

Inauguration of the *Message of Ulysses* Mosaic by Marc Chagall — 01/01/1968

00:00:12

Journalist: Master, are you happy today? Are you very happy today?

00:00:17

Marc Chagall: The word “happy.” Let’s avoid overstating it, but I’m most happy when I see young people. Apart from my friends who are close to me, close to youth, which is without comparison.

00:00:31

Journalist: Master, tell us a little about how this immense work of art was born.

00:00:36

Marc Chagall: It’s, you know, a certain Professor Trotabas lives in Vence, near me. My friend Dr. Charles Alfred also lives there. They came to my house once to ask me to do something for the university. Generally, I often say, in principle yes, I would do it, I wouldn’t do it. Well, since they were friends, I said, I’ll think about it. And afterwards, I thought for the law school, it would have to be a biblical work, for the students, for the young people. On the other hand, I thought no, that’s not right, because it’s already been done in *The Biblical Message* in Nice. He came with an idea, would you maybe like the idea of Ulysses? That represents the Mediterranean character and for students, it’s rather instructive. Having The Message of Ulysses. I said... he brought me the book. I said yes... I’ve already done a book, a Greek book, *Daphnis and Chloe*, but I didn’t understand it in depth right away. Why Ulysses, for the students? But when I read, I truly saw.

00:01:46

Journalist: After this delicious meal, are you going to go back to work again, Master?

00:01:52

Marc Chagall: After this meal? After this meal, I have to go work because I have a major exhibit at the Grand Palais and I’m afraid, like I always am.

00:02:01

Journalist: About how many works at the Grand Palais?

00:02:03

Marc Chagall: Ask Antonio. It must be three floors. It’s a lot.