MARSILIO

Jocular?

DR SAGE

Relaxed, good-humored, steady.

MARSILIO

Ah yes, exactly. He seems happy in
the shed.

DR SAGE

Most likely it is only because he
is being held all day everyday and
he can have the breast whenever he
wishes it.

Sound: Enthusiastic baby bell

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

He is a little tyrant, if you ask
me!

MARSILIO

{laughing} My little tyrant. He
knows a good thing when he has it.

EXTRAS

{Calling from outside} Marsilio!
Marsilio! Come to the church - we
must prepare the presepi.

MARSILIO

I must go. Father Abramo is determined that we pass the vigil to Christmas in full candle-blazing glory with presepi in place. The city needs the hope of the season more than ever.

DR SAGE

Go, love. Luka and I will most likely take a small stroll. I worry he is not getting enough fresh air.

MARSILIO

I am sorry my love that I have not been able to find a nurse for Luka. You should not have to concern yourself with such trivialities.

DR SAGE

I do not mind. I quite like walking and discovering the world with our little professor.

MARSILIO

Take my mother along won't you? I think she is spending too much time in this shed breathing the fumes of the dye. It is not good for her health.

DR SAGE

{laughing} Your mother will outlive us all Marsilio, don't you worry! Run along now, or Father Abramo will think that your wicked wife has detained you.

Sound: door opening and closing

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

{calling out} Mother DeRosa? I am going to take Luka for a walk in the sunshine. Would you care to join us? It is a fine day, and the Christ child is coming. We should step out and enjoy our blessings.

SARA

{from other room} You go on without me. It is not safe on the streets for an old woman such as myself.

DR SAGE

Nonsense! The last big aftershock was days ago. We are done with the earthquakes. We must get on with our lives.

SARA

I will not walk out on a street that might open a hole and swallow me down at any moment. I will not be sucked into hell simply for the vanity of fresh air.

DR SAGE

Mother DeRosa, there is literally zero probability of you being sucked into hell by another earthquake. You are going to have to leave this shed and rejoin society in Naples sooner or later.

SARA

Naples is dead.

DR SAGE

Nonsense! The clearing of fallen masonry is progressing well. We should begin rebuilding soon.

SARA

What is there to rebuild?

DR SAGE

Oh Mother DeRosa, do not be so cynical! We rebuild, because that is what humans do.

SARA

When the hand of God himself is against you, you do not defy him by rebuilding that which he has seen fit to destroy.

DR SAGE

The earthquake was not a holy judgement, Mama. It was a product of nature. Scientists are beginning to suspect that there is a kind of pressure that builds under the surface of the earth, that must find an outlet.

Sound: Baby rattle being shook furiously

SARA

What are these scientists you speak of? They are heretics! Nothing on earth happens but by the hand of God.

NARRATOR

Erasmus attempts to stop the doctor from responding.

Sound: Baby cries

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

This is still an era of church control and science {though they do not yet have the term scientist, and would refer to such people as Natural Philosophers} is heretical and dangerous.

DR SAGE

{soothing} There now, Luka. What has happened? Are you wet? Do you need fed?

SARA

Give the child to me. It is not that difficult. Do you see how he is squirming? It means he needs to change position. You plan to take him out into the sunshine but you hold him so that he cannot enjoy it. It is shameful that in three months you have not learned how to understand your baby.

DR SAGE

You have no idea how much I wish I could talk with him!

SARA

{to the sky} In the name of the Almighty I will never understand why my son chose such a empty headed child for a bride. Your son understands you perfectly, but he will not begin to speak for more than a year yet. You must learn to understand him! Listen to his sounds, pay attention to his body.

NARRATOR

She has no idea how correct she is, but I do not wish to listen to the nagging of a mother-in-law, and there is a development back at the laboratory, so we shall leave Naples for a moment dear listeners. As you will remember, the bodies of our explorers lie on specially designed tables surrounded by custom medical apparatus and for all intents and purposes appear in a state of complete insensibility. The doctor had assumed that they would be safe and undisturbed for the duration of their travels. She was correct on the former.

Sound: Key in door and door opening.

ABIGAIL

Doctor Sage? Hello?

NARRATOR

Abigail Entwhistle is evidently a truly contentious person, passing by the medical college on her way to the train, she noticed an electric light still shining in the windows of Doctor Sage's new laboratory and has come to investigate.

