



In the **BEGINNING**

(A Biblical Musical in Three Acts)

(Book 1 of a trilogy)

Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

Music by

Paul Amrod

Please Contact

©TXU 1-576826
All rights reserved

Sidney Goldberg
20 West Palisade Avenue #3111
Englewood NJ 07631
201 567-6533
yendiS.Goldberg@Hotmail.com
www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com



In the **BEGINNING**

Cast in order of appearance

- ADAM**.....The first man. 75, 80, 90, 100 years old.
- EVE**.....The first woman. 65, 75, 85, 90 years old.
- CAIN**.....Son, 25 years old. Cunning.
- ABLE**.....Son, 23 years old. Nice.
- ABRAHAM (ABRAM)**.....80, 90, 100 years old.
- SARAH (SARAI)**.....70, 80, 90 years old. Wife.
- HAGAR**.....30 years old. Beautiful Arab, dynamic.
Sarah's maid.
- HOAB**.....70 years old. Friend.
- MUNG**.....80 years old. Friend.
- ANER**.....70 years old. Friend.
- ESHCOL**.....80 years old. Friend.
- MAMRE**.....70 years old. Friend.
- KOL**.....80 years old. Friend.

In the **BEGINNING**

🎵 Songs 🎵

FORBIDDEN FRUIT (Adam and Eve)	1-1-3
MESSIAH (Adam and Eve)	1-2-12
DEAR LORD (Adam and Eve)	1-2-15
WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG? (Cain)	1-3-17
HE JUST THINKS OF HIMSELF (Able)	1-3-21
NOBODY LAUGHS AT ME (Cain)	1-3-23
Birds sing	2-1-25
LOVE IS THE ANSWER (GOD)	2-1-26
GOD (Abraham)	2-1-29
LOVE IS THE ANSWER (Refrain.)	2-2-31
TOGETHER (Sarah / Abraham)	2-2-32
HELP ME (Hagar)	2-2-35
LOVE IS THE ANSWER (Refrain.)	2-3-36
DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO (Friends)	2-3-38
A LAND (GOD)	2-4-41
ANYTHING YOU ASK I'LL DO (Abraham)	2-5-46
YOU ONCE WERE (Sarah)	2-5-47
WE WILL BE SAVED (Refrain.)	2-6-49
Birds sing	2-6-50
WE WILL BE SAVED (All)	2-6-52
HELP ME (Refrain)	3-1-54
AM I ASKING SO MUCH (Sarah)	3-1-56
LOVE IS THE ANSWER (Refrain.)	3-2-57
THANK YOU (Abraham)	3-2-59
LOVE IS THE ANSWER (Refrain.)	3-3-61
WON'T YOU SHOW ME HOW (Hagar, Sarah, Abraham)	3-3-62
BOO HOO	3-4-65
Birds sing	3-5-67
KOL HAS A LITTLE ONE (Friends)	3-5-70
A LAND (Refrain.)	3-6-73
TAKE ME INSTEAD (Abraham)	3-6-75
GOD (Refrain.)	3-7-77
I HAVE SINNED (Isaac)	3-7-80
AND DON'T FORGET ADONOI (Sarah, Abraham, Isaac)	3-7-81
THANKS TO YOU (Friends, Sarah, Abraham, Isaac)	3-7-82

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT I

Scene 1

The beginning of time.

WE hear GOD speaking.

GOD

Let there be light. I shalt call the light day and the darkness night. Let there be waters, and let the land produce living creatures according to their kind; livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to it's kind.

(Perhaps projected, WE see many animals in the Garden of Eden.)

GOD

And it is good. Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. From the dust I shalt breathe into it the breath of life and make thee in the image of thy GOD my son, and I shalt calleth thee Adam, meaning, Adham of the red earth and from thy rib I shalt maketh thee a wife and I shalt calleth her Eve, meaning mother of all living. And on the seventh day, the Sabbath which is a holy day, I rested and all my children shalt also rest on this holiest of days.

(Thunder and lightning. EVE holding hands with ADAM goes to the *Tree of Knowledge*, and as she is about to pick an apple, WE hear GOD speak.)

GOD

'O Adam, dwell thou and thy wife in paradise and eat therefore amply as thou wish, but do not draw near this tree of knowledge in the center of my garden or ye will transgress.

(There is thunder and lightning and GOD is gone.)

EVE

I don't understand it, Adam. He gives us everything, including all this beautiful fruit. I

(Goes to take apple.)

mean look at this apple, doesn't it look delicious? Why does He show us something we can't have?

ADAM

Do not take, nor eat it Eve, for you just heard the Lord forbid us from eating from His tree of knowledge.

