

(You can keep this)



# The Bethlehem Road

by Margaret A. Hubbard<sup>8</sup>

## CHARACTERS

### The Women at the Well:

LEAH.  
SUSANNA.  
REBECCA.  
MIRIAM.  
SARAH, the mother of Miriam  
SETH.  
THE HIGH PRIEST, SHAMMAN  
TABBATH:  
JUDITH.  
SALOME, sister of Herod.  
HEROD.

### The Wise Men:

GASPAR.  
MELCHIOR.  
BALTHASAR.

### The Soldiers:

HILDRETH.  
MALCHUS.

### The Shepherds:

ENOS.  
JONATHAN.  
BENHESED.  
NATHANIEL.

JOSEPH  
MARY  
SIMON.  
AMOS, the father of Miriam  
THE ANGEL.  
THE INNKEEPER.  
JOHN.  
RACHEL.  
SLAVE.  
CROWD.  
CHORUS.

## ACTS AND SCENES

ACT I-Scene 1. PLACE: The old well of Gihon in the city of Jerusalem. TIME: At sunrise on the Feast of Lights, the year of the Nativity. SCENE 2. PLACE: The roof garden of Herod's palace. TIME: Early afternoon of the same day.

ACT II. PLACE: Same as ACT I-Scene 2. TIME: Later in the afternoon of the same day.

ACT III-Scene 1. PLACE: On the road to Bethlehem. TIME: Early evening of the same day. SCENE 2. PLACE: The street of Bethlehem outside of the inn. TIME: Almost midnight.

# The Bethlehem Road

## ACT I Scene 1

Early morning at the fountain of Gihon. The well curb is at C. back. It is made of rough graystones in a semicircle, covered with green vines, and there are three steps up over the side. When the women fill their water jars they go up the steps and down inside of the well, filling the jars at the fountain inside. The fountain is not seen. At either side are small bushes and trees.

Opening Song: Peace Be Unto You

At rise SUSANNA Bends to fill her water jar, standing inside of the well. The only light is on the backdrop. As she bends down, the lights outside begin to come up slowly. She raises the jug to her shoulder and stands erect. She turns slowly and goes to the steps, and as she stands on the top step the lights come on full. As she comes down outside, LEAH enters R. with her water jug. She goes toward steps.)

LEAH: You are early at the fountain, Susanna. The sun is but an hour in the sky.

SUSANNA: I have much to do for the feast tonight--but I am slow. The morning is so beautiful. (Laughs) Perhaps I shall grind the grain here at the foot of the hill.

LEAH: You are still a child, even as your own daughter.

SUSANNA: You cannot be old when the day is young. See, Leah, how Jerusalem is spread out above us--a wonder-city. The sun has set the windows all afire. The mist clings to the dome of the temple, but over there the red and white of the palace is--

LEAH: (Turning away, sets her jar on the steps.) I do not care to look on the home of Herod.

SUSANNA: Still, it is beautiful, Leah. Half the splendors of Jerusalem are of his creation--the fountains, the colonades, the temples--

LEAH: False temples, to glorify his own name, made by builders who despise him! (Sits on well L.)

SUSANNA: And yet they are there for us to look at--yellow gold and whitemarble. Surely that is good.

LEAH: No, Susanna. Even the whitest of marble cannot lighten the wickedness of Herod. You have not seen the forest of crosses where once eight hundred men were hung, nor heard their cries, nor seen the earth dyed crimson beneath them. That, too, may be for us to look upon.

SUSANNA: (Horrorified) Oh, Leah, no! You cannot mean---(She stops. She sits at R. of well.)

LEAH: (Nods) Yes.

SUSANNA: You have spoken with Sarah?

LEAH: Last evening I walked with her when we came to fill our jars with water. Amos, her husband, is imprisoned and waiting for death.

SUSANNA: But Amos is innocent! (Excited)

LEAH: Yes, he is innocent. His taxes have been paid in full--the first-fruits to the temple, all the best of the oil and the vintage and the grain to the priests, a tenth to the Levites--

SUSANNA: Cannot the priests of the Sanhedrin say to the King, "Amos is innocent of withholding his taxes! Let free."

(Sarah and Miriam ready.)

LEAH: When has Herod listened to the Sanhedrin? Besides, he wants Amos out of the way because he is a Zealot and speaks for the peasants.

SUSANNA: Poor Sarah!

LEAH: Hush! She is coming down the hillside.

SUSANNA: How slow her step is, and weary.

LEAH: She did not sleep the night long.

(Sarah and Miriam enter, each with water jar, Sarah leaning on Miriam. They enter down L.)

SUSANNA: Miriam has been weeping.

LEAH: (Rising and going to the fountain) I must fill my jar and we shall be off. Sarah will not care to speak with us.

(Susanna takes up her jar and starts down R.)

SARAH: (Stops L.C.) Why are you going, Susanna?

SUSANNA: (Stops R.C.) The wheat cakes are not baked, nor the grain ground.

SARAH: Yes, you must prepare for the Feast of Lights. I, too, shall make ready, and light candles for all of the family.

LEAH: (Coming down steps) You are brave, Sarah.

SARAH: No, I have little courage. What is to be, will be. I cannot see my children weeping. (Turns to Miriam) Fill the jars, Miriam.

(Miriam takes the jars and goes into the well)

LEAH: (Coming down to Sarah) Have you no hope, Sarah?

SARAH: None.

LEAH: Have you sought council with the high priest?

SARAH: Yes, you hear him--"What man shall gainsay Herod the Great?" But the priests cannot be blamed if they do not forget the fate of those who have gone before them.

LEAH: Then there is nothing to be done.

SARAH: No. Perhaps I should not complain. Amos will be only one of the thousands who have died in the thirty years of Herod's rule. The Jews are an oppressed people.

SUSANNA: And yet Caesar has left us many privileges.

SARAH: (Crossing to Susanna, angrily) Privileges for the Jews, a race of kings! Driven by a Roman and a half-mad Idumean!

SUSANNA: Yes, there is even the new tax that must be paid to Caesar.

SARAH: (Sadly) What does it matter, one more tax? (Pause) If it were possible, I should go to the temple, so that Amos might know I am near.

(Rebecca ready)

SUSANNA: Go, Sarah. Your children can come to us.

SARAH: No, for them my house would be dark, and that must not be until the eight days of the Feast are over. Tonight I shall light the candles, one for each of us. Tomorrow there will be two for each, and the next day three, until at the end of the feast eight candles will burn. Maybe for Amos there will not be eight. (She turns quickly and takes a few steps upstage,

stands with her head bowed and back to audience.)

(Rebecca enters up R. She is old and bent, and comes slowly, with her waterjar on her shoulder. There is a pause as she comes in. She stops beside Sarah.)

REBECCA: Your face is sad, Sarah. No news? (Sarah shakes her head, Rebecca goes on toward the well)

LEAH: Let me fill your jar for you, Rebecca. (She takes the jar.) Sit here on the steps and rest. (Miriam takes the jar from Leah and fills it.)

REBECCA: (Sitting R. on well) The hill grows steeper each time I come.

SUSANNA: You should not come down the hill, Rebecca. Your daughter Anna would carry the water for you...

REBECCA: Yes, Anna is good. But who would bring me the bright talk of the women who gather here.

SUSANNA: Perhaps at the temple you would--

REBECCA: The temple! It cannot compare with the well on a fine morning. Down here it is fresh and clear, but in the temple the very air is heavy with the shadows of the dark days past. I sit in the women's court thinking of the words of the Prophet Isaias, "The grass is withered and the flower is fallen, because the spirit of the Lord has blown upon it." Yes, the spirit of the Lord has indeed blown upon Judea.

SARAH: Moses' law is forgotten. (She turns to Rebecca and speaks bitterly.)

SUSANNA: The city is filled with idols. Surely the Almighty Himself will strike the golden eagle from above the temple door.

SARAH: No. God has forsaken us. (Bitterly)

REBECCA: Thou must not speak so, Sarah. Thy heart is overflowing with sorrow, and thy words are bitter, but thou must not despair. I have lived long--soon I will be gathered to my fathers, and I have seen much sadness. At times in Jerusalem there was such wailing over Herod's deeds that it was said Rachel lifted her voice in weeping for her children. It is told by those who have passed her tomb on the road from Ephrath.

SARAH: She was the mother of the house of Israel. It is well she should weep for her children.

REBECCA: "Be comforted, saith your God. Speak ye to the heart of Jerusalem, for her evil is come to an end, iniquity is forgiven."

He who is promised will save Jerusalem.

SUSANNA: It will be long before the words of the Prophet Isaias will come to pass.

REBECCA: I have seen prophecies fulfilled. It will all be done according to His word.

SUSANNA: Moses' law must be obeyed. We will bear our oppression with no complaint.

SARAH: Yes, you can do so, Susanna. You are young. You have had no sorrow, but I-I have wept many tears, not for myself, but for my children. Their lot will be more painful as the years go on. God has promised us a Saviour. Why can He not send Him now, when His chosen people are so afflicted?

REBECCA: You must not question the will of God.

SARAH: Herod's tyranny cannot be the will of God. Has God forgotten us?

REBECCA: "I, the Lord, will hear them, I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them."

SARAH: Yes, they are His words.

REBECCA: It is truth, Sarah. I have seen much of the cruelty of Herod--the murders of his uncle, Joseph, his wife Mariamne, his sons, the high priest Hyrcanus, Aristobulus, and the sons of Baba. Even now his son Antipater lies in chains, and his vengeance upon the land of Israel has been mighty. Yet, the hand of the Lord is guiding His people. We will yet be saved.  
(Others react with growing shock)

SARAH: It is comfort, Rebecca.

REBECCA: Yes, the only consolation left to us.

