

Drama – “Following a Star”

Narrator: (in serious narrator’s voice) Today we remember and retell a story from long, long ago, from the land of Palestine in the Middle East. A story that is over 2000 years old. At that time, the country was captive to the Roman Empire. The people of these lands, Jews and Samaritans and people of other cultures, all longed for freedom and peace in this land that they shared.

Wise Man #1: (from side stage) Do we come in now?

Narrator: What? No, no, not yet!

Wise Man #1: Sorry, the camels are getting restless.

Narrator: What camels?

Wise Man #1: OK, you don’t have to let everyone know that it’s make-believe!

Narrator: Can I get on with this?

Wise Man #1: Sure, sure. We’re just back here without real camels biding out time.

Narrator: As I was saying... (serious narrator’s voice) There was news of a child born in Bethlehem, a child descended from King David.

Wise Man #2: (running onstage) Did you say a child? I bring a gift for the child! I saw the star and I have journeyed far!

Narrator: No, no! Not yet. We’re just getting started.

Wise Man #2: Well can you hurry up, the donkeys are getting restless. (walks offstage)

Narrator: Donkeys?

Wise Man #2: Not real donkeys. What kind of budget do you think we have?

Wise Man #1: Camels!

Wise Man #2: Camels? Where does the Bible say camels?

Wise Man #1: It doesn’t. It’s just assumed that there was a mode of transportation.

Wise Man #2: They might have had donkeys!

Wise Man #3: Or even bicycles? What about bikes?

Narrator and WM #1 and WM #2: Shut up!

Narrator: (serious narrator’s voice) Wise men from the east, called Magi, had seen a star in the heavens.

Wise Man #3: Magi? What’s a Magi? I thought we were kings!

Wise Man #2: Isn’t that a cup of soup?

Narrator: Sorry, the Bible doesn’t say kings. You’re more like seers or sages.

Wise Man #3: Sages? Not Kings?

Narrator: No

Wise Man #2: Prime Ministers?

Narrator: No! Please!

Wise Man #3: How about members of minor political parties?

Narrator: NO. BE QUIET! (serious narrator voice) And so the Magi travelled from the East to Jerusalem, following the bright star shining in the heavens.

Wise Man #2: Oh, I love this bit!

Narrator: (getting excited) The star glistened and gleamed, it glowed in the sky and called them forward on their quest, daring them to trust and hope, to dream an impossible dream...” (starts to sing “To dream, an impossible dream...)

Wise Man #1: Hang on, is all that in the Bible?

N: Well not word for word. I was embellishing...

Wise Man #2: Oh, "embellishing" (Wise people all have a chuckle).

Wise Man #3: Look, can we get on with this? The chickens are getting restless.

(All look at Wise Man #3, perplexed)

Narrator: (gives wise people a stern look). Ok, let's move this story along. The wise people, whose names were...

Wise Man #1: (sneezes) Achoo!

Wise Man #2: Gesundheit

Wise Man #3: Bless you!

Narrator: (looking bewildered) Whose names were Achoo, Gesundheit and Bless-you, met the nasty King Herod, who tried to trick them into discovering the whereabouts of the baby Jesus.

Wise Man #3: Is there a King Herod in this play? I'd love to play King Herod (does evil laugh)

Wise Man #1: Stop that!

Wise Man #2: But Herod didn't trick us, did he?

Narrator: No he didn't. You outsmarted him, goodness knows how... The Magi followed the shining star in the sky and found the Christ child and his parents.

Wise Man #3: Oh I love this next bit. It makes me cry every time.

Narrator: They entered the place...

Wise Man #1: Now? OK, now?

Narrator: (louder) They entered the place...

Wise Man #1: Now? (calling offstage) Will you goats be quiet, I can't hear what they're saying!!

Narrator and Wise Man #2 and Wise Man #3: NOW!!!!

Narrator: (sigh) Finally! And they knelt down and paid him homage.

(They start to kneel down)

Wise Man #3: What?

Narrator: (emphatically) They paid him homage

Wise Man #1: What on earth does that mean?

Wise Man #2: I thought she said "fromage"?

Wise Man #3: Isn't that French for cheese?

Wise Man #2: We give the baby cheeses?

Narrator: (irritable) Homage! For goodness sake! It means that you worship him!

Wise Man #2: OK, THIS IS IT!! SHE MEANS THE GIFTS!!

(Wise guys kneel down)

Narrator: They offered him gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense...

Wise Man #1: I bring Gold!

Wise Man #2: I bring Myrrh! (making it sound like a cow mooing)

Narrator: What??

Wise Man #2: I bring Myrrh! (making it sound like a cow mooing)

Wise Man #1: It's Myrrh. Not (cow noise). It's a special oil.

Wise Man #2: Oh, I thought it was about cheeses.

Narrator: Enough already!

Wise Man #3: I bring Frankenstein!

Narrator, Wise Man #1 and #2: FRANKINSCENSE!

Wise Man #3: Oh, right...

Wise Man #1: It's another special oil.

Narrator: Like I said, three gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense for the baby Jesus. And the Magi felt overjoyed and blessed. For the star had led them to the one who would be called the Light of the World, for his life would shine with the love of God for all people.

Wise Man #1: We followed a star

Wise Man #2: and found a child who brings light to the world

Wise Man #3: and now that light is in us!

Narrator: So let us shine the light of God's love to all people, a light of love and joy and peace.

Wise Man #1: Umm.... when do we bring in the camels?

Wise Man #2: and the donkeys?

Wise Man #3: and the chickens?

Narrator: (to audience) My advice is, don't work with animals and wise guys.

All: THE END.

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