EVE

Sure, only He eats from His tree of knowledge, because He doesn't want me to be as smart as Him, and do you think He really means it? It's fruit, delicious fruit and why would He put it here if He doesn't want us to eat it? It doesn't make any sense, does it?

ADAM

Lead neither me, nor you unto temptation, Eve. The Lord has spoken, and I will pray to Him and beg His forgiveness for our shortcomings in questioning His Devine wisdom. I, **(Exits.)**

shall return shortly to seek a fruit offering, and remember, you must not eat from His tree.

EVE

Sometimes, I just don't understand Adam or the Lord.

(A SNAKE appears.)

SNAKE

Hello there, gorgeous.

EVE

Who, who are you, and my name is not gorgeous, it is Eve.

SNAKE

Hello Eve, and do you really think that GOD said, "*You must not eat from any tree in the garden?*" How ridiculous. I'm sure he was only teasing you. Come on, take a bite.

EVE

He said, "*We may eat fruit from the garden, but not from the tree in the middle of the garden, the Tree of Knowledge or we will surely die.*"

SNAKE

I promise you will not surely die, for GOD knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will become as smart as GOD, knowing good from evil.

EVE

Oh thank you kind snake for opening my eyes, for the fruit of this tree is more desirable
(Picks and eats apple and savors it.)
than all the rest.

SNAKE

Go ahead, just don't look at it, eat it, eat it, it's delicious. Tell me how delicious it is.

EVE

(Eats apple.)

Mmmm, not only is it delicious it's scrumptious, and I will surely give some to Adam when he returns. Oh, thank you kind Snake, thank you.

SNAKE

(Exiting he laughs.)

Enjoy it while you can sweetheart and give Adam my regards and an apple too.

(ADAM returns and EVE picks an apple from the tree and gives it to ADAM and THEY both sing 🎵)

FORBIDDEN FRUIT

EVE

I must eat His forbidden fruit.
And wait till I hear His repute.
Why must He be so resolute? **Speak.**
I'll tell Him it was a great fruit... Grapefruit.

ADAM

To me the Lord is the last word.
He is the reason I am spurred.
Not to obey Him is absurd.
And Eve makes me feel like a nerd.

ADAM

He is the creator,

EVE

Acts like a dictator.

ADAM

But, He made us.

EVE

Or so he said.

ADAM

He calls us His children.

EVE

Makes ev'rything happen.

ADAM

I believe Him.

EVE

A sin's a sin.

ADAM

The miracles He makes.

EVE

Makes me pay for my mistakes.

ADAM

He leads the way.

EVE

And lights the day.

I must eat His forbidden fruit.
And wait till I hear His repute.
Why must he be so resolute?
I'll tell Him it was a grapefruit.

ADAM

To me the Lord is the last word.
He is the reason I am spurred.
Not to obey Him is absurd.
And Eve makes me feel like a nerd.

(THEY finish eating the apple when suddenly THEY hear God.)

GOD

(To Adam.)

Adam, hath thou eaten from the tree I commanded thee not to eat from?

ADAM

The woman thou put me here with, gave me some fruit and like a fool I ate it.

GOD

(To Eve.)

What is this thou hath done, Eve?

EVE

Dear Lord, the serpent, who I believed was the devil in disguise, deceived me and I ate thy forbidden fruit. Please forgive me for I have transgressed.

GOD

For this, the both of you shall be punished and you will no longer have eternal life and are banished from my Garden of Eden, for no man, let it be known, dies without sin! Now, leave for the outer world, and before for I shalt give thee the opportunity to multiply, thou shalt cover thy nakedness.

(Thunder and lightning and, GOD is gone.)

**Some time later.
It is a beautiful sun drenched day.**

**ADAM and EVE are lazing on a field.
Annoyed, EVE does not respond to
ADAM. BOTH are wearing goat loin
cloths. EVE fidgets with HERS.**

ADAM

I've haven't heard so many birds sing since... isn't this the most beautiful day since we

(Laughs.)

had to leave the Garden of Eden, which, was your fault Eve, but don't worry, I won't tell anybody.

EVE

Oh, so it's my fault. Did I force you to eat that apple or did you want to eat too?

ADAM

I ate it, because you tempted me, you always tempt me sexy...

(There is a pause.)

ADAM (cont'd)

...Aren't you going to answer me? Still not talking, huh? Would you please tell me why you stopped talking to me, please, this silence is driving me crazy.

(EVE fidgets with her loincloth.)

EVE

Because I hate this! Why do we need this, this thing, can you tell me? It itches it itches!