SUSANNA: The sun is already high. I must not be idle. If my house were at Gihon, perhaps there would be more grain ground for the meal. (Laughs) I should sit outside grinding and looking up at Jerusalem.

LEAH: It is beautiful, if one might forget whose brain conceived its glory.

SUSANNA: I can see the Theatre, and the Amphitheatre, and the Hippodrome--

LEAH: The Jews will never forgive him that--trying to force his heathen games upon us.

REBECCA: Yet he has won the favor of Caesar Augustus.

LEAH: Yes, now he is Herod the Great.

REBECCA: (Meditatively.) Herod, the Great. (Rises.) Give me my water jar, Leah.

LEAH: (Takes it from Miriam and keeps it.) Let me carry it for you. I will walk with you, Rebecca, and help you up the slope.

REBECCA: (A step toward her.) I thank you, Leah. You are kind. (Turns) When your heart is heavy, Sarah, come to me. Perhaps I may be able to help you.

SARAH: You do me great honor, Rebecca. I shall come.

REBECCA: (As they start out R.) That is well. You might let me lean on you, Leah. The way is rough. (They go out down R.)

SARAH: Come, Miriam. Are the jars filled?

MIRIAM: (Coming out of the well with a jar.) Here is yours, Mother. Mine is not ready yet.

SARAH: (Taking it.) I shall go on ahead of you. It grows late. (She takes the jar and starts out L.)

(Seth ready.)

SUSANNA: (Crossing quickly to her.) I will walk with you. How mild the morning is. It is summer instead of winter. (They go on out talking.)

(Miriam looks after her a moment, then goes back, fills her jar, and raises it to her shoulder. She stands a moment on the steps, then sits, puts the jar down beside her, and putting her arm upon the jar leans her head against it. Seth enters R. with a large scroll under his arm. He comes on quickly, then seeing Miriam, hesitates.)

SETH: Miriam! (He stops down R. Miriam raises her head and looks at him.) Miriam, there are tears on your face. (Crosses to her, sits below her.)

MIRIAM: What brings you this way Seth?

SETH: It is not time for lessons at the Synagogue, so I came down the hill to watch the morning. I love Gihon. This old fountain



is the heart of Jerusalem, the only well in the wilderness that never ceases to flow. But you have not told me what it is that troubles you. Has father been-----

MIRIAM: Not yet. It is of mother that I am thinking. All night she walked up and down in the roof garden. I was awake, and I crept to the top of the stairs to watch. She had not told me that he would - never come back. There must be something-- someone who can save him!

SETH: Only Herod himself could do that. All over Israel there is a terrible slaughter of those who are known to be against him. Father is one.

MIRIAM: But it is said that his taxes have not been paid.

SETH: His opposition to Herod is what hath brought the sentence of death on him.

MIRIAM: If all who are dissatisfied were destroyed, there would be few left in Judea.

SETH: (Pause, looking around fearfully) One must not say it, Miriam.

MIRIAM: (Defiantly) I do not fear Herod.

SETH: You are not wise. If you saw him.--

MIRIAM: If I saw him - Seth, I will see him! (Rises, down a few steps.) I will go to him and tell him that he must let father be freed! (She turns back to Seth.) He can be home when the candles are lighted.

SETH: (Rises) Miriam, you must think of what you are about to do!

MIRIAM: But you said that Herod alone can save him. Then it is to him that I must go!

SETH: He will not listen to you, Miriam.

MIRIAM: But he will! I shall stay until he does!

SETH: You must not go alone, Miriam.

MIRIAM: I shall not be late.

SETH: I have heard tales of the court of Herod. You can not go alone. Wherever you go, I shall be with you.

MIRIAM: No.

SETH: I have the right to protect you, as your brother.

MIRIAM: But your master will wonder why you do not come to the Synagogue.

SETH: Then stay, Miriam. Your mission will be in vain. If it were any king but Herod--

MIRIAM: (Sits on steps, turned away from Seth) Will there ever be another king, Seth?

SETH: Yes, Herod's son.

MIRIAM: But the prophecies - surely they will come to pass. (turns to Seth)

SETH: Many years have gone by since the prophets lived. It may be long before those things shall be fulfilled. Come, walk with me up the hill. (He takes her hand)

MIRIAM: (drawing away her hand) I go to Herod.

SETH: You shall not see him.

MIRIAM: I will see him, else I will not return. I cannot watch my mother light the candles for the Feast and know that I have done nothing.

SETH: Then let us be on our way. (Starts R)

MIRIAM: (Runs after him, lays her hand on his shoulder) You are kind to me Seth;

SETH: (smiles at her) Leave the water jar at home. I shall be waiting for you down the road.

MIRIAM: I will come.

(Seth goes out R. Miriam looks after him a moment, then turns and runs to the well, takes her jar, and runs out L. Leah enters, goes to well, fills jar, steps on top step and curtain closes.)

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SONG: Awake, Thou Spirit of the Watchmen

## Scene 2

The roof garden of Herod's Palace. The red and white marble railing of the garden is seen ~~across~~ the back, and at C. back are steps leading up to a low platform where Herod often stands looking out over Jerusalem. Vines and urns of flowers cover the railing. At the L. of the platform there is a row of pedestals holding ferns, behind which is the bench on which Seth and Miriam sit. At L. and R. downstage are other white marble benches, with rich rugs thrown over them. It is early afternoon on the same day.

(At rise Judith stands on the steps at back, looking out over the audience. She and Tabbath, the priest, are in the middle of a conversation. Tabbath stands at L. facing Judith, upstage.)

TABBATH: What is your answer, Judith? (He turns and takes a few steps down L.) You cannot keep it longer.

JUDITH: I have told you. (She takes a few steps down R.) Why do you ask again?

TABBATH: You know why.

JUDITH: I shall not consent to marriage with such a man. (She turns away.)

TABBATH: (Taking a step toward her.) You would be queen, Judith. He would give you the emeralds for your ears--emeralds worth more than all the wealth of Jerusalem. And your slaves would be without number--

JUDITH: (Turning quickly) Tabbath, have you seen the emeralds?

TABBATH: Yes, they are like balls of green fire.

JUDITH: No, they are the eyes of a devil. bewitching men, driving them to robbery and murder. There is wickedness in their beauty.

TABBATH: You are fanciful, Judith. (Crosses down L. to back of bench.)

JUDITH: (Taking a few steps away.) Mariamne wore the emeralds. I saw her many times. (To him.) Do you think that I would wear the jewels of a murdered queen?

TABBATH: You must not speak so, Judith.

JUDITH: (Crosses to him.) No one can hear what is said in the roof garden. And you think as I do, Tabbath. Herod is mad. The day that Mariamne was led through the streets to her death anything

that was fine or good died in the king. He was frenzied, but the queen was as calm and quiet as if she walked for pleasure, looking neither to the left nor to the right when the multitude pressed forward. (She faces front thinking aloud.) Her mother Alexandra, stepped out and smote the queen in the face. A gasp of horror went up from the crowd, but Mariamne did not turn. You remember his wild repentance, his terrible anger at the executioners who carried out his order. You have heard him calling her, thinking he sees her.

TABBATH: It was the most horrible deed in all these years of crime. Then it was Alexandra who turned Herod against his family, made him fear that some one of them might seize his power. Now it is the sister, Salome, who counsels him. It is but a few days since he caused Antipater, his son, to be put in chains. Perhaps his death will be added to that of the other two sons. He is a beast!

JUDITH: Yet you would ask me to take the queen's place, wear her jewels command her slaves. (Walks down and sits on bench L. Looks up at Tabbath.) You cannot understand much of a woman's heart, Tabbath.

TABBATH: I understand only the fate of Judea. You have said Herod is mad. He is ill, too, and knowing that he has but a few months to live, he is desperate, more determined than ever in his cruelty.

JUDITH: I could do nothing to hinder him.

TABBATH: You could do much. Your refusal has greatly angered him, and his wrath descends on the heads of the innocent ones. (pause.) He goes around upstage end of bench, stands R. of Judith.) I fear that all will not be well with you unless you consent.

JUDITH: I also have thought about that. Each night when the stars come out I look up to them, and wonder what is written there for me. Sometimes I sit until dawn, trying to read them. I love the stars. They are so friendly and so near to me. Have you seen the new star, Tabbath--the clear, white one that has shone for many nights?

TABBATH: (Turns away R.) There is no new star, Judith. You have sat at your window until you slept and dreamed.

JUDITH: No, Tabbath. It is of such a size that the other stars are like the point of a needle in the sky. (Rises, facing front.) It seems to beckon to me. If I were free, I should go wherever it pointed the way.

(Hillel ready.)

TABBATH: There is no freedom for you. Judith.

JUDITH: No. There is nothing to see in the years ahead, nothing in the past, but dancing-dancing. I loved it when I was a child. I danced to the rhythm of the winds on the hills, when the lambs

of the flock played with me. I think my life ended the day that Salome rode by, and seeing me dancing bade my father bring me to the court. (She turns away from Tabbath.)

TABBATH: Salome was obeyed then, even as now.---Someone comes up the stairs. Think well of what I have said, and remember that it would not be for long.

JUDITH: (Starting out upper R.) I shall think of it.

(Shamman enters down L. Judith turns and bows to him, then goes out U.R. When she has gone, Shamman speaks.)

SHAMMAN: You have spoken with her?

TABBATH: Yes.

SHAMMAN: She will not agree?

TABBATH: (Shrugging.) Judith is a good woman.

SHAMMAN: (Sneering.) And you did not urge her? You are a fool, Tabbath--a soft-hearted fool! (Tabbath turns away and goes to railing, standing U.L.) No doubt you have told her of our plans, our hopes---(He follows Tabbath and stands at U.R.)

TABBATH: (Facing him.) No, Shamman. You are not fair to me. I spoke as you told me, telling her of the riches that would be hers. But she cares not for them. Then I told of Antipater, thinking to move her to pity, but that too was in vain. She has a strong will.

