

GALILEO'S CRIME

CHORUS 5: A NEW AGE DAWNING



There was every reason to be overjoyed as their Cardinal—Barberini—ascended to the Papacy. He was a man of Science, after all. Trained as a Jesuit mathematician, he had defied Church philosophers, observed the Cosmos through a telescope and even published a poem he'd written in praise of Galileo!

It was nothing short of a miracle, in fact. The Congress of Cardinals had chosen the one among them who could be counted on to put an end to the iron hand of the Inquisition. He alone could resolve the struggle: New vs. Old, Science vs. the Church, Reason vs. Faith. Finally, the facts would have a fair hearing. Knowledge, not ignorance, would win the day. Experiment would replace Church dogma. Observation, not blind faith, would reveal the true laws of our Universe and show humankind the way.

Galileo would not be the only one to celebrate. Kepler in Germany, Descartes in France—great minds throughout Europe would unite in praise of the new Pontiff as he swept away superstition and ushered in a New Age, long overdue. The stage was finally set, free thinkers everywhere felt sure, for the winds of change to blow.