ADAM

The Lord told us to cover our...

EVE

COVER OUR WHAT?

ADAM

You heard Him, cover our nakedness.

EVE

Nakedness, who cares about being naked, do you? I don't

ADAM

(Touches self.)

It is our private parts that the Lord does not want anyone to see.

EVE

It's just me-and-you, who's going to see us? And how come the Lord does not want anyone to see your private parts, not that it's such a big deal, and what does He have to do with my private parts, and why did you have to kill Willie, my little ewe goat?

ADAM

I killed it because the Lord asked me to cover our nakedness, remember, so I used my ingenuity and took Willie's pelt and used it to cover our nakedness. Smart, huh? Killed two birds, I mean one lamb, with one stone, smart huh?

EVE

You and your ego and you're not that smart you never were, because you killed my little

(Sobs.

Touches loincloth.)

Willie, which is not a bird, and you, call yourself smart, why, so I could wear this, which I hate.

ADAM

I happen to think it looks great on you, and it's sort of a protective hindrance for me.

EVE

Protective hindrance, what kind of protective hindrance?

ADAM

(Sexy.)

You remember what happened last night, don't you?

EVE

Sort of.

ADAM

SORT OF? You said you love *DOING IT* and you loved me. What kind of sort of?

EVE

It was the first time and I think I loved doing it, but that was last night, today, I'm not so sure and did I really say I loved *IT*? I must be crazy.

ADAM

What kind of last night, what kind of, you must be crazy? You were moaning and groaning, and screaming *I LOVE IT, I LOVE IT ADAM, DON'T STOP DON'T STOP!* What kind of last night?

EVE

Last night I think I liked it, but you were such an animal, you didn't stop touching me,
(Touches breasts.)
and why were you kissing my... what did you call them?

ADAM

Big, soft chests, you have such beautiful big, soft chests and I love them. I think I just became a big, soft chest man, can you imagine? Come here, let me...

(EVE backs away from ADAM.)

EVE

Oh no, you're not going to kiss my chest again, mister, you can forget it, because it's still sore.

ADAM

Why not, I thought you liked when I suckled your big, soft chest, why not?

EVE

I was faking it, that's why.

ADAM

Faking it, what does that mean?

EVE

Because you, you animal seemed to be having such a good time, I figured I'd make you think I was enjoying it too, so, I faked it...

ADAM

...You mean you didn't enjoy it?

EVE

I didn't say that, but you, you seemed to think it was the greatest thing that ever happened, it wasn't, the earth didn't stand still, and I'll tell you when it is the greatest thing that ever happened, I promise, not that I think it will ever happen.

ADAM

It was, it was and I want to do it again, I want to do it right now, I want to do it all the time, because it was the greatest thing that ever happened.

EVE

You can forget about doing it all the time and why were you sticking your big, fat tongue in my mouth, what was that all about? I mean you were slobbering all over me, disgusting.

ADAM

Disgusting? When I kissed you for the first time and when you opened your mouth, I didn't know what to do, so I opened my mouth and by accident, it was an accident you hear? I stuck my tongue in your mouth and what did you do? YOU, YES YOU stuck your tongue in my mouth and it felt so good, boy did it feel good, so we played tonguesies, didn't we? What's the big deal?

EVE

I'll tell you what's the big deal. I only stuck my tongue in your mouth because you did it to me and I didn't know what to do, so I did it back.

ADAM

Did you like it?

EVE

I suppose I did, except for you getting me all wet, like you were drooling big time.

ADAM

Want to do it again?

EVE

All right, a little tonguesy, but no big, soft chest and no drooling

S Goldberg

1-1-11

(THEY kiss and ADAM goes to kiss EVE'S breasts.)

EVE

I said kiss!

ADAM

But, but.

EVE

You, know what you can do with your but and with your private part, you can stick it you know where.

End of Scene 1

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT I

Scene 2

**Some time later.
Night.**

No longer in the Garden of Eden, they are in a darkened cave. WE hear the underscoring of “FORBIDDEN FRUIT.”

EVE

I hate it Adam, the outer world is not as beautiful as it was in the Garden of Eden.

ADAM

How could it be? Nothing will ever be as beautiful, for the Garden was idyllic, an oasis of beauty our Protector created for us alone and we are here, because we did not show gratitude for His benevolence, we are now being punished for eating of His forbidden fruit.

EVE

You call eating that stupid apple, forbidden fruit? That’s ridiculous, I’ve eaten hundreds of apples and so have you.

ADAM

It is not that we ate an apple, but the forbidden fruit that came from His Tree of Knowledge.