SHAMMAN: I myself shall speak with her.

TABBATH: I fear it will not help you. Think, Shamman--is there no other way to accomplish our end?

SHAMMAN: You know the state of Herod's mind--suspicion, hate toward all his family. Even the favored one is now imprisoned.

TABBATH: An envoy has been dispatched to Rome for permission to put him to death.

SHAMMAN: (Toward Tabbath) His death must not come to pass, Tabbath. When the envoy returns, Antipater must be restored to Herod's favor and the will changed to give him succession to the throne.

TABBATH: The will is altered daily as the king's suspicions shift from one to the other.

(Salome ready)

SHAMMAN: (Pause) Judith must do it.

TABBATH: I fear you must reckon without her.

SHAMMAN: (Angrily.) Who is she to disobey the wish of Shamman high priest? A dancer, child of a temple shepherd! It is not to be borne! (Goes quickly U.R.) Where is she? Let me find her!

SALOME: (Who has entered D.L. on this speech. She speaks scornfully.) You are truly regal in your anger, Shamman. Who is she who dares oppose you?

SHAMMAN: (Taken aback.) Ah, Salome--I did not hear you approaching. (He comes down R. a little.)

SALOME: (Crossing down C.) No, your blustering is noisy, but answer me, Shamman, who is she whom you seek?

SHAMMAN: (Slyly.) Only a child, a shepherd's daughter, who has displeased me.

SALOME: Is not the dignity of a priest above displeasure at the pranks of children?

SHAMMAN: Yes, it is so. (Hoping she will drop it.)

SALOME: You have not told me what the child has done.

SHAMMAN: You have a great interest in her, Salome.

SALOME: (Crossing, sits on bench R. facing Shamman who is R. of her.) Come to the point. What are you concealing from me?

SHAMMAN: Nothing but what is none of your affair.

SALOME: (Slowly) You have courage to taunt me.

SHAMMAN: I have kept my head so long that I am become brave.

SALOME: So! That can be easily remedied. The pool is waiting where Aristobulus was drowned, and the street where Mariamne walked is still in Jerusalem. Herod has not forgotten them.

SHAMMAN: Ah, but other kings, perchance, will not remember.

SALOME: (After a pause, during which she and Shamman stare at each other) I tell you truly, Shamman, if you are planning some intrigue it will never be carried out--without me. (Pause, she leans toward him) What is it?

SHAMMAN: I have told you, Salome--it is nothing.

SALOME: (Craftily.) If it is for the good of Judea, I will help you. What do you say to that?

SHAMMAN: I will answer thus (He sits beside her.) You have lived so long in suspicion that a word dropped is enough to send one to the executioner. Even to your friends you are not a friend. When I scheme, Salome, it will not be with you as a fellow-schemer.

SALOME: (Rises) I have offered to help, and you have turned me away I shall not forget. (Around to back of bench on up-stage side, leaning over to Shamman.) And don't you forget this, Shamman, Hyrcanus was a high priest, but he is no more. I shall watch you and have spies to follow you.

SHAMMAN: You are benevolent, Salome.

SALOME: (Crossing to other side of bench, upstage.) Go, Shamman. And you also Tabbath. (Tabbath comes down C. at L.) I have thoughts that demand my attention.

(Herod ready)

SHAMMAN: Then we shall leave you. (Crossing to L.C.) What do you say, Tabbath? Shall we go now to find the dancing girl?

TABBATH: Yes, Shamman.

SHAMMAN: (Turns to Salome) If you desire to send your spies, Salome, we shall be in the garden beside the bathing pool.

SALOME: (Sneering.) You are very kind, Shamman. (Shamman and Tabbath go out D.L.)

(Salome starts after them, hesitates, then turns slowly and sits on bench R., facing upstage. Herod enters U.L. He goes to C., sees Salome.)

HEROD: Ah, Salome! You too have sought the roof. (She does not answer, being absorbed in her thoughts. He looks at her a moment, then hobbles to the railing at back and up on the platform. He turns, looking out over Jerusalem, and makes a mocking bow with hands spread wide apart) Jerusalem! Mine! (Chuckling.) Have you seen, Salome, how the Jews look with hatred upon the golden eagle above the temple door? The swine would tear it down if they had the courage. But they dare not. I placed it there. They call me the half-Jew! (Laughs.) The Jew in me built the temple, the Arab defied them in the golden eagle.

SALOME: (Who has listened to only the last line.) Yes, you are clever, lord--clever! (Sneering.) Yet under your very eyes a new king will ascend the throne of Judea.

HEROD: (A step toward her.) What do you mean, Salome?

SALOME: Let me ask you this. Why should you, who have slain hundreds on your own authority, wait for a word from Caesar Augustus before putting Antipater to death?

HEROD: You know well that the whole future of the kingdom rests with Caesar. Let me displease him again, and there will be no need to wonder who shall be king.

SALOME: (With great satisfaction.) You fear Caesar, lord. You who bow down to no man.

HEROD: You will anger me, woman. I have listened to you much, but here you are wrong. (Folds his arms, crosses L.) Caesar has respect for me.

SALOME: (Rising.) Have you forgotten his words? "I would rather be one of Herod's swine than one of his sons."

HEROD: (Angrily.) Silence! (Turns angrily to her.) Hold your tongue! You will bring the pain upon me, and my anger on you.

SALOME: You can not afford to be angry with me, Lord. I have tidings for you.

HEROD: (Sitting on bench L.) Speak then, woman. I am weary.

SALOME: (Laughs insolently.) Your weariness will leave you at my news.

HEROD: Come, speak.

SALOME: (Turning away.) No, I shall wait. Maybe with time my news will grow greater. (To him.) But I have other tidings for you. This morning at the third hour I walked in the garden by the wall. Many were passing in the street outside, and I heard their voices in excited speech. (She is at L.C.)

HEROD: What did they say?

SALOME: They told, one to another, a tale of three wise men--the Magi--who have followed a star out of the East. For many nights the star has shone, leading the Magi each from his own country to the gates of Damascus. There they met, and since have journeyed on together. Now they are come to Jerusalem, asking of everyone, "where is he who is born King of the Jews?"

HEROD: (Astonished.) King? But am I not king of the Jews?

SALOME: A babe it is whom they seek, a new-born king.

HEROD: There shall be no king but Herod in Judea! (Rises.) Fools!

SALOME: You are the fool.

HEROD: (Turning to her.) You dare call me fool?

SALOME: If you would listen to me you would soon see.

HEROD: (Away from her.) Speak.

SALOME: You have heard tales of the Magi, from Persia, Assyria, Media. They belong to the religion of Zoroaster, worshipping God in the rising sun. But they read the stars, also, and their great wisdom is sought by many kings. Each of the three knew of the new King's birth. One heard nothing of the others until they reached the Gates of Damascus, yet they are seeking the same babe.



HEROD: (To her) Do you think they have read the stars truly?

SALOME; Without a doubt. Maybe they will come to you, asking if you have heard of the new King. Let them go upon their way and find him.

(Judith and Slave ready)

HEROD: Yes, yes, that would be best. (He sits on bench L. Salome turns away, laughing.) Keep your laughter to yourself! Do you think I shall let a new king live, one so great that a star tells of his coming? One whom the Magi themselves travel far to see? I shall kill him! I shall kill every male babe in Judea--yes, every one! (Working himself up into a passion) Do you hear Salome? Every male child in Judea shall die. I shall be king--- (He stops, swaying.) Ah--the pain--the pain---(He sits. Salome is calmly watching him.) Salome--can you--do nothing---

SALOME: (Coolly.) Nothing.

HEROD: Mariamne--could help me. (He bows his head in his hands.)  
Mariamne!

SALOME: (In a very matter-of-fact-tone.) Would you have Judith dance for you?

HEROD: Yes, call her. Call her.

(Salome strikes the gong. Judith enters, followed by a slave. She runs to Herod and bows. The slave remains at U.R. where they entered.)

JUDITH: Master!

HEROD: The pain is upon me, Judith.

JUDITH: (Kneeling before him.) I grieve for you, my master.

HEROD: But not as I would have you grieve. I don't need your pity Judith, but your loyalty to me alone.

JUDITH: (Withdrawing U.C.) Let me dance for you.

HEROD: (Angrily.) You won't listen to me. You--

SALOME: (Crossing D.R. to behind bench.) Your pain will grow greater with your anger. (She is simply stating a fact.)

HEROD: (Wearily.) Yes, it is so. Dance, Judith. (She crosses to slave and indicates which dance, and returns to center. The slave plays on his instrument, and Judith dances. After a while Herod speaks. Judith is in front of him.) No more. I have grown tired. What was your dance?

JUDITH: The Garden of Nuts.

HEROD: The pain has gone. You must dance for me always, Judith.

SALOME: You are in a strangely touching mood, lord. Go, Judith.

JUDITH: (Bows, starts U.R. turns.) Master, may I speak?

HEROD: Quickly then

(Seth and Miriam ready.)

JUDITH: In the room below wait a boy and his sister who would like to see you. May I bring them in?

HEROD: You know, Judith, that I do not hold converse with common scum.

JUDITH: Yes, Master.

SALOME: Send them away.

HEROD: (Rising.) No, bring them here. I may still command my own household. Bring them to me!

(Judith bows and goes out R. Herod glares at Salome, who shrugs and goes down R. Herod moves up to upper L.C. at the same time. Judith re-enters with the children after a moment. Judith goes to U.C. bows.)

JUDITH: Here they are, Master.

HEROD: You may go, Judith. (He stands with arms folded.) Why have you come to me? Is it said in Jerusalem that the palace is a playground for children?

MIRIAM: (Frightened.) No, O king! (She goes to R.U.C. Seth behind her) We dared come to you because our father is in great trouble.

