

The Bedouin

A monologue for Christmas

A monologue suitable for stage or church. A camel wrangler serving the caravan of the Magi travelling from the East, following the miraculous star, seeking the "King of Kings", muses about his experience.

Background/Setup: Farhad (no last name) is a Persian Bedouin, working as a camel tender on the Magi's caravan, enroute to the Holy Land. He's returning to the camp with some firewood he's collected; in order to start the morning fire and prepare breakfast and feed the camels prior to commencing the day's journey.

Props/Costume: Rough "blanket-robe", sandals, turban; carrying firewood.

(Walks to the front up the right side aisle, talks while traversing the stage, exits down the left aisle.)

(Notices the audience) **Oh, good morning, and peace be unto you** (bows, with the oriental/Arab sweep of the hand from the forehead downward). **I did not expect to see anyone out in this desert so early in the morning. I did not see you on the trail yesterday. I suppose your caravan arrived at the oasis after dark?**

Oh well, no need to answer. Out in these wilderness places sometimes it is better for a man not to know too much.

This is not my first caravan you know. I've been a camel-tender for many years, on many caravans back and forth from Persia, Jehovah bless it, to the lands of the West, and back. (thoughtfully) Though as I consider it, this is certainly the strangest caravan I have ever served.

For one thing, of a certainty this is the richest! Their camels and saddles and packs are of the finest quality! And I know I am traveling with nobles. These Magi, and there are several of them, are all of the noble class of the East. They keep to themselves for the most part, these astronomers.

And that is the other most different, and strange thing about this caravan: these nobles, some say their number includes a king or two, are not traveling to trade. We are not carrying much to trade, certainly not enough to pay for the trip. No, they are searching for someone we have before only heard about in legends: someone they call the King of Kings.

Now that is so strange to us common folk: everyone knows a king is a sovereign; there is no one over him. Yet these nobles are seeking someone in the West who is supposed to be the King of all Kings! Legend has it that the great Jew Belteshazzar, back in the reign of King Darius, prophesied of this great King of Kings; and he pointed to

the prophecies of the great Israelite prophet Isaiah who called this one Immanuel, God With Us. Who ever thought the great God would come to earth to be with us? This is all much too strange for a simple camel-driver like myself.

Well, whoever this great King of Kings is, he is certainly going to be happy to welcome these Magi! They are bringing three expensive gifts for the King: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. I have not actually seen these three great treasures, but judging from the stern look of the guards that always attend those three camels and their burdens, I believe they are quite valuable.

And here is the strangest thing of all about this trip. The Magi do not know where the Great King is! They are following a star they say first appeared to them in the East! I have never heard of such a thing! But I have seen this star myself. The Magi pointed it out to us when we first left Babylon many moons ago. It is a most unusual star. You see, though I am not a wise man, I am a man of the desert. All of us who live in the desert become familiar with the night sky; we recognize the patterns in the heavens and know well how they begin in the east and move across the night sky to the west throughout the night.

But not this star! Oh no! In fact, I have never seen anything like it! It just hangs in the night sky! All the other lights move, as they always have... but this wondrous star just stays in one place all night! It was right up there, where it's been every night we've been traveling, until just a few minutes ago when the sun's light began to shine in the east! It must be a miracle from God, just as the Magi have said.

Even so, this is the star we follow, day by day. The Magi insist this star will lead us to the King of Kings; and when we arrive, they say they will worship this King, and present Him their gifts.

(Exiting) I have indeed never seen or heard of such things before... but then who am I? Just a camel driver.

Well friends, (gives the Arab bow again) the peace of Jehovah be unto you and to your tent.

(Exits)