EVE

Tree of Knowledge, Tree of Knowledge, I didn’t know it was the Tree of Knowledge; to me they all look a like and I can’t tell one tree from another, can you?

ADAM

Eve, my beloved, God the Eternal, the Almighty told us, do not eat from the tree that was in the center of His garden, but you, because you gave into your temptation and like a fool so did I, is the reason why we were banished forever

EVE

It's dark and I can't see a thing, can you? And are you telling me that I have to spend the rest of my life with you in this rat infested, vermin filled cesspool you call a cave?

ADAM

Is there someone else you'd like to spend the rest of your life with?

EVE

Don't act so smart, please, I told you you're not that smart and if I'm going to be stuck with a loser like you, I'm going back to the Garden of Eden where everything was beautiful.

ADAM

Have you forgotten? We are banished to the outer world forever, we can't go back.

EVE

I told you, it was that snake, who I think was Satan, it had to be the devil who was playing tricks on me that said, it was okay to eat that apple, because then I would become as smart as Him and see as GOD saw and be able to distinguish good from evil. And like a fool I believed him. Let Him banish the snake, that devil and leave me alone.

ADAM

Once again, you are deceiving yourself. You knew what you were doing was wrong, and
(Pleads and looks up.)

So did I, it was sacrilegious to go against the Devine edict of our Lord, lead us not unto temptation, dear Lord, for we are all weak and sinners. And this darkness dear Lord, is it so dark because I have sinned?

(There is thunder and lightning and WE hear GOD speak.)

GOD

Adam, the repentance of thy sin may be removed by praying, seeking forgiveness, fasting, and, bathing in the river for seven and forty days. Atonement is thine for the asking.

ADAM

I shall do all you ask of me my Savior...

EVE

...And so shalt I dear Lord, for I am to blame for Adam's transgression as well as my own, for it was of my doing, giving into my temptation, not his.

GOD

No man dies without sin of his own. And to help you ease the burden of your darkness, take two stone and strike them together and you will make fire, which will illumine your darkness, cook your food and help you sacrifice a burnt offering to me. Enough, with the fruits and vegetables already, I want some lamb and I'm sorry about your Willie, Eve

(There is thunder and lightning and GOD is gone.

ADAM

Wait here, I shall get some twigs and wood and a few stones and with the good Lord's help we shall make fire.

EVE

Do you think it will work?

(Underscoring ends.)

ADAM

(Exits.)

Believe in the Lord and all is possible.

(After a beat, ADAM returns with some twigs and wood, then searches for Two stones, and with EVE anxiously watching, strikes the stones together and after a few attempts a spark and then fire. Thrilled, THEY sing 🎵)

MESSIAH

ADAM

It is the miracle of the ages.
It is given by, the King of I sages.
At last the night is no longer dark.
For, the Lord has given us the spark.

EVE

To think, that I ever doubted him.
A fool committing the cardinal, sin.
With a fire to illumine the night.
I must keep the Lord within my sight.

ADAM and Eve

He is the Messiah.
He just gave us fire.
Believe and there shall be,
Peace and serenity.

ADAM

And I bet the lamb will taste so good.
I will get some salt and lots of wood.
And then Eve and I will drink some wine.
Both Eve and I will have a great time.

EVE

I guess The Lord's smarter than I thought.
I'm grateful to be his cohort.
Yet all in all I cannot complain.
Even though that Adam drives me insane.

ADAM and Eve

He is the Messiah.
Who just gave us fire.
Believe and there shall be,
Peace and serenity.

ADAM

My beloved, what about a little wine to celebrate the miracle of fire that has just been given to us by the Lord our Savior?

EVE

You and your grapes.

ADAM

I promise, only tonguesy this time, no big, soft chest: I know they were sore.

EVE

All right, but just remember, you promised.

(ADAM gives EVE a pouch of wine, SHE drinks and then HE drinks.)

ADAM

Good, huh?

EVE

Not bad.

ADAM

Why don't you have a little more?

EVE

Why, because you're in the mood again?

ADAM

I'm always in the mood.

EVE

Don't I know it, come on let's drink some more wine and maybe the earth will stand still for a change?

(THEY both drink.)

EVE (cont'd)

A little tonguesy, anyone?

ADAM

I thought you'd never ask.

(THEY kiss and HE brings EVE to the ground. The lights flicker to denote THEY have made love.)

EVE

I don't want you to get a big head, but I think this time the earth stood still just a little.

ADAM

(Excited.)

Oh Eve, do you promise, do you promise?

EVE

No, I was just teasing. It was moving all over the place.