HEROD: So?

MIRIAM: You have cast him into prison, saying that his taxes have not been paid. Yet the priests at the temple could tell you that all has been done as it should be.

HEROD: You come here to instruct me in the ways of justice?

MIRIAM: (Back a little.) You are angry with me. (Turning to Seth) Seth said that it would be so. (Back to Herod.) But today is the first day of the Feast of Lights, and my mother's heart is heavy as she goes about preparing for it. I should rather brave your anger than know that I had done nothing to help her. Father is only one among so many, and the charge against him is unjust. Can you not set him free, O king?

HEROD: (Pleased with her.) And what will you give in exchange for his freedom?

MIRIAM: I have nothing to give.

HEROD: I like your courage and your ready tongue. Stay here in the palace and your father shall be freed.

SETH: (A step forward.) The freedom of no man is worth such a price.

HEROD: (To Seth.) Are you her brother?

SETH: Yes.

HEROD: (Laughs.) (To Miriam.) He is your protector against the wickedness of the world?

MIRIAM: Yes, (she takes his hand.) and I must go back with him to our home, mother will be thinking I have tarried on the way.

HEROD: (Displeased.) Did your mother send you here?

MIRIAM: I have come of my own will. She sent me to the great oven with the loaves, not knowing that I should come to you. Can you not find it in your heart, O King, to grant my prayer?

SALOME: Heart! His heart is dead.

HEROD: (Crossing D.R. angrily) Silence, woman. You have tried me enough today! (To Miriam, who with Seth has come to L.C.) Do not be afraid child. I am not angry with you. At the ninth hour, your father will be brought to you. Will you wait here till he comes?

MIRIAM: We shall wait.

HEROD: (Laughing at his own joke.) Yes, he shall be brought to you! And he will be as you have never seen him before!

MIRIAM: Truly you are good, O King! I thank you.

SETH: And I, too, thank you.

HEROD: (Laughing.) Yes, you shall see him! The soldiers will bring him to you---

SALOME: (Angily, turning.) You are amusing yourself, lord. Have you no sense as to the fitness of your humor?

HEROD: (Laughing.) I have granted her prayer.

SALOME: In your own way, yes. (Crosses to him.) But I know you, Lord, and I know how the child shall see her father. I have seen so many others. And I say to you now, that if you do this thing you are a vile beast!

HEROD: (Laughing) Your heart is alive, Salome, if mine is dead.

SALOME: I cannot hinder you, but I call you a coward and a thief.  
(She starts out D.L.) The palace a playground for children!  
(Turns at door.) Yes, and a trysting place for fools!  
(She goes out.)

(Herod looks after her and laughs. Miriam clings  
to Seth, frightened.)

HEROD: Do not be afraid, child. Your father will be sent to you.  
Come, slave, help me below.

(The slave crosses to him, and Herod leans on him  
as they go out D.L.)

CURTAIN

## ACT II

Scene same as Act I, Scene 2. Later in the afternoon.  
 (At rise Miriam sits on one of the steps at the back,  
 leaning against the railing. Seth stands at her L.  
 There is a pause.)

MIRIAM: Do you hear them coming, Seth?

SETH: I thought I heard a step on the stairs. Perhaps it was only a  
 slave passing below.

MIRIAM:  
 It is past the ninth hour.

(Herod ready)

SETH: Yes, it will soon be sunset.

MIRIAM:  
 If they do not come now, Father will not be home in time for the lighting  
 of the candles.

SETH: We must not despair yet, Miriam. (He sits beside her.)

MIRIAM: I am tired, Seth, and it will grow cold here when the sun has  
 gone.

SETH: Listen, Miriam.

HEROD: (Outside, at lower L.) Here is the stair. It grows dark.

MIRIAM: He is coming!

SETH: Hush!

(Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar ready)

HEROD: Come, friends. From the roof we shall observe the whole  
 Judean skies.

SETH: He is not alone. Come, Miriam, let us sit together here in the  
 shadows. (He leads her to the bench behind the ferns. U.L.) He may  
 not look this way. Be very quiet. (Sits beside Miriam.)

HEROD: (Entering L. with the Magi.) Your request is granted, O Magi.  
 We have come where the stars will soon lie around us.

GASPAR: (Following Herod.) Even now the stars are in the sky, but the  
 eyes of man cannot see them.

(Herod is a little R. of C. downstage, Gaspar facing  
 him at L. Melchior and Balthasar together a little  
 farther L.)

HEROD: That is your belief?

GASPAR: It is truth.

HEROD: But you must wait until the sun has gone before you can read the sky.

MELCHIOR: The star we seek is shining for us now.

HEROD: Do you see it, even in the light of day?

MELCHIOR: Yes, though it is faint and far away.

HEROD: Show me, then--is that it, hanging below the white cloud?  
(Points out R.)

MELCHIOR: No. (Points almost over them) It lies almost over us, but a little ahead, that we may see its light and be led by it.

HEROD: (Crossing down R. to end of bench.) I see nothing.

BALTHASAR: It is given to few to see.

HEROD: (Turning.) But you say it has led you out of the East. Tell me of your journey.

BALTHASAR: Many months ago I walked in a garden beside a king, reading his future in the stars. Suddenly the Star appeared to me, so radiantly shining that I knew at once, it was the fulfilment of the prophecy. I arose and followed it, out of Assyria, across the Syrian desert, and up to Damascus.

GASPAR: Out of Media I have come, following the Star.

MELCHIOR: And I from Persia.

GASPAR: From the gate of Damascus we travelled the old Pilgrim's route, keeping the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan on our west until we crossed the ford near Jericho. Now we have come to Jerusalem, the royal city of King's. Can you tell us, where is He who is born King of the Jews?

HEROD: I am king of the Jews. I do not have a new son.

BALTHASAR: It is not you whom we seek. The prophecy has come to pass. "A star shall rise out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall spring up out of Israel."

GASPAR: The Lord Himself has promised to send a sign. "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel."

HEROD: And do you think this star that has risen is the star of the prophecy? Do you come to seek the son of a virgin?

MELCHIOR: Yes. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; to them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of death, light is risen."

HEROD: Why have you come to seek the new King?

MELCHIOR: That we may worship Him.

GASPAR: This child is no ordinary King. The fate of all nations and all peoples is in His hands. In Him all men shall find peace.

HEROD: Do you mean that I, too, must kneel to Him?

MELCHIOR: If you are wise, you will lay your crown and scepter at His feet. Before Him we are nothing.

HEROD: The prophecies may not be fulfilled for many generations. I see no star in the sky. I have only your word that it is there.

GASPAR: Those who see are humble and pure of heart.

HEROD: (Cunningly.) Perhaps I look too far to the left or to the right. (Crossing farther R) Let me see again. (He looks up.) Ah, there it is! There it is, white and shining, pointing a little ahead of me. (Turning to the Wise Men, who are silent and unimpressed.) Tell me, when did this star appear to you?

BALTHASAR: Our journey has been long, through a winter and a summer, and back into winter again.

HEROD: Yes, then the star has been in the heavens a long time. Go now into the streets and find the new King. And when you have found Him, return to me, that I may come and worship Him also.

GASPAR: Thou shalt adore Him?

HEROD: Yes, I shall adore Him. (The Magi give him a long look. Then they turn slowly and go out as they came. When they are gone, Herod crosses to upper R.C.) Shamman! (Pause.) Shamman!

SHAMMAN: (Entering U.R.) I am come.

HEROD: You were near, Shamman - perhaps hearing what passed?

SHAMMAN: No, I was on my way to you with tidings.

HEROD: (Turning downstage, goes to bench R.) Keep your tidings. What do you know of the Lord Emmanuel, He who is to be born King of the Jews? (He sits on upstage end of bench.)

SHAMMAN: (Who has come down with Herod and sits on downstage end of bench.) I know nothing of Him.

HEROD: (Angrily.) You know what has been said in the streets. These men, the Magi, have gone from house to house, asking all whom they met if they could tell them of the new King. What have you heard?

SHAMMAN: Only what you have told, nothing more.

HEROD: The child is born here in the city.

SHAMMAN: Yet we have heard nothing of Him. If a child were to be born who would some day be so great that he would rule the world, would not everyone know of it? The word of His birth would be shouted in the streets and carried over all the country. Kings are not received in a lowly way.

HEROD: (Rises, crosses D.L.) The journey of the Magi must not be forgotten. They have come from distant lands, to worship a child. (Turns back to Shamman.)

SHAMMAN: (Rises.) But if a King of Kings were to be born, there would be great signs and wonders in the heavens. It would be made known to the men of Judea.

HEROD: Yes, and yet, I must be certain. (Crosses to Shamman.) Call the Sanhedrin together. I will meet them in the temple, and I will compel them to tell me all they know of the King. Go, Shamman! (Shamman goes out U.R. Herod stands a moment. To himself.) Yes, we shall find him, else there will be a new Sanhedrin to advise me. (Thinking) If the star shone first on the day of his birth, he is not more than two years old. (Pause.) I shall do it. Every male babe in Judea shall be put to death. Surely the king will be among them. Yes. (Seth and Miriam rise and come slowly downstage at L. until they are about C., Miriam ahead. She seems to be almost hypnotized by Herod. He looks up at the sun.) It is far past the ninth hour. The soldiers tarry on their way. They think to whet my appetite for the little scene. But I must not be impatient. I have the child. (He laughs, starts toward L. Stops suddenly, seeing a vision. He faces front.) Mariamne! (Draws back.) Mariamne! Ah, do not reproach me. I am old and ill. I do not have you to comfort me. I shall not harm her. - Stay with me and she shall go. Stay my beloved! (As if she is going.) Mariamne! Do not leave me! (A step toward her.) Mariamne! (She is gone. He drops back, turns a little to L. and sees Miriam.) Come here, child. (Miriam does not move.) Come! Quickly, come. (Miriam comes slowly toward hem. Seth follows her. Herod to Seth.) Take yourself away. I have no desire to have you here.