ABIGAIL

Doctor Sage? Are you here? Mx. Cunningham must be informed when you are working. Dr. Sage? Hmm.

NARRATOR

Finding the laboratory empty, Abigail crosses to the sleeping closet and knocks on the door that conceals our travelling pair.

Sound: Crisp rapping on the door.

ABIGAIL

Dr. Sage? Are you in here? Hello? You have left a light on.

NARRATOR

We must breathe a sigh of relief at this moment dear listeners, that Mx.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Entwhistle was raised with impeccable manners. Hearing no reply, Abigail turns back from opening the door that would expose the doctor's secrets. She crosses to the desk but as she reaches for the lamp switch her eye falls on a hastily scribbled note...

ABIGAIL

CL A above middle C? 2500 Amperes? Approximately 1550? Extend beyond two weeks. What are you up to Dr. Sage? The only thing on this note that relates to galvanism is amperage.

NARRATOR

Oh, oh.

ABIGAIL

{musing} Should I show this note to Mx. Cunningham? I am not sure it relates to her experiments, but it is here in the lab, and it does mention a very large draw of electrics. CL A above middle C? I don't know what the CL stands for, but the rest is musical she couldn't possibly be collaborating with the music department or allowing them to hold rehearsals here in the laboratory? That would be strictly against usage policy. Approximatly 1550? It can't refer to the musical terms, key signatures were not yet developed in 1550. How do all these things relate? There must be a pattern or a logic I am missing...

NARRATOR

If Mx Entwhistle chooses to turn this note into Mr. Cunningham, it could bring an inspection which would prove disasterous at this juncture...

Sound: Knock on the door

JEFFREY

Hello?

Sound: Door opens

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Oh, Miss Entwistle...

ABIGAIL
Mx.

JEFFREY
Beg your pardon?

ABIGAIL
Mx. Mx. Entwistle is my preferred
honorific, if you please.

JEFFREY
What is that, some type of
suffragette nonsense?

ABIGAIL
Firstly - the the cause of the
suffragettes is not nonsense, it is
equality. Secondly... Jeffrey... I
refuse to take abuse from a
manservant. Whatever do you want?

JEFFREY
{Sullenly} I noticed the light is
all.

ABIGAIL
Yes, that is why I am here. I
noticed the doctor had left a light
on, so I entered to turn it off.

Sound: Light clicks off

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Now if that was all, Jeffrey?

Sound: footsteps

JEFFREY
Fine, yeah. That was all.

Sound: door closing.

NARRATOR
Whew! That was close. Good thing
Jeffrey and his timely mysogyny
stopped in to derail the train of
Mx. Entwistle's thought... Oh
dear, it seems she has taken the
note with her. Will she be
reporting her concerns to Mr.
Cunningham after all?
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Are our heroes about to be
discovered in flagrante delecto?
We'll find out after this brief
musical interlude.

MUSICAL GUEST

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Now dear friends we invite you to
listen to the delightfully melodic
musical stylings of the
unparalleled UNWOMAN.

Musical Guest Track

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now back to our story...

ACT 2

INTRO MUSIC

NARRATOR

I am sorry to say we shall have to wait to find out what happens at the college, because things back in Naples are about to take an interesting turn. Disgusted with her daughter-in-law's willingness to speak heresies and trapped by her own fears of another earthquake, Sara DeRosa has refused to accompany the doctor on a walk. Marsilio has returned to a cottage containing nothing but a mother fuming with indignation.

SARA

{Raised voice} I am certain Marsilio, the Florentine woman is athwart the church! She told me with her own mouth that the earthquakes could be explained by, by some word she uses, sigh-ents or some such nonsense. She claims the earthquakes are not the hand of our God at work.

MARSILIO

Mama, mama, I am sure you are wrong. Gianetta has a great love and respect for the church. You must have heard her wrong.

SARA

There is no mistake son. You must tell your wife - she must never blaspheme again. If Father Abramo had heard her...!

MARSILIO

Mama, you are over-reacting. Father Abramo has many more important things to worry about just now.

Sound: Door

DR SAGE

Marsilio, it is a lovely evening! Come take a stroll with... oh.

SARA

Harumph! I will be in my bedroom until dinner.

DR SAGE

I am so sorry Marsilio. Something I have said has upset your mother.

NARRATOR

But whatever Marsilio was about to reply is lost as...

Sound: EARTHQUAKE

MARSILIO

Everybody out! Quick! It is not safe! Presto! Mama! Presto!