ADAM

You are just unbelievable. I was hoping that I finally made the earth stand still for you.

EVE

You have my beloved in more ways than one, and I don't know what it is, but I have this strange and wonderful feeling that something is...

ADAM

Something is what, go on, go on.

EVE

(Touches stomach.)

Something is going on in here. Sometimes I can feel it moving, it is something that I have never felt before.

ADAM

(Very excited.)

Oh Eve, do you remember when our Eternal Protector said, "*You shall multiply?*" You are pregnant my beloved. You shall be come a mother and I a father!

(THEY sing 🎵)

DEAR LORD

EVE

Dear Lord, I am going to become a parent.
I thank you for this wonderful present.
For, you have given me the miracle of life.
And I am grateful to be Adam's wife.

ADAM

Dear Lord, what more could this man ever ask you for?
Thank you for the wonder you have in store.
You have given me this smile that cannot be erased.
With a child the sweet life now I will taste.

EVE

I know that he will be the most wonderful son.
We shall laugh and together there will be fun.
I shall spend my life loving him until it hurts.
And I will only feed him the best desserts.

ADAM

And I'm sure that he will look just like his father.
And in time I will give him a brother.
The two of them will become inseparable.
So famous they will become a fable.

ADAM and EVE

Because, of you.
I feel brand new.
My dreams came true.
Whoopity do.

EVE

I will never ask you for anything again.
Because you have given me my best friend.
The greatest gift in my life you have bestowed.
And I smile because at last my heart glows.

ADAM

I think, that I am the luckiest man alive.
It is because of You that I survive.
Of you dear Lord there is nothing more I will ask.
For beneath your love I will always bask.

ADAM and EVE

Because, of you.
I feel brand new.
My dreams came true.
Whoopity do.

End of Scene 2

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT I

Scene 3

25 years later.

CAIN, has red hair and is brawny, is in his garden, which is overflowing with fruit and vegetables. HE is distressed because GOD has frowned upon his offering of fruits and vegetables, and loves His brother ABLE'S offering of lamb. HE wipes his brow, looks to the heavens and sings ♪)

WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?

CAIN

I do not know why,
You frown upon my sacrifices.
Perhaps I should lie?
And add to my many vices.

All I do is plant,
I do not know how to tend sheep.
There is much I can't,
I am restless and I can't sleep.

What have I done wrong,
And why was I born?
Thy will must be done,
But I'm not the one.

This anger inside,
Alas my brother is to blame.
I am filled with pride,
And father never calls my name.

He leaves me no choice.
Because He will never love me.
I have raised my voice,
GOD does not appreciate me.

What have I done wrong,
And why was I born?
Thy will must be done,
But I'm not the one.

**Distraught, CAIN mopes as
ABLE, who is two-years younger and
Slight, is walking through the fields that
CAIN has planted and is amazed at it's
Plentitude. Happy to see him, he greets
His brother, who is not too thrilled.**

ABLE

Cain, I don't believe it, you keep on getting better and better. Look at all these wonderful fruits and vegetables you have grown, my dear brother. I mean, some of them are

(Eats a strawberry.)

enormous, look at these oranges and these strawberries, this strawberry is delicious. The Lord has truly blessed you, I mean you are so gifted, I wish I could make things grow like you, but I can't. It seems you were given the green thumb and me, that's why father taught me how to tend to my animals. I'm jealous Cain, I am jealous.

CAIN

What are you talking about? You tend to sheep and cattle, I can't do that, remember, I tried, oh how I tried, but I just couldn't get it like you. That's why you're father's favorite, because you know how to raise livestock like him, I'm just a loser, at least that's what he calls me.

ABLE

I'd rather be mother's favorite, like you, because mothers are mothers and mothers kiss you losers all the time and all father does is give me orders. He doesn't give you orders, does he? Wish I was a loser like you, loser.

CAIN

That's because he's always with you. He thinks that planting is women's work, that's why mother works with me and father works with you, and don't you remember how disappointed father was, how annoyed he was when he had to take time off and teach me how to farm? He said I had to do something and farming was all he could think of. Don't you remember when he said the Lord wants us to sacrifice lambs and goat and cows? He wants us to give him the best parts, the fattiest parts of each and all I do is sacrifice my fruits and vegetable, which the Lord our Savior frowns upon and you heard it too, didn't you?

ABLE

I'll give you my fattest lamb and goat and you shall offer them to our Savior as an
(Smiles.)
offering and then He will like you as much as me, maybe.