SETH: If it is your pleasure, O King, I stay with Miriam. (He crosses to above Miriam, beside Herod.)

HEROD: (Angrily.) What do you say? My pleasure? (He strikes Seth, who staggers and falls against the seat at the back. Miriam is frightened.) (Laughs.) I shall not die! No, I will show myself unto my people, and they will say among themselves, "Behold, our king has found his youth again!" I will build roads and temples, and the Jews will forget that I have been a hard master. Herod, the Great, the Good! (Stops suddenly, thinking.) Yes, there must be no other kings before me. (To Miriam.) Look into the sky child, and tell me if you can see a star - a white star,

(Slave ready.)

MIRIAM: For days I have seen this new star in the heavens, it is shining even now.



HEROD: So, (To himself,) It is also seen by the Magi. I am greater than they, yet I see nothing. (He strikes the gong, and the Slave enters, U.R. bowing.) Have the Sanhedrian been called together in the temple?

SLAVE: Yes, Master. They wait for you.

HEROD: (Crossing to Miriam, who is L.C.) Stay here, child. Very soon I shall return. (He smiles and turns to go. The slave offers to help him.) Stand back, Slave! Can't you see I have found my youth again?

SLAVE: (Bowing.) There is no king like Herod.

(Herod exits U.R. followed by the slave)

MIRIAM: (Running to Seth.) Seth, are you hurt?

SETH: No, he did not harm me. (He rises.)

MIRIAM: I am in fear of him. He will not let me go. And where is Father?

SETH: I think Miriam, that we should be glad we have not seen him.

MIRIAM: What do you mean?

SETH: I fear to tell you.

MIRIAM: No, speak.

SETH: It is Herod's plan that we should see father - dead.

MIRIAM: It must not be! (Runs to U.R. then crossing down to above R. bench) It is all wrong. I wanted to have mother happy on our Feast day, but I will only bring her more sorrow.

SETH: (Crosses L. to door, listens.) It is quiet below. No one moves about. (Crosses to C.) We might be able to slip away without being seen.

(Judith ready)

MIRIAM: (Crossing to him.) Seth! Someone is down there.

SETH: She is coming stealthily, listening. (He is looking out.) It is the dancing girl!

MIRIAM: (Starting upstage.) Shall we hide ourselves again?

SETH: No. Perhaps she would speak with us.

(They stand above the door L. Miriam upstage.)

JUDITH: (Enters quickly, looking behind her.) Here you are. I only have a little while. Herod may return at any time. You are young,

JUDITH: (Cont.) Miriam, and you, Seth. You cannot know the danger of this hour. For many, many years I have seen...but I must not speak of it. If you do as I direct, you can still escape from Herod

MIRIAM: We will do whatever you ask. But where is father? What has happened to him?

JUDITH: Your father is free, and even now outside of Jerusalem.

MIRIAM: How do you know? (Excited)

JUDITH: I know because it was my hand that unlocked the door.

SETH: How could you--- (Excited.)

JUDITH: It doesn't matter. Before the soldiers knew that he was gone, he and your mother had passed through the Jaffa Gate and out on to the road that leads up to Bethlehem. (Looks out toward the road and then crosses and sits on bench at L.) You must follow. The road is crowded with travellers who go to the City of David to register, and you can pass with them.

SETH: The soldiers will stop them all. Would it not be safer to hide in some deserted cave? There are many on the Bethlehem road.

JUDITH: No, Herod's search will go far and wide.

SETH: He will find us in Bethlehem.

JUDITH: May be. Yet a voice within me urges that you must go there.

MIRIAM: your kindness is great, but Herod has forbidden us to leave the palace. What will your lot be when he finds us gone?

JUDITH: I am a prisoner now. He cannot do more.

MIRIAM: (Kneels beside Judith.) But he will punish you. No, we will not brings his anger upon you.

JUDITH: You must go. And do not think of me at all. You are young. I too am yourn, but my life is over. And your lives are ahead of you.

MIRIAM: We will not leave you.

JUDITH: (Rising, Miriam also.) Take her, Seth. It is three leagues to Bethlehem and the sun is low. Much of your journey must be made by night.

SETH: Come, Miriam. (He takes her hand.)

MIRIAM: I shall never forget your goodness, Judith. May the Almighty be kind to you.

(Trumpeter ready - right of stage.)

JUDITH: The Almighty - He is seldom called upon here - But you must be on your way. Do you know the Bethlehem road?

SETH: I have never travelled it, but I have seen it, winding out from the Jaffa Gate.

JUDITH: (Leading them to the C. front) From here you can see. There is the gate, and the road. You must follow it for three leagues over the hills, until you come to a village lying on a crescent-shaped knoll. (Far away a trumpet sounds. Judith starts. Herod ready.) Herod is returning! He is coming through the covered passage from the temple. You must hurry! (The trumpet sounds again, a little closer.) At the foot of the stairs turn into the dark passage and it will lead you to the outer gate. Say to the guard that it is Herod's wish that you should pass. Go now, quickly!

(Miriam follows Seth to the door, and they hurry down L. Judith turns and walks slowly back toward the railing. The trumpet sounds again close. Herod enters U.R. Judith stops C. back.)

HEROD: (Entering.) Judith!

JUDITH: (Bowing.) Master!

HEROD: Amos has been liberated. Someone unlocked the door and set him free.

JUDITH: Who has done this thing, Master?

HEROD: Do you think I know? Even now the soldiers are searching for Amos and for the one who dares defy the justice of the king. And when they find them, not only my bodyguard but every man in Jerusalem shall see the reward of a betrayer.

JUDITH: You are terrible in your vengeance.

HEROD: (Pleased.) Yes, my anger is as great as I. And I have had much to arouse me. The Sanhedrin know nothing of the new King--not one of the seventy. (Crossing to end of R. bench, turns to her.) But I will find him.

JUDITH: A babe could not harm you.

HEROD: You have not heard the Magi speak of Him. If they come from far lands to adore an infant in swaddling clothes, how will they praise Him when He has grown to manhood? The King of kings, they call Him. I shall honor no king but Caesar. He only is greater than I. (He waits a moment. Then angrily.) Speak, Judith.

JUDITH: (Mechanically.) There is no king but Herod.

HEROD: Yes, I shall destroy this new King. I will find Amos and the one who set him free. (Crosses U.L.) Miriam, where are you. (Turns to Judith.) Is she not here?

JUDITH: No, my master.

HEROD: What? I desired her to await me. She must learn to obey.  
 (He crosses U.R. and strikes the gong angrily. The slave enters.)  
 Find the child Miriam and bring her to me. (The slave bows again  
 and goes out. Herod turns and looks at Judith, who stands D.C.  
 looking out over Jerusalem.) What do you see, Judith?

JUDITH: Only the travellers, moving out over the Bethlehem road.

(Slave ready.)

HEROD: They grumble over Caesar's tax, but every family makes haste to register. That is the way to rule an empire. And yet they cannot say that I am not a good king. Jerusalem, Damascus, Samaria, all have been made beautiful under my hand. In a thousand years the world will still look upon them and say, "A great king indeed was Herod." (The slave has entered U.R.) Well, Slave, where is she?

SLAVE: She is not to be found, O my master.

HEROD: What do you say?

SLAVE: She is not within the palace.

HEROD: Your eyes are blind! Get away from here. (He strikes the Slave.)

SLAVE: Master--

HEROD: Silence! (He strikes him again. The Slave falls.) Get up!  
 (The slave tries to rise but falls again.) If your bones are broken, take yourself away until they mend! (He goes out.)  
 Miriam! (He is gone at U.R.)

JUDITH: (Going to Slave.) Are you hurt badly?

SLAVE: Yes, but he will return. I must be gone.

JUDITH: Let me help you.

SLAVE: No, he would be angry with you. (Slave goes slowly out. Judith watches him.)

JUDITH: (Crosses to end of bench L.) Thou art there, my star, so bright tonight. Oh, that I might follow thee over the hills! Thou art pointing the way toward Bethlehem. That is why I sent Seth and Miriam that way, but I could not tell them. I know thy message. Thou art the one good thing in a wicked world--a promise of peace. I cannot speak what is in my heart. May I dance for thee? And if thou canst see the little King of kings, wilt thou tell Him that I am dancing--for Him? (She dances while the choir hums, Lo, How a Rose. The trumpet sounds.. She stops dancing, frightened.) He is coming! I must say farewell to thee now. I shall not be here tomorrow night. Hildreth saw me when I sent Miriam and Seth away and he must save himself. But I am not sad--I am happy. (She stands still, looking up at the star. She is C.L.)

(Soldiers ready. Herod enters U.R. followed by Shamman. He goes straight to Judith.)

HEROD: So it was you. You, who unlocked the door, you who chose the one moment that Miriam might slip out unnoticed! But you were not careful enough. Hildreth saw you. He is loyal to me. You are the betrayer! (She has turned to him, but does not speak. He catches her shoulders.) Speak! Within the hour your lips will be sealed forever! (He waits. She is silent. Her silence infuriates him.) Her very presence drove away the pain! You have sent her away, and I am old, and worn, and the consuming fire is upon me again. You have done this, and you shall not be spared!

SHAMMAN: (Frightened, crosses to him) Nay, O king! Let her be spared. She will be to you what Mariamne was, and you shall forget your pain.