NARRATOR

The doctor, clutching the professor to her chest stumbles back out into the light as a punishing aftershock jolts Naples. The fabric shed begins to shake precariously, its sturdy walls, weakened by repetitive shaking from three weeks of quakes and aftershocks. Petronella freezes on the threshold, as stones begin to fall from the shed's edifice. Screaming for his mother, Marsilio follows behind, shoving his wife and child across the road, away from falling masonry. Only when they are clear of falling stones does he realize his mother did not come out of the shed.

MARSILIO

Mama! Mama!

NARRATOR

Before anyone can react, the roof of the shed collapses in on itself, and the entire building is reduced to dust and crumbles.

MARSILIO

{crying} Mama!

DR SAGE

It is too late, Marsilio. The roof has buried her. We must wait until the quake subsides.

(MORE)

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Your mother survived her house falling on her, she might well survive this too, but you will do her no good rushing in before the dust settles and you can see what you are looking for

Sound: More earthquake stuff

NARRATOR

In the event, there was no hope for Sara DeRosa, whose stubborn nature had convinced her the safest place to be was in the middle of the room. Without overhead beams, or even bales of velvet to stop the falling stone, she was pummeled to death as the roof collapsed. {clears throat} I would like to take a moment for a Public Service Announcement: If you are indoors when an earthquake strikes, stay there. Quickly move to a safe location in the room such as under a strong table, a sturdy manger, or along an interior wall. The goal is to protect yourself from falling objects and be located near the structural strong points of the room. Avoid taking cover near windows, large mirrors, hanging objects, heavy furniture, heavy appliances or fireplaces. This has been an announcement for your own safety.

Sound: Funeral hymn

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It is nearly impossible to convey the horror wrought by the disastrous series of earthquakes and aftershocks that plagued Naples in 1456. The first quake was on the fourth of the month, but in addition to the regular bursts of smaller aftershocks, two major shocks hit on the twenty first and twenty second respectively, killing even more of the dumbfounded citizens. The townspeople had no choice but to bury their dead in mass graves, one of which would hold the remains of Sara DeRosa.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now, the doctor is placed under
ever greater ethical pressure...

Sound: Fade out funeral hymn

MARSILIO

I do not know what I should do
without you, my miracles.

Sound: Baby gurgling

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

I have lost my mama, but I say
thanks to God every moment of the
day for keeping my most precious
wife and son alive. Truly, we are
like the family of the Christ
child, without a home in the dark
of winter, and yet awash in the
love of each other.

DR SAGE

Oh, Marsilio, to hear you speak so
breaks my heart. I am happy you
love us, but what if we are taken
from you? I cannot bear the thought
of leaving you alone in this world.

MARSILIO

Do not say such things, my sweet!
You shall not leave me, I forbid
it!

DR SAGE

If only we were in control of such
things my sweet.

NARRATOR

Once upon a time, those words of
endearment would have never passed
the doctor's lips, as scientific
discovery was her only love. But
the romance of Italy, the
devastation of the quakes, and the
simple trust in the handsome
Italian's eyes have worked a sort
of alchemy on Petronella's
emotions.

MARSILIO

I must go to the church to help
with the last of the burials.

(MORE)

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Father Abramo wants to try and get the dead into consecrated ground before tomorrow so that we can all await the arrival of the Christ Child in peace and reflection.

NARRATOR

Once Marsilio has gone, leaving Dr Sage alone with the professor in their makeshift tent, she wakes the babe for a conversation.

Sound: bell and rattle

DR SAGE

I am sorry to disturb your nap dear friend, but I am losing my way without your guidance. It is Marsilio, when he is here with me, I begin to think more as Gianetta and less as Petronella. He is so grateful for his miracles, one can not help being swept up in his vision.

Sound: soft bell

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

You feel it too then, the pull to this gentle life?

Sound: bell... pause... rattle

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

No, you are right, we have good lives. I have my research. You have your lectures. The Charges du Fair is funding me, for as yet unknown reasons. There are so many unanswered questions. Yet here, we do not have to concern ourselves with all the stress and the intrigue, and the pressure.

Sound: Rattle and baby cries

NARRATOR

Though the Professor, admittedly is enjoying his own brand of relaxation here in Naples, he feels a need to call the doctor back to herself.