CAIN

What do you think He's stupid? He sees and knows everything that goes on, remember? He knows that I am nothing but a farmer, He laughs at me, He puts me down, you heard him, and you, He thinks you're such a big deal because you give him the fattest parts of your flock. Thanks Able, but it won't work.

ABLE

All I do is walk my flock and they eat grass and drink water. I do not make them fat, they do it of their own accord, I do nothing, but what you do is a miracle, a GOD given gift, for you make all these wonderful fruits and vegetables grow from Mother earth. Oh, how I wish I could trade places with you.

CAIN

What are you making such a big deal about, take some apples, take some figs, take whatever you want, and give them to Him, maybe he'll take them from you? Because, He won't take them from me.

ABLE

Only if you take some lamb and some meat. I have so much and no one to eat it and that was a good idea, I'll take some of your most delicious fruits and vegetables and offer them as a sacrifice, I bet it will work.

CAIN

Good luck and I haven't eaten all that meat you gave me last week, I don't need and I don't want anymore. I just want to be accepted by the Lord and I want Him to love me as you are.

ABLE

Am I lucky to have you as an older brother, because you are perfect Cain, just perfect.

CAIN

Are you sure you're talking about me, the big Loser?

ABLE

I wish I had the nerve to marry one of my sisters like you, but I don't, I just can't do it. Egyptus is just beautiful boy is she beautiful.

CAIN

Not as beautiful as Gigi and Sylvie.

ABLE

Gigi and Sylvie are also beautiful, why didn't you marry one of them, instead of Egyptus?

CAIN

Because Gigi was selfish, everything I grew she wanted for herself and Sylvie didn't stop talking, she never stopped talking. Now Egyptus, who is younger than the both of them, she's only 14, knows how to make a man feel like a man. Don't you want to feel like a man, Able? I mean, you're 22 years old and you haven't slept with one of our sisters yet, why, what's wrong with you, don't you want to have a good time like me?

ABLE

I can't have a good time with my sister. Maybe you can, but I can't. We're different, Cain, you have very little morals and I, I do what the Lord wants me to do.

CAIN

What are you saying Able, that you're better than me?

ABLE

I'm not better than you, perhaps just a little more morally spiritual. I feel it's a sin to sleep with our sisters and you don't. You know, talking about sins, you're very much like mother, the primordial sinner.

CAIN

Really?

ABLE

After GOD told her not to, she believed the snake, which she called the devil in disguise and ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge, and GOD banished her from the Garden of Eden forever, and I feel our sisters are also forbidden fruit, and one day you too will be banished.

CAIN

Do you really believe there was such a place as the Garden of Eden? And if there was a Garden of Eden, where is it? Did you see it? I didn't see it and we both know places don't disappear just like that, and who am I supposed to sleep with, if not my sisters, you? Look around, there's no one else, but my sisters and thank GOD for them.

(ABLE sings 🎵)

HE JUST THINKS OF HIMSELF

ABLE

Cain,
You are a birdbrain.
And you are insane.
Why don't you learn to abstain?

All he thinks about is his personal satisfaction.
He just thinks of himself.
And most of the time I am afraid of his reaction.
All that man needs is help.

Doesn't understand that a sacrifice is meant to please GOD.
He just thinks of himself.
Soon as he learns to care then believing is not that hard.
What that man needs is help.

Cain,
You are a birdbrain.
And you are insane.
Why don't you learn to abstain?

There will come a time when the Lord will say thou hath done wrong.
He just thinks of himself.
I would show him what's wrong and what's right, but he's just too strong.
All that man needs is help.

I believe that mother loves him because he too has sinned.
He just thinks of himself.

He's the kind of guy that never learns because he's thick-skinned.
What that man needs is help.

Cain,
You are a birdbrain.
And you are insane.
Why don't you learn to abstain?

CAIN

So, are you going to do it, or what?

ABLE

Do what, what are you talking about?

CAIN

Get one of our sisters and have a good time like me, in fact, why don't we do it together?
It will be fun.

(ABLE starts to laugh. WE hear underscoring of, "HE JUST THINKS OF HIMSELF.")

CAIN (cont'd)

What are you laughing about, what's so funny?

ABLE

(Can't control his laughter.)

You, you're such an animal, I don't believe what you just said. I'm going to tell father and mother and I'm going to tell all our sisters, I'm sure they will find it just as funny as me and boy, are you funny.

CAIN

I'm glad you think I'm so funny. Able, would you please come with me, I want to show you something.

ABLE

Okay, but what do you want to show me.

CAIN

Something that will make you, laugh your head off even more.

ABLE

What's that?

CAIN

I grew a watermelon as big as a horse.

ABLE

(Laughs.)