HEROD: Mariamne! I see her! You have called her to me! Go Shamman--go! (Shamman goes U.R.C. stands watching. Herod speaks to Mariamne) No, you cannot stop me now. She shall walk the street you walked, and she shall lie beside you! Hildreth! (Hildreth and Malchus enter, spears in hand, in full armor, while choir hums first verse of "Whate'er our God!") They stand stiffly, about L.C. downstage, having entered at L. Hildreth upstage and a little ahead of Malchus. They look straight at Herod. Judith turns her head and looks at them. Then she slowly begins to walk toward them. When she is in front of Hildreth she slowly raises her head and looks at him. He makes a movement toward her, then seeing Herod's eyes upon him' he checks it. Judith goes slowly out, passing between the soldiers. When she is at the door Hildreth turns and follows her, then Malchus. Herod watches them go. When the door closes he makes a movement toward it.) Judith! (Turns front.) And Mariamne gone! (He staggers to the bench L. and sits looking around him, dazed. Then he drops his head.)

CURTAIN

Song: Whate're our God.

## ACT III - Scene I.

A field beside the road to Bethlehem. Low rolling hills are in the background, and a campfire is at the R. downstage. Several blankets lie around it. It is early evening of the same day.

(At rise Benhesed stands at L.C. looking off L., leaning on his staff. Enos enters R. with his arms filled with sticks which he throws beside the fire. After a moment Jonathan enters L., coming from the sheep.)

BENHESED: There are a few scurrying clouds tonight. Perhaps we should not have bedded the sheep in the open.

JONATHAN: (At L.) There is no shelter nearer than the chalk caves of Bethlehem. And the night is mild, Benhesed, though it is still the middle of winter.

BENHESED: Yes, it is warm now, Jonathan, but by midnight you shall be glad for your sheepskin coat. There will be a chill wind sweeping down from the mountains of Moab.

JONATHAN: And another moving in from the desert. We shall have to take care of the young lambs. (Crossing to fire, which Enos is stirring.) That is good, Enos-make the fire burn brightly.

ENOS: I shall watch it all night, Jonathan. I cannot yet be trusted with the sheep, but I can keep the fire burning to frighten the wolves and the jackals.

JONATHAN: You must sleep, Enos. You are tired from the day on the hills.

ENOS: I am not sleepy yet.

(Nathaniel ready)

JONATHAN: (Shaking his head, kindly.) Your eyes are drooping shut. Wrap yourself in your blanket, and you can lie down and watch the fire.

ENOS: (Hesitating.) But-I might not stay awake. Haven't you seen, Jonathan, how Benhesed never sleeps when the sheep are in need of Him? He is a good shepherd. I want to be like him.

JONATHAN: Do you hear that, Benhesed?

BENHESED: Yes: But the flock does not need you now, Enos. Lie down and take a rest. Soon I shall do likewise.

ENOS: Very well, Benhesed. (Listening.) Someone comes, Ah, it is Nathaniel. (He wraps himself in his blanket and lies down by the fire, upstage side.)

NATHANIEL: (Entering R.) The lambs are restless tonight, Benhesed, and yet there is no storm approaching. (Comes down on R. of fire.)

JONATHAN: It was hard to keep them together when we drove them in. But I see nothing to disturb them.

BENHESED: They behold what is hidden to our eyes. The heavens may be filled with wondrous things that are not for the eyes of men.

NATHANIEL: (Laughs.) It is more likely that a wolf lurks behind a hill.

BENHESED: It may be so.

NATHANIEL: We are holding the sheep here late, Benhesed. Don't you think we should move to the lowlands for the winter grazing?

BENHESED: The rains have given us green pastures. We would do well to wait until it grows cold.

(Simon, Amos, Sarah, Crowd ready)

NATHANIEL: Yes, that would be best.

JONATHAN: What did you say, Nathaniel-shall I take the first watch?

NATHANIEL: If it please you. All is quiet now, but the night is young. Will you rest also, Benhesed? (He puts on his sheepskin and lies down.)

BENHESED: No, I am disturbed about the lambs. All is not well with them. (He turns back to L.)

NATHANIEL: (Lying down R. of fire.) Waken me for the second watch, Jonathan.

JONATHAN: Yes. (He turns and walks upstage, C., looking off L.)

(Simon enters, crowd after him. He sees Jonathan and crosses to him from L. upstage where he entered.)

SIMON: Hail, shepherd.

JONATHAN: Hail, traveller.

SIMON: Can you tell me-is this the Bethlehem road?

JONATHAN: Yes, this is the Bethlehem road.

SIMON: It is well. I feared that we had lost our way.

JONATHAN: Have you journeyed far?

SIMON: From the shores of the Dead Sea. Is the way too long for us to finish it tonight?

JONATHAN: It will take little more than an hour's time. The village lies on the crest of the hill yonder. (He points R.)

SIMON: I am thankful to you, shepherd. (Turning to people.) Come, this is the road to Bethlehem. (They cross the stage and go out R.)

SARAH: (As they cross behind the others.) The crowd moves so slowly, Amos. Could we not leave them and go back for Miriam and Seth?

AMOS: No, Sarah. It is safer to travel thus. You have not forgotten how the dancing girl warned us to draw no attention to ourselves.

SARAH: You are right, my dear.

AMOS: Perhaps they also follow a leader, as we do Simon.

SARAH: In Bethlehem we shall find them. (They go on out R.)

JONATHAN: Did you hear, Benhessed? Strangers from the shores of the Dead Sea on their way to Bethlehem. A far journey.

(Joseph and Mary ready)

BENHESSED: True, Jonathan. The world grows smaller. (He turns to Jonathan, who has come downstage a little.) Yet this sloping field under the stars is world enough for me.

JONATHAN: I have seen many travellers on the road today, but always I was too far away to speak with them. Do you know why they travel to Bethlehem?

BENHESSED: I do not know, unless it be in answer to some order of Herod.

JONATHAN: (Impatiently) Herod! Yes.

BENHESSED: He has little to do with us. You think the life of a shepherd a narrow one, Jonathan, and sometimes you are discontented. But it has its blessings also.

JONATHAN: You speak wisely.

(Joseph and Mary enter L. upstage.)

JOSEPH: Hail, friends. Will you tell us if we follow the Bethlehem road?

JONATHAN: Yes, but if I may ask you, why do you travel this way?

JOSEPH: We go since the decree of Caesar Augustus has gone forth.

JONATHAN: And what is that?



JOSEPH: Do you not know, Shepherd?

JONATHAN: All day we follow our flocks while they feed, and at night we guard them. We hear no tidings of what passes in the world beyond our fields.

JOSEPH: Caesar has ordered that all must register for a new tax, each in the city of his fathers. I am of the house of David, so must register in Bethlehem. Four and twenty leagues have we travelled down from Nazareth.

BENHESED: (At L.C.) A weary journey.

JOSEPH: Even from beyond Nazareth some have come.

BENHESED: Bethlehem will be crowded tonight. There will be no room for you in the inn.

JOSEPH: We cannot lie down in the open. We are very weary.

BENHESED: You are welcome to rest by our fire. there is another sheep-skin to cover you.

JOSEPH: You are kind, friend, but we must go on.

MARY: I am very weary, Joseph.

(Seth and Miriam ready.)

JOSEPH: It is well that we finish our journey tonight.

JONATHAN: It is not far. The road ends just over the hills.

JOSEPH: I thank you, shepherd. (As they go out R.) Lean on me Mary. I am not so weary as you.

JONATHAN: We must go up to Bethlehem tomorrow, Benhesed. We also belong to the house of David. (He crosses down to Benhesed.)

(Seth and Miriam enter U.L., very much frightened. They see the shepherds and hesitate. Benhesed moves upstage toward them. Seth advances to him.)

BENHESED: Hail, little strangers. Do you also seek the village of Bethlehem?

SETH: Yes, we would end our journey this night.

BENHESED: You can do so. It is but another hour's walk over the hills.

SETH: (To Miriam) Another hour, Miriam. Shall we rest a little while before we go on?

MIRIAM: No, Seth, the soldiers may be close behind us.

BENHESED: Did you say soldiers?

MIRIAM: Herod's soldiers. they are searching for us. But we must reach Bethlehem that we may find our father and mother. Have you seen them go this way?

BENHESED: There have been many travellers on the road. They also may have passed.

ENOS: (Who has been sitting up since the children entered, points off L.) Look, Benhesed. There is something shining down the road. I can see it in the starlight.

BENHESED: Yes.

(Soldiers ready.)

MIRIAM: (Looking off L.) The soldiers! The soldiers, Seth!

SETH: See how they watch every traveller. They are searching for us!

MIRIAM: (Clinging to him.) I am afraid, Seth!

JONATHAN: (To Seth) Run over to where the sheep are gathered, and stand watching. You will pass for a shepherd. (To miriam.) And you-----

ENOS: (Rising.) Let me throw my blanket over you, and sit here by the fire.

MIRIAM: (Doing so.) Will they not know me?

BENHESED: The light is dim. They cannot see your face.

JONATHAN: Quiet! They come. (He stands up R.)

(Hildreth and Malchus enter L. with spears and armor.)

HILDRETH: They must be somewhere along the way. It is queer that we have not found them.

MALCHUS: (Leering.) I should ask nothing better than to come upon them now. (They both laugh.) Are you certain, Hildreth, that we are on the right road?

HILDRETH: I have often travelled it, returning to Jerusalem. But we shall ask. (To Miriam, poking her with spear.) Ho, shepherd.

BENHESED: (Stepping forward from L.) What is your wish?

HILDRETH: I spoke to your younger brother, the slim one by the fire.

BENHESED: It grows late, and he is sleepy. I shall answer your questions.

MALCHUS: (Laughs) He shall answer! Ask him!

HILDRETH: Have you seen a young maiden and a youth pass here today?

BENHESED: They have not passed by.

MALCHUS: Then say, shepherd, does Bethlehem lie over the hills?

BENHESED: Yes, the city of David.

MALCHUS: (Nodding) Yes. Let us be on our way, Hildreth.