PROF SAVANT

Petronella Sage, it is time for you to let go this childish fantasy of the life you rejected years ago. When the choice was husband and family or science, you chose science. It is time you remember this

NARRATOR

Perhaps it is a product of a familiar tone of voice, perhaps it is the Doctor's own scientific mind reasserting itself but Petronella shakes her head as if to clear it and straightens her spine.

DR SAGE

You are right, Erasmus, as always. We have learned much whilst on this adventure, how communities dealt with disaster for the main thing, but our place is in 1893 with your books and my experiments. So how do we conspire to die in Renaissance Italy?

Sound: bell and rattle

NARRATOR

But as usual, the doctor's plans matter little to the universe, and something interferes.

Sound: tent flap

MARSILIO

I have good news for you, my love.

DR SAGE

Good news?

MARSILIO

{Too excited to speak coherently}
Father Abramo has provided the keys... He has given me a surprise for you... I have been working very hard...

DR SAGE

I see that - you seem to be covered in feathers.

MARSILIO

Yes, that is part of the work I have been doing. Father Abramo has given us the keys to the manse. He has moved into the church, and wishes our small family to have Christmas in a genuine house. No more living in fabric sheds or pavillions.

DR SAGE

Surely there is a family more in need than us?

MARSILIO

{Pridefully} There are many families in need, but none who have provided provisions and supplies for the entire city!

DR SAGE

{Delighted} Marsilio! You have heard from your captains then!?

MARSILIO

The letter was waiting for me at the church this morning. The ships returned from Salerno bearing food, blankets, firewood, and medicine. The goods are being loaded into wagons to be brought to the city as we speak. Everyone in Napoli will have a happier Christmas because Marsilio Corsini and his beautiful bride has provided it. Father Abramo insisted that we take the manse when he heard the news.

DR SAGE

I am so proud of you husband!

MARSILIO

The best part? The walls are very sturdy and thick. No more worry of fabric walls or impropriety! We shall once again be husband and wife as the Lord God intended!

DR SAGE

That sounds wonderful.

MARSILIO

And to celebrate the arrival of the supplies, Father Abramo decided we shall celebrate the Novena just a few days late!

DR SAGE

{A little lost} Oh, yes, the Novena. How wonderful!

MARSILIO

And we will have zampognari!

DR SAGE

The what?

MARSILIO

The bagpipers?

DR SAGE

Oh, yes. I am sorry - I seem to be a little preoccupied.

MARSILIO

{playfully} Perhaps your handsome husband has been spending too many hours on the rebuilding effort and not enough time distracting his beautiful young wife?

DR SAGE

{blushing} You are distracting, trust me, you are very distracting! And tell me, Marsilio, why exactly are you covered in feathers?

MARSILIO

Oh yes, {blowing} the feathers. I found an unused ticking in the manse closet, and have been stuffing it as full as a cloud for my angel to lie upon.

Sound: furious baby rattling and crying

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Our little man is awake and hungry it sounds like, and I must go - we are clearing a place in the plaza for the presepi. It shall be Christmas in two days and we must be ready! Pack your things, my love! Tonight we sleep in a real bed! Mwah! {blows kiss}

DR SAGE

Come here dear Erasmus. Did you hear that, your Papa has prepared a house for us.

Sound: bells, baby cries

NARRATOR

What Erasmus is saying is...

PROF SAVANT

We shouldn't be moving into a house, we should be returning home for our own Christmas! You said you were going to get back in focus!

DR SAGE

Hush, shh, baby. It will not harm us to stay until after Christmas will it?

Sound: Bell or rattle (YES it will harm us or NO we cannot stay?)

NARRATOR

Annnnd, we shall leave them here so that we can skip the tedium of another long debate between the doctor and a baby. Suffice it to say, that a baby is at a disadvantage in these negotiations. They are staying through Christmas. And, Dear Listeners, Christmas in renaissance Italy lasts fourteen days. On Christmas Eve a vigil to await the Christ child begins.

Sound: Coventry Carol or something similar?

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Every person in town goes to church, in one of many churches all competing for quality of the presepi or Nativity scenes, and the impactful homily delivered by a bevy of finely dressed priests. This year, the anticipation for the coming of the Christ child is both subdued and heightened. No place needs the balm of hope more than Napoli, and yet a month of aftershocks has left the people in a stupor of unfathomable loss.