You're kidding, as big as a horse?

CAIN

(Laughs.)

Bigger.

ABLE

Oh, I can't wait to see it and really laugh, let's go.

(BOTH are laughing as they walk arm in arm. CAIN stops and ABLE continues walking ahead, because he is anxious to see the watermelon. CAIN picks up a huge rock, sneaks up on ABLE and hits Him on the head and kills Him. There is thunder and lightning as underscoring end. Triumphant, CAIN places his foot on ABLE and sings ♪)

NOBODY LAUGHS AT ME

CAIN

(Laughs.)

Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me
He thought he was perfect.
And claimed he was germ free,
All he did was object.
And never believed me.
Laughed, gave me no respect.

(Laughs.)

Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me and gets away with it!

I won't tell a soul that I killed him.
And if they ask me I'll just act grim.
I'll tell dad he disappeared from sight,
And I pray that he will be all right.

He said I'm just like my mother,
Committing the primordial sin.
That's why I hated my brother.
He couldn't let what could have been.

(Laughs.)

Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me
He thought he was perfect.
And claimed he was germ free,
All he did was object.
And never believed me.
Laughed, gave me no respect.

(Laughs.)

Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me.
Nobody laughs at me and gets away with it!

(Thunder and lightning and WE hear GOD.)

GOD

What has happened to your brother?

CAIN

I don't know, am I my brother's keeper?

GOD

What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on this earth and so will all of your children.

End of Scene 3

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT II

Scene 1

Back in time:

Haran, Syria. ABRAM, 75 years old is walking in the Desert during the night. There is thunder and lightning and ABRAM is startled. With glaring lights, GOD'S back is to the audience. WE never see GOD'S face. Hundreds of birds sing throughout.

ABRAM

What's going on here, it was so peaceful and serene a moment ago. I never heard birds sing before; this is not the Garden of Eden, there are no birds in the desert. How did this happen?

GOD

I made it happen, my son, and when you hear my birds, which are a blessing I bestow on you alone, you will be given an unequalled strength.

ABRAM

Who, who are you? Where are you, why can I not see you?

GOD

I, am the Lord your GOD, whom you may never see, but only feel spiritually in your heart.

ABRAM

You are not my GOD, my GOD is Apsu, GOD of the underworld ocean, the begetter of the

(Sarcastic.)

skies, father of Lahmu, and if you are my GOD, where are you *GOD*, where are you?

GOD

I am everywhere, in the trees, the sky, the air you breathe, and I am in all and everything there is that lives...

ABRAM

If, you are everywhere and in everything, why can't I see you mister, why don't you show me your face?

(Birds stop singing.)

GOD

(Sings 🎵)

LOVE IS THE ANSWER

Look in thy heart and surely thou will see me,
Take my warmth and thou will find serenity.
Thou will be rewarded.
For, I will record it.

Do unto others, thou must always believe.
That the more thou give, the more thou shall receive.
Always help thy brother.
Thy father thy mother.

Love is the answer.
With kindness, there shall be peace on Earth.
For all thou art worth.
Love is the answer.

I say to thee that heaven can be thine today.
The helpless will stand tall. Just do what I say.
Let kindness be thy guide.
Humility, not false pride.

Thou art the chosen to lead my covenant people.
Now lead and thou shall build a holy steeple.
Spirituality,
Shall be thy reality.

Love is the answer.
With kindness, there shall be peace on Earth.
For all thou art worth.
Love is the answer.

ABRAM

Hey, you can't fool me; my father's become rich, making Gods, like Amun, Apis "The hidden one of sacred animals: Anubis, "The jackal God," Bastet, "The cat God," Horus, son of Osiris, "Goddess of the dead and the eternal," Neith, "Goddess of war and wisdom." These are Gods, Gods that you can touch, and you can feel them, and some, you can even smell. What kind of GOD are you, mister?

GOD

These are not Gods but only false idols that have led you astray. Have you or
(Snow begins to fall.)
any of your people ever known peace and serenity? Can your God Apsu do this!

ABRAM

(Surprised, picks up snow.)

What is this? It is so beautiful, but boy is it cold: In the desert this never happened before, I never saw this, this, what is this...?

GOD

It is a blessing I call snow. Now look to my heaven and what do you see?

(A shooting star passes overhead.)

ABRAM

It's a star on fire. Did you really do that? Come on, you didn't do that, I mean, what are you, who are you...?

GOD

...God, here I am your God and when you believe in your God, I will do many wonderful things that you will call miracles.

ABRAM

Oh yeah...? Lets see you make another miracle, if it's so easy, like...