HILDRETH: Wait. Tell us, shepherd - have you seen the sign that proclaims the coming of the new king? (He speaks as if half ashamed of himself for asking.)

BENHESED: I have not seen it, although I know the prophecy.

MALCHUS: (Starting off R.) He knows nothing. Come!

HILDRETH: (Sneering good humoredly, stops and looks at Miriam.) I would speak with the sleepy one by the fire.

MALCHUS: (Impatiently.) Along with you! Our journey is long. We must not waste our time.

(The soldiers go out R. Benhesed looks after them.)

BENHESED: (After a pause.) All is well. They have gone.

SETH: (Coming back.) We can travel more easily now, knowing that the soldiers are ahead.

MIRIAM: (Throwing back the blanket and rising.) I shall not be afraid. Let us go on, Seth.

JONATHAN: Keep well behind them, lest they look back and see you.

SETH: Perhaps we should linger here.

MIRIAM: No, Seth. Come, we shall go slowly.

SETH: Very well. (They start out R. Seth turns back to shepherds.) I thank you, friends.

MIRIAM: And I thank you.

BENHESED: (To Miriam.) I speed you on your journey, and may the Almighty keep you.

(Seth and Miriam go out R.)

JONATHAN: (Turning back to the fire.) They cannot hope to escape Herod.

BENHESED: Even in the crowds at Bethlehem they will be found,

ENOS: What have they done, Benhesed, to be hunted over the country like that?

BENHESED: I don't know, Enos.

JONATHAN: One need do nothing to be an enemy of Herod. (Nathaniel sits up.) Are you waking Nathaniel? It is not time for the second watch.

NATHANIEL: No, but my sleep is not quiet. I have been dreaming.

BENHESED: What, you who does not believe in dreams?

NATHANIEL: (Shrugs.) One need not believe. (Looks L. as he rises) The sheep likewise are restless. See how they lift their heads to listen. (Starting to L.) Ah, a lamb is straying-----

JONATHAN: (Crossing L. quickly.) Stay here Nathaniel. It is my watch.

NATHANIEL: (When he has gone.) The heavens are disturbed tonight, Benhesed. (As Benhesed looks up into the sky.) I do not mean wind or rain. There is nothing to see in the sky. But there is a sence of waiting - watching.

BENHESED: I also feel it, Nathaniel. I wished to bed the sheep in the open, that I might stay out under the stars and watch.

ENOS: Why did the soldiers ask if you had tidings of a new king, Benhesed? Has Herod another son?

BENHESED: No, it is not a son of Herod.

NATHANIEL: What do you mean?

BENHESED: The world has waited long, Nathaniel. If the new king were to be the Messiah, it would be the fulfillment of the prophecy.

NATHANIEL: Ah, but that could not come to pass in our span of life. It would be too great a blessing.

BENHESED: Yes, too great.

ENOS: Tell me again of the prophecy, Benhesed.

BENHESED: The King to come is the Lord Emmanuel. "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough ways plain." "And His Name shall be called Wonderful, Councillor, Mighty God, Father of the World to come."

JONATHAN: (Who has returned and stands L.) "And His Empire shall be multiplied, and there shall be no end of peace."

BENHESED: "And thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, art a little one among the thousands of Juda: Out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel: and His going forth is from the begining, from the days of eternity."

(While they are speaking, the lights dim, and the light comes up on the Angel, who appears above them. The chorus begins humming softly. The shepherds fall to the ground

in fear and awe. The Angel extends arms and sings the song: "Fear Not" while Chorus continues humming the accompaniment to the Angels song.)

(The shepherds are kneeling at the R. Enos beside Benhesed at extreme R. Jonathan and Nathaniel nearer C. They lift their heads and see the Angel. As the Chorus sings the "Gloria in Excelsis," the light on the Angel fades and a pure white light appears above the shepherds. They rise, Enos clinging to Benhesed. They slowly turn and face front, looking up.)

BENHESED: The star of the prophecy!

JONATHAN: Let us follow it to Bethlehem.

(They turn slowly, Benhesed leading with Enos beside him, and go out R. The curtain closes on the shadowy hills, alone in the starlight.)

CURTAIN

Song: The Bethlehem Road

## ACT III Scene 2

The street of Bethlehem where it passes the inn and the chalk caves. In the back, at L., is a large dark cave that will be lighted later to show Mary and Joseph. Now the cave is dark. The inn is at the R. downstage. The stage is very shadowy. When the inn door opens for the Keeper to come out, the light streams out behind him and lights up those to whom he speaks. It is almost midnight of the same day. The people make their entrances at U.R. above the inn, and exit downstage either L. or R. as the road branches.

(At rise two women are entering U.R., very wearily. They look around as if they are unfamiliar with the place. They go downstage C., look at the inn, shake their heads, and turn back upstage. They stand at L.U.C. Another group enters U.R., same business, and turn to U.L. where they stand. Mary and Joseph enter U.R. They come downstage, looking toward the inn. Joseph leaves Mary C., goes to inn. As he approaches the door opens, and the Keeper steps out.)

KEEPER: Well? What do you wish?

JOSEPH: Have you room for us in the inn?

KEEPER: (Hesitating.) Eh--what can you pay me?

JOSEPH: One piece of silver. It is all I have left.

KEEPER: Then I cannot shelter you.

(John and Rachel ready.)

JOSEPH: My wife is weary. We have travelled far.

KEEPER: But I say there is no room for you. My inn is crowded to the doors.

JOSEPH: Is there nowhere that we may rest?

KEEPER: Yes, in the chalk caves. They are filled with cattle and sheep, but there is yet room for such as you.

(He laughs, turns, and goes back in to the inn. Joseph turns hopelessly away. Slowly he and Mary turn and go upstage, and exit upperleft. John and Rachel enter U.R., go to the inn, and knock; the Keeper comes out.)

KEEPER: Why do you come here?

JOHN: We seek lodging for the night.

(Simon ready.)

KEEPER: There is no room in the inn. Long before sunset my house was filled.

JOHN: (Turning to Rachel.) Can you sleep in the open tonight?

KEEPER: (Sarcastically.) Sleeping in the open should not be a trial for a man of your means. Go now and leave me to my guests.

(He turns and goes in. John and Rachel go upstage and join the two women who are standing U.R., then go out R. Simon enters, going straight to the inn door from U.R. Seth and Miriam ready. Keeper comes out angrily.)

KEEPER: Am I to have no peace this night? There is no room in the inn. Take yourself away, and say to all others who ask that the inn is filled.

SIMON: Wait. (The Keeper turns.) I will give you seven pieces of silver. (He lifts the money bag at his waist.)

(Seth and Miriam enter U.R. and listen.)

KEEPER: Ah! Seven pieces! (Craftily.) Have you not eight? (Simon turns away.) No, friend, with seven I am well paid. Enter my humble inn, and I shall quickly find room for you. (Simon goes in, the Keeper chuckles.) Seven pieces of silver! (Goes in after Simon)

(Seth and Miriam come downstage a little, about C.)

MIRIAM: I am so glad to have found the inn. Go, Seth, and ask him to make room for us.

SETH: We have neither silver now gold. He would turn us away.

MIRIAM: But we must have a place to rest. Where shall we go?

SETH: I do not know, Miriam. This night we must sleep with the stars for a roof.

MIRIAM: Then let us stay here. There are people passing, and it will not be lonely. I am too tired to go farther.

SETH: Here are some moss-covered stones. They are better than the dust of the road. Sit on this one. (She sits.) After a while you shall lie down, and I will sit beside you.

MIRIAM: I shall not sleep, Seth. (She is sitting downstage, L. with Seth beside her.) I shall watch the whole night through for father and mother. I saw all those who came after us, and they were not among them. Is it not queer, Seth, that we have not found them?

SETH: No, the town of Bethlehem was never so crowded before. It will do little good to search longer.

MIRIAM: If we wait here, they may come to us.

SETH: The soldiers also may come.

MIRIAM: The soldiers--I had almost forgottem them. Oh, if we could only leave this land of Herod!

(Shepherds ready.)

SETH: You must rest, Miriam. Sleep if you can, and I will watch everyone who passes. If father comes, I will wake you.

MIRIAM: But you are tired also, Seth.

SETH: No, rest, Miriam.

(She lies down, Seth sits beside her.)

MIRIAM: We shall be cold if the wind comes in from the dessert.

SETH: Yes. But not yet. It is a silent night.

(Miriam is still. The chorus sings "Silent Night" very softly. Amos and Sarah enter, fearful and hesitant. The shepherds enter then, Benhesed leading with Enos beside him, Nathaniel and Jonathan following. Benhesed looks around, then goes up to Amos and Sarah, the other shepherds following. Seth has dropped off to sleep too.)

BENHESED: We are looking for the new King, that we may worship Him. Do you know of Him?

AMOS: A new King! Of whom do you speak? I long with all my heart for a new King.

BENHESED: But an hour ago, an angel appeared to us from the heavens, saying, hold, I bring you tidings of great joy. For this day is born to you, in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

AMOS: A Saviour? The Messiah! Is that true, shepherd?

BENHESED: Yes, He of Whom the Prophets have written. The star has led us here.

AMON: The star! So that is the meaning of that wondrous star we have seen in the heavens. All my life I have longed for the Messiah to come to our tormented people. Gladly would I die at the hands of Herod if the Messiah has come to lead us out of this darkness into which we have sunk. (Pause) But I know nothing of his birth. Can it really be?

BENHESED: We will look further then. (He starts to R.) Come, followme. (The shepherds are in a group, talking together, at extreme R. They go out U.R.)

SARAH: Amos, do you understand their mission?

AMOS: Yes, Sarah. Oh, if I too might worship Him!

SARAH: Do you think it is for us, this Word that has come to pass?