Sound: Latin chanting or speaking

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The doctor is nominally a Presbyterian, but in truth has little knowledge of nor patience for religion. So far this month she, like most Neapolitans has skipped church, due to the stresses of existing in an earthquake ravished city. Other than a few public prayers, there has been no formal services. The Christmas Eve Mass is challenging in its ritual and ceremony.

DR SAGE

{Whispering} It is times like this, Erasmus, when I miss your guidance. You would know when to kneel, what words to say. Traveling without your counsel is most distressing.

NARRATOR

Vowing to find a way to ensure they can travel together in the future, regardless the pressures of college life, the doctor stumbles through the Mass as best she can, and breathes a huge sigh of relief when it is done. Christmas day itself is also passed at church in Italy. Endless prayers and hosannas offered up from the cold stones by parishioners who must stand and kneel with enough enthusiasm to convince the priest he has done his duty by the Lord. As the interminable Mass continued, Petronella began to find some comfort and even joy in the ritual patterns. By the time they retired from the blessed 'large S' sanctuary to the more cozy 'small s' sanctuary of their private lodgings, Petra was relaxed and in a state of almost bliss.

Sound: Door closing

MARSILIO

The priest has had his due, and now you and I will celebrate Christmas in our own way. Perhaps we can make a brother for wee Luka, no?

DR SAGE

{Startled} You want more children Marsilio?

MARSILIO

Of course, my love. We have spoken of family. We should have a handful of little bambinos to fill our house with laughter and love!

DR SAGE

A house full of laughter and love is something I might wish for one day...

MARSILIO

Then a house full of laughter and love you shall have. Beginning tomorrow!

NARRATOR

And so, Marsilio chose to shower his love with gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas working to create the very atmosphere he has promised.

Sound: Door

MARSILIO

It is the first day of Xmas, my love. In honor of the Christ child I gift you this pear.

DR SAGE

A pear? How sweet, thank you.

Sound: Door

MARSILIO

Today is the second day of Xmas. I bring you the eggs of the turtledoves.

DR SAGE

{laughing} Marsilio, these appear to be quails eggs.

MARSILIO

If you squint carefully you will see they are the eggs of the two turtledoves representing the old and new testaments.

Sound: Door

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Today I bring you three French hens. This one is faith, this one is hope, and this one - {goes for a kiss} is for love.

Sound: Door

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Four calling birds for our dinner I bring you this night.

DR SAGE

One might be tempted to call fowl!

MARSILIO

You wound me! These birds represent Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - blessed be the bed that I lie on! {pinches her}

DR SAGE

Eek! Unhand me you fiend!

Sound: Door

MARSILIO

Five golden rings! One for each of the first five books of the Holy Bible. Also, a good toy for our little Luka.

Sound: Jangling rings

Sound: Door

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Today I bring you a gift most rare.

DR SAGE

Duck's eggs!

MARSILIO

Geese! I have it on the finest authority that these eggs came from the purest white geese representing the six days of creation. Do you know what happened on the seventh day?

DR SAGE

{laughing} Do tell!

MARSILIO

God called it good, and he went to bed!

Sound: laughing and chasing

Sound: Door

DR SAGE

{calling} Do not come in here if you have seven swans with you!

MARSILIO

I have better - I have a pillow filled with the softest swan's down. The swans represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

Sound: Door, clinking bottles

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

I come with eight bottles of milk to represent the eight beatitudes.

DR SAGE

Thank goodness you did not bring the maids. I should have divorced you on the spot!

MARSILIO

Never! I shall never let you go, wife!

Sound: Door, music (rustic song)

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Today I bring you music to
represent the nine ladies dancing,
who in return represent the nine
fruits of the holy spirit and all
the qualities I see in my beloved -
Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience,
Goodness, Mildness, Fidelity,
Modesty, and Constancy.

DR SAGE

So many qualities?

MARSILIO

I am not a greedy man. I have
settled for nine.

Sound: Door

MARSILIO (CONT'D)

Today I bring you myself - to
represent the ten Lords a Leaping -
who in turn stand for the Ten
Commandments. Thou shalt have no
other man before me...

DR SAGE

Might I just have the ten Lords
please? I quite fancy some
leaping...

MARSILIO

Careful wife - you shall drive me
back to the milk maids!

NARRATOR

...And this seems like an
opportune time to leave the good
Doctor and take a short break for a
message from our sponsor.

MUSIC OUT

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now for a word from our
sponsor:

Play ad from sponsor

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Yes ladies and gentlemen, you heard
it here when fashion, elegance and
fine quality are called for Alan
Jeffries is the tailor of choice.
And now back to our show.

