

Spreekteksten – Brandsma, een verhaal voor vandaag

1. **Vandaag** - ... was sagt uns das vandaag

Titus Brandsma. What does he mean to us today? Today we will hear about him, from many different voices, from very different angles. First of all, of course, from his mother Tjitske. She remembers, how Titus was born as Anno Sjoerd, and grew up on the farm, near Bolsward.

2. **Anno Sjoerd** ... kinn' wy dat dan net, hjoed?

At seventeen, Anno Sjoerd joins the Carmelites in Boxmeer. He takes on the monastic name Titus, his father's name. An old fellow brother can still picture him.

3. **Karmel**

4. **Rustig** ... Solo Dios basta.

As quiet as life was in the monastery, it is hectic outside. After studying in Rome, Titus ends up in Oss, at first only as a teacher of philosophy for his fellow brothers. But the world knows how to find him, from all sides. And if not, he goes looking for her himself.

5. **Veel** ... Mooi zo en dan nog wat.

It is 1923. In Nijmegen, the Catholic University of Nijmegen is founded. Titus is one of the first professors.

6. **Feliciter** ... et in terra pax.

Titus is increasingly troubled by National Socialist domination. When newspapers are required to carry N.S.B. advertisements, he has had enough. Titus writes a letter to all Catholic newspaper editors. In words of his time, of course. Today, the letter would probably sound different. For example:

7. **Brief**

Titus starts to deliver his letter in person. To all editors. That must go wrong sometime. And so it does. The Prior of the monastery where Titus lived often remembers that day.

9. **Denk aan mij** ... dan zie ik hem weer gaan.

Titus is taken to a cell in Scheveningen. There he immediately stands out. A jailer looks at him with amazement.

10. **Geheim**

11. **Nabij** ... Solo Dios basta

Titus is transferred to Camp Amersfoort. Life there is miserable. Nevertheless,

Titus makes an indelible impression on his fellow prisoners.

12. Brillenglazen ... Is één met ons. - Is God.

After Amersfoort, Titus eventually ends up in the prison of Kleve. There the ominous name "Dachau" goes around. Titus becomes frightened. He writes a petition to the authorities. But events rumble on. Like a train.

13. Wanhoop ... Domine

Titus has been deported to Dachau.

But how to describe today what it was like there?

Only someone who has been there themselves can do that. And they are usually no longer around....

A father, talking to his daughter, still tries to pass on the story. Even though it is only hearsay.

14. Vertel! ... Al is hij niet meer hier.

Titus dies in the infirmary at Dachau, ill and exhausted. Years later, an anonymous nurse testifies how she remembers it. But did what she tells really happen? There is no hard evidence. Does that make a difference? Or does her story have meaning either way?

15. Immerhin ... die Wahrheit sein?

Titus has died. Yet people keep talking about him. Thinking about him. They keep holding him in high esteem. Higher and higher and higher. After years, they even discuss whether Titus should not be beatified. A special honor. With special conditions. Does Titus meet them?

19. Vereerd

Moving from beatified to sanctified is a bigger step than you might think. For a start, it takes at least one miracle for that to happen. Would that ever happen for Titus?

To one American Carmelite, that is not a question. He has his own story with Titus. A story that he, and ultimately the Church, cannot ignore. He tells it to us enthusiastically.

16. Faith His story breaks free!

But what about us? What is our story with Titus? What can we say about it? At the very least, we can sing together. Will you sing along?

17. Veelstemmig

18. Nada te turbe