AMOS: Yes, it is for us, also. (Amos and Sarah walk to C. Seth wakes up and sees them. He leaps up, Miriam sleeps.)

SETH: Father! Mother! You have come!



AMOS: My son, my son. (He embraces Seth.) Where is Miriam?

SARAH: Is she safe?

SETH: She is sleeping. (He turns to her.)

SARAH: (Kneels beside her.) Miriam! Miriam!

MIRIAM: (Wakes up, sits up.) Mother! (She embraces her.) And Father!  
(Rises and runs to him.) You have come to us! (Takes his hands.)

AMOS: My children! How long it is since I have seen you. What wondrous things are happening tonight.!

MIRIAM: God is good to us. We have much to thank Him for.

SARAH: Yes. We have escaped the soldiers. Maybe they no longer search for us.

MIRIAM: Oh, but they do, Mother. They passed us on the road and would have found us surely if we had not hidden with the shepherds.

AMOS: The road leads only to Bethlehem. They will search further for us here.

SARAH: Is there no other place that we may take refuge, Amos?

AMOS: (Shakes his head slowly.) No, I know of none.

(John comes in at back R. followed by Rachel.)

MIRIAM: Someone comes.

JOHN: They have asked at every house in Bethlehem?

RACHEL: Do you think He could be in the Inn?

JOHN: No, I doubt if that innkeeper knows anything of the Child.

RACHEL: Maybe the shepherds dreamed of angels as they watched their sheep.

JOHN: No, it is the prophecy. The Lord Emmanuel has come! (They are about C.)

RACHEL: But where shall we find Him?

CROWD: (To each other.) Yes, where can we find Him?

JOHN: I do not know.

WOMAN: Listen! Do the shepherds come?

ANOTHER WOMAN: No, it is the soldiers.

CROWD: The soldiers! The soldiers!

SARAH: (To Amos, with whom she has been talking.) The soldiers, Amos!

MIRIAM: Hide us, Father! I am frightened!

AMOS: There is not time now.

(The soldiers push roughly through the crowd, coming on at U.R.)

SOLDIERS: (Shouting) Stand back, you! Make way! Let us through!

CROWD: (As the soldiers push them back.) Do not harm us! Take care of your spears!

HILDRETH: Have you seen others pass this way?

CROWD: Many. Yes, many others.

MALCHUS: (Who is ahead of Hildreth) Look you, Hildreth. (Pointing to Amos.) Is that not he?

HILDRETH: (As they come downstage.) Yes, it is, surely. (To Amos.) Stand quietly or you shall have a taste of the spears.

AMOS: (Quietly.) I shall not resist you.

MALCHUS: You are Amos, who but a few hours ago set forth from the temple?

AMOS: I am he.

HILDRETH: And the child-- (Looking at Miriam. Sarah tries to hide Miriam behind her.)

MALCHUS: Yes, the child. She is the one whom I saw with Judith.

HILDRETH: (Angrily, half afraid.) Do not speak of Judith. She is gone.

MIRIAM: What do you mean? Where has she gone.

HILDRETH: Keep your peace!

MALCHUS: (Laughing.) Why don't you tell--

HILDRETH: (Turning on him angrily.) Silence! Don't speak of her!

AMOS: She it was who liberated me.

MIRIAM: And she showed us the way to the outer gate of the palace.

MALCHUS: (Sneering.) She was too good for this world. It is well that she has passed on.

(The lights begin to fade and the white light comes up.)

HILDRETH: Look! Do you see?

MALCHUS: What do you mean?

HILDRETH: The light--the heavens--what is it?

MALCHUS: (Uneasily.) I do not know. Come, Hildreth. We must be on our way back to Jerusalem. Take your prisoners--

HILDRETH: No, wait-- Is it Judith? Is she returning to me as the queen appears to Herod?

MALCHUS: (Frightened.) Come, Hildreth. You are dreaming.

HILDRETH: No, she will come! (Wildly.) She will reproach me all the days of my life! I it was who destroyed her. I who killed her.

MALCHUS: (Badly frightened.) Amos, woman, come away from this place! Quickly--

HILDRETH: No. Leave them! She gave her life that they might be delivered. Let them go--

MALCHUS: Then come with me. (He takes Hildreth's arm, they both run off R. Hildreth looking back over his shoulder.)

CROWD: (To each other.) They have gone! The soldiers have gone!

SARAH: Amos, are we set free?

AMOS: Yes, free!

MIRIAM: The light grows brighter!

SARAH: The heavens are filled with radiance!

MIRIAM: It is clearest there, above the chalk cave.

SARAH: The brightness of God!

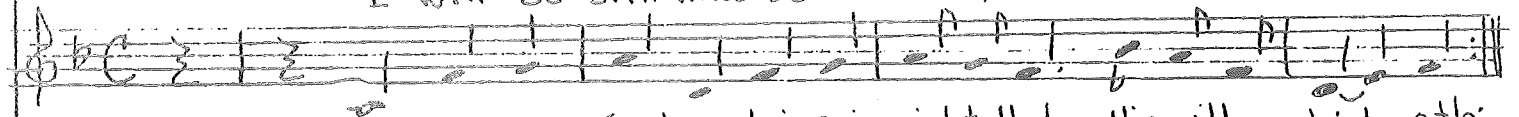
(The crowd is suddenly silent. Choir sings; "Gloria." The light slowly fades and the light comes up in the cave, showing Mary and Joseph. All fall on their knees. The shepherds enter at R. upstage, come a little toward C. and kneel. Then the Wise Men enter. They walk slowly to the cave, kneel, then one by one they lay their gifts before the manger, each rising, going forward, and passing on to kneel on the other side. When they are kneeling again, Enos rises slowly, as if drawn against his will, knowing that a little shepherd boy should not look upon a king. He goes slowly toward the manger, coming up on the side opposite Mary. He kneels just inside the circle of light, looking in to the manger. Mary looks up at him, and he turns at the same time to her. She smiles, then turns back to the manger again. Amos and Sarah then go and kneel by the manger, Sarah so she can play with the baby.)

CURTAIN

# WHATE'ER OUR GOD ORDAINS IS RIGHT



1. What-e'er our God ordains is right; Ho-ly His will a-bid-eth;  
I will be still whate'er He doth, & fol-low where He guideth



What-e'er our God ordains is right; Holy His will a-bid-eth;  
I will be still whate'er He doth, & fol-low where He guid-eth.



What-e'er our God or-dains is right, Ho-ly His will a-bid-eth;  
I will be still whate'er He doth, And follow where He guideth.



He is my God; Though dark my road, He



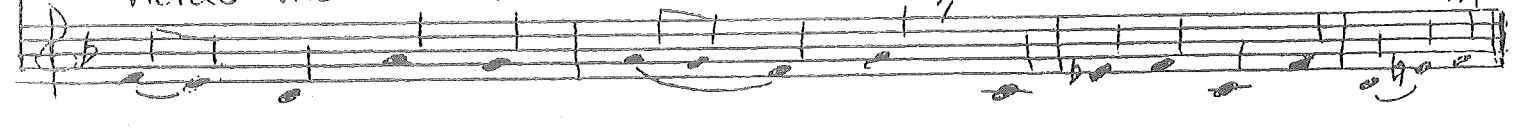
He is my God; Though dark my road, He



holds me that I shall not fall; Wherefore to Him I leave <sup>it</sup> all.



holds me that I shall not fall; Wherefore to Him I leave it all.



②. What-e'er our God ordains is right;  
He never will deceive me;  
He leads me by the proper path;  
I know He will not leave me,  
I take, content,  
What He hath sent;  
His hand can turn my griefs  
And patiently I wait His day.

③. What-e'er our God ordains is right,  
Here shall my stand be taken;  
Though sorrow, need, or death  
yet : am I not forsaken;  
be mine,  
My Father's care  
Is round me there;  
He holds me that I shall not fall,  
And so to Him I leave it all.

# The Bethlehem Road

Deep is the night o'er Beth-le-hem, Quiet the road <sup>where</sup> the wea-ry trod.

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

O-ver the hills the winds a-stir whisper of Peace to the Child of God.

The second system of musical notation, continuing the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

There by the manger sweet Mary kneels, <sup>while</sup> thru <sup>the</sup> streets the message steals.

The third system of musical notation. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

"Come pure of heart & worship him. Born is the Lord Emman-u-el." — Turn

The fourth system of musical notation. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

not to the inn on this night so mild. There is no room for Mary's Child. No

The fifth system of musical notation. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

room in Beth-le-hem. — No room for Him. —

The sixth and final system of musical notation. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

## THE BETHLEHEM ROAD

People have waited and longed for Peace.  
Men are afraid and they find no rest.  
Where is the hope? The King of Kings?  
Who shall deliver us men oppressed?  
There in the manger an infant lies;  
Could this be He? A shepherd cries:  
"Come pure of heart and worship Him.  
Born is the Lord Emmanuel."  
Turn not to the inn on this night so mild.  
There is no room for Mary's Child.  
No room in Bethlehem--  
No room for Him.

Deep is the night o'er Bethlehem.  
Quiet the road where the weary trod.  
Over the hills the winds astir  
Whisper of Peace to the Child of God.  
There by the manger sweet Mary kneels,  
While through the streets the message steals:  
"Come pure of heart and worship Him.  
Born is the Lord Emmanuel."  
Turn not to the inn on this night so mild.  
There is no room for Mary's Child.  
No room in Bethlehem--  
No room for Him.

Not in the palace, red and gold,  
Not where men look: to the great and bold,  
But humble and lowly, a baby small:  
This is the savior, the Lord of all.  
Here by the manger come kneel and praise;  
Great is God's love, and great His ways.  
Come pure of heart and worship Him.  
Born is the Lord Emmanuel.  
Turn not to the inn on this night so mild.  
There is no room for Mary's Child.  
No room in Bethlehem.  
No room for Him.