ACT 3

MUSIC, OPEN SCENE

NARRATOR

Marsilio continues his charm offensive, using the 12 days of Christmas to keep the doctor by his side, though a month has gone by and it is long past time when she should be returning to herself.

Sound: Door, bagpipes

DR SAGE

What is that racket?

MARSILIO

Simply the eleven pipers to commend the eleven apostles.

DR SAGE

There are three of them.

MARSILIO

Most of the zampognari have gone back to their sheep. I paid these gentlemen extra to come by today. I wish to revisit the 'blessed is the bed I lie upon' part!

DR SAGE

Again? Marsilio, you are incorrigible.

Sound: Romance noises, murmuring, laughing etc.

NARRATOR

I have made it a policy to look away from a scene of intimate nature dear readers, but this time I cannot spare your sensibilities. For as the doctor lies canoodling with her titular husband, the earth is preparing to deliver a second hammer blow to Naples. The Professor, asleep in his manger, senses it first and awakens to sound the alarm.

Sound: Loud Baby Cries

PROF SAVANT

It's coming, another earthquake, I can feel it! Petra?! Petra?! Where are you?

Sound: BIG earthquake

NARRATOR

Disturbed by the baby's cries, Petronella flies to his bed, lifting him free of the manger and clutching him to her breast as the first shock hits.

Sound: More Earthquake

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

This quake is as devastating as the one that hit at the first of December. The churches stand, but nearly every other building in the beleaguered city falls, including the one our heroes stand in. As the roof falls in Marsilio leaps to protect his small family, but the weight of the stones is too much, and the three perish, arms about one another in a final embrace.

Sound: Hymm - small musical transition - maybe the Dies Arie?

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

As our heroes awaken back in the laboratory in 1893, their reactions speak to the depth of their experiences.

DR SAGE

{sobs} Marsilio!

PROF SAVANT

{Cries like a baby}

NARRATOR

It takes some time for the enormity of what has happened to them to lessen its grip on their emotions, but gradually they begin to come back to themselves.

Sound: New unbuckling sounds and shutting off machines etc.

DR SAGE

Erasmus! You are restored to me in your own self. It is so very good to see you my friend.

PROF SAVANT

I shall say the same for you my darling Petra! What a strange sort of journey that was.

DR SAGE

Yes. I must make progress in controlling our exit from a situation. We were in Napoli an entire month, and that was simply too long. I felt as if I were losing myself there, in Marsilio's arms...

PROF SAVANT

Yes, quite! We can't have that!

DR SAGE

I wonder if it is possible to interrupt the electrical activity of a brain without traumatic death. Perhaps extreme cold....

NARRATOR

And as the Doctor retreats into her calculations and the Professor stumbles home to consider the effect of breastfeeding on the psyche of adults, we too will take our leave. We have many questions to answer dear listener in the next episode, but for now we leave you with this bit of holiday wisdom: Life is a perilous business and death might find us at any moment therefore we must love, laugh with, and hold each other while the opportunity affords. From all of us here at Twinstar Productions we wish you the happiest of holidays and a most felicitous new year!

ALL CAST

Happy Holidays!
Blessed Bodhi Day
Joyous Krampusnacht
Happy Hanukkah
Merry Yalda
Blessed Yule

(MORE)

ALL CAST (CONT'D)

A very happy Pancha Ganapati to you
A joyous Soyal
Merry Christmas
Happy Kawanza
Merry Malanka
Happy New Year

END MUSIC START

END MUSIC PLAY OUT

FADE OUT.

CREDITS

NARRATOR

The Tales of Sage and Savant is a Twinstar production brought to you on the first of each month from our Southern California studios. Starring Chip Michael as Savant, Eddie Louise as Sage, Emily Riley Piat as Abigail, and Justin Bremer as the narrator. Episode 7.2 AFTERSHOCKS was written by Eddie Louise. Are you interested in the historical information we included in this episode? Go to our website for the complete bibliography. Theme music and Audio Engineering by Chip Michael. Special music in this episode was by Unwoman check her out at <http://www.unwoman.com/> Our episode sponsor was Allan Jeffries the perfect tailor for the finely dressed man! Catch our website at www.sageandsavant.com and like us on Facebook to stay current with all things Sage and Savant. And remember: Death is no barrier to science!