

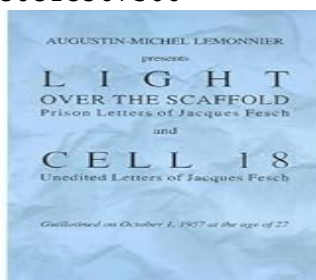
Light over the Scaffold: Prison Letters of Jacques Fesch and Cell 18 : Unedited Letters of Jacques Fesch Guillotined on October 1, 1957 at the Age of 27 By Jacques Fesch **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Light over the Scaffold: Prison Letters of Jacques Fesch and Cell 18 : Unedited Letters of Jacques Fesch Guillotined on October 1 1957 at the Age of 27 Catholicism since I converted in 2004 has always had a beautiful stronghold over me. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Their life stories from antiquity to the present day are so individualistic so unique and touching because of their unbridled openness and allowance of divine grace to penetrate into the core of their consciousness their spirit. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** I always thought at least at the onset of my religious journey that a person had to be unquestionably perfect to be thought of as a saint someone beyond reproach who founded a religious order or who lived an austere life of poverty chastity and obedience or someone who was a martyr. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Growing up in a lukewarm Catholic family where atheistic nihilism ruled the roost Jacques Fesch was a boat without a port floating hither and thither without the framework of love in his life. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** To financially fund an endeavor of that magnitude he needed money; denied the capital by his father he chose to rob a seller of gold coins to make his unrealistic dreams come true. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** But all this is a setup to what is truly remarkable about Jacques Fesch: his conversion and his letters and journal entries - literary works in their own right that are so profoundly theological and clear-cut and comforting they are almost supernatural in nature. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** But in the solitariness of his cell away from the media and public din he was able to look inward and in that process became suddenly attuned to a supernatural voice counseling and urging him to accept the truth of faith to which he had so smugly abandoned years earlier. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Now instead of being known as Jacques Fesch the murderer he is Servant of God Jacques Fesch the repentant murderer who through the blood and truth of the Cross will one day hopefully be counted among His elect. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** In both sets of letters the reader is witness to the events that lead to Fesch's arrest and imprisonment to his sentence of death by guillotine and in the midst of this his amazing conversion. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And to fulfil his vision on 24 February 1954 Fesch attempt to rob money from a money changer office to buy a boat when he tried to escape Fesch accidentally shot policeman Jean Vergne who was in pursuit. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Later on the press and public opinion went frenzy about the case and Fesch was sentenced to death penalty on 6 April Jacques Fesch was a French criminal who killed a cop and then reinvented himself while on death row. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And to fulfil his vision on 24 February 1954 Fesch attempt to rob money from a money changer office to buy a boat when he tried to escape Fesch accidentally shot policeman Jean Vergne who was in pursuit.

Light over the scaffold and cell 18

A rare insight into the spiritual journey of a young man condemned and executed in France in 1957. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** One aspect of that powerful influence has always stemmed from the fascinating lives of the saints and those on the path to sainthood, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Over the years I have certainly read my lion's share of biographies on these remarkable holy men women teenagers and even children. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And while for the most part that is usually the case it is not always so: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And the life story of Jacques Fesch illustrates that clearly, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Love was not completely absent but it was not grounded in anything transcendent a higher truth: God, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Materialism and careerism were poor substitutes yet that seemed to be the only thing available to Jacques Fesch, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** During his life he was looking for something but at every avenue to which he turned more day-to-day worldly hardness greeted him. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** As that was so he delved deeper and deeper into unrealistic dreams and fantasies: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** That combined with the inherent flaws of his character-immaturity an attitude of entitlement

irresponsibility as well as a pervasive hard-bitten cynicism-made his whole person hard as marble: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** To compensate for his inner coldness he became a lust filled playboy sleeping around and siring two children. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Not content with the direction of his life he hungered to live a life on the sea, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** However in the process of that robbery a police officer was shot and killed: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** When you read the letters you can sense the Dark Night of the Soul and the despondency as well as the divine graces of mystical elevation: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Yet his prose is simultaneously blunt and eloquent while not at all diminishing the hard but loving truths of his insights, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** It is as if he himself is not fully capable of what he is writing down but he is being supernaturally infused with the knowledge that he is expressing. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** He is a channeler or a conduit of God's mercy as were the authors of the Gospel books. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** His beginning journey behind bars and eventual execution by means of the guillotine in 1957 however was anything but open and holy. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Initially he was caustic and insulting to his Catholic lawyer who defended him. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And he upped the anti with his defiance refusing to acknowledge the crimes for which he was charged, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** For his lawyer and for those who loved him he was a public relations nightmare, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Questioning his experience but not fully denying it altogether the door to his soul was left slightly ajar, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** And because that hardness had cracked just a little bit Jesus Christ was able to penetrate and condescend down to Jacques Fesch and to be moved for him, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Sensing that unearthly love unlike anything he had experienced before he became immediately transformed and that transformation is beautifully illustrated in these stunning letters: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** To say that these letters conveyed a "Wow!" factor for me is to put it mildly, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** People just have to learn to be humble enough to ask for it. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** In the late eighties the Archbishop of Paris opened a diocesan inquiry into his life thus paving the way for the cause for his beatification which was formally opened in 1993, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Light Over the Scaffold is Jacques Fesch's letters from prison and Cell 18 his unedited letters written to his mother-in-law. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** In reading his letters we also see what good God can bring from evil in a repentant soul. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** There is some overlap of letters between the two sections but not enough to call it repetitive: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18**

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Foreword by Michael Gleason

Jacques Fesch was a French criminal who killed a cop and then reinvented himself while on death row: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Raised as an atheist he turned devout Roman Catholic while waiting for the guillotine during his incarceration between 1954 and 1957 leading to conversion other inmates and jailers. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** At one time he had dreams of sailing the South Pacific leave everything and live there. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Raised as an atheist he turned devout Roman Catholic while waiting for the guillotine during his incarceration between 1954 and 1957 leading to conversion other inmates and jailers. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** At one time he had dreams of sailing the South Pacific leave everything and live there. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** Later on the press and public

opinion went frenzy about the case and Fesch was sentenced to death penalty on 6 April 1957. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** At first Fesch was indifferent to his plight and mocked his lawyer's Catholic faith whom he nicknamed the panther of God. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** However after a year in prison he experienced a profound religious conversion became very pious and bitterly regretted his crime: **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** He corresponded regularly with his family notably his brother and stepmother and kept a spiritual journal. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** He accepted his punishment serenely and was reconciled to his wife the night before his execution, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** His last journal entry was In five hours I will see Jesus!, **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** An appeal for clemency to President René Coty failed and he was guillotined. **Light over the scaffold and cell 18** After his death he became an example of redemption and devotion and a cause for his beatification was formally opened in 1993. Mental escapism of the highest order. Faith is a wonderful and metamorphic gift. 9780818907500 This is really two books in one.As conversion stories go this is a must read.Until his crime Fesch had led a spoiled and vicious life.Until his crime Fesch had led a spoiled and vicious life. {site_link}.