GOD

Close your eyes, count to five and then open them.

(ABRAM closes his eyes and miraculously the night becomes day and the Sun is shining. ABRAM opens eyes and stares in disbelief.)

ABRAM

Oh my God, I don't believe it!

GOD

You must never take my name in vain.

ABRAM

The sun is shining and it is late at night. How'd you do that?

GOD

It's really very easy, when you are the Lord.

ABRAM

What may I call you, Mr. Lord?

GOD

Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem, and there are other names you will know, as long as you believe, I will always answer.

ABRAM

Suppose I believe you are really the only God, what do you want me to do? But don't make it too hard, because the other Gods are real easy...

GOD

You mean false idols...

ABRAM

What ever just don't make it too hard, please.

GOD

Get yourself out of this country, leave your kindred and your father, the idol maker and his house and go to a land I will show you. Pray no longer to all those false Gods, including Noah of my flood, who was not one of my covenant people

ABRAM

Covenant, what's a covenant?

GOD

Covenant is someone who believes, the chosen, my people and one day you will be their father, leader and you will multiply, and your children will fill this earth.

ABRAM

But I'm 75 years old, how can I multiply when I have no children. Sarai is...

GOD

...Infertile, and she is your paternal half-sister, which I frown upon, but I forgive you, because you are now my covenant, for you are a prophet.

ABRAM

How can I be a prophet? I'm not anything special, I'm just an ordinary guy who married his, I'm sorry to say, his paternal sister, because, Sarai was the most beautiful woman I ever met.

GOD

Just remember, I, *Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem* is your God, your only God and you will worship no other Gods, for I am a jealous God, and I demand that you obey me, only me, because remember, I am jealous!

(Thunder and lightning and GOD, disappears.)

ABRAM

(sings 🎵)

Wait, where are you going? I want to get to know you... I think I have to.

GOD

Are thou really the only GOD above?
Thou art different from all the rest.
And all thou spoke about was love.
I hope I pass the test.

Thou made me feel I'm just a grain of sand.
We're all a part of one family.
I hope I'm smart enough to understand.
And please help me to see.

Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem,
That is who thou art.
The spirit who will set me free,
And help me to be me.

How can giving mean I'll receive?
When will I build a holy steeple?
I feel I truly want to believe.
What's a covenant people?

How can I look into my heart?
When I can barely see past my nose.
I bet he thinks that I'm really smart.
What, does he think I know?

Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem,
That is who thou art.
The spirit who will set me free,
And help me to be me.

End of Scene 1

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT II

Scene 2

Next Day.

Tent. ABRAM is excited as he tries to convince SARAI. WE hear refrain of "LOVE IS THE ANSWER."

ABRAM

I'm telling you, my beloved Sarai, I actually met the real GOD, the Big Man himself and HE spoke to little old me. Can you believe it? He picked me to speak to, because I'm his covenant. Can you imagine? Suddenly I'm a covenant!

SARAI

Covenant, what's a covenant. Have you been drinking again, is that where you got your covenant from? Who ever heard of a covenant, what is it? You probably made it up, didn't you? And what are you making such a big deal about? I've met and you've met hundreds of GODs, haven't we? Thanks to your father, they're all around us, and to tell you the truth, I wish he'd give them to someone else. Enough with his GODs already,

(Whispers. Hand up to chin.)

I mean, between you and me, and shhh, don't tell anyone, but I've had it up to here with his GODs. I mean, have they ever done anything for either of us, except take up room?

ABRAM

I feel the same way and don't shush me, I only took those idols out of respect.

(Refrain ends. ABRAM walks around and smashes idols.)

SARAI

Abram, what are you doing? Have you gone crazy? You just smashed Imsety, one of the four sons of Horus, and Khnum, who everyone worships, Menu-ka-mut-f, Goddess of love and femininity. Are you crazy? Aren't we cursed enough? YOU MUST STOP THIS LUNACY THIS INSTANT OR I WILL NOT SLEEP WITH YOU FOR A YEAR! NO, MAKE THAT FIVE YEARS, not that you care...

(ABRAM and SARAI sing 🎵)

TOGETHER

ABRAM

Does that mean you're not going to...?
Oy, what am I going to do?
I need you.

SARAI

I will not even hold your hand.
To me you're only but a man.
I can't stand.

ABRAM

You know you look cute when you're mad.
But you're making me feel so sad.
Are you glad?

SARAI

I thought that I once loved you so.
But now, I, I really don't know.
I should go.

ABRAM

I've loved you the first day I saw your face.
Your smile means everything to me.
Can't you see how much I need you?

SARAI

You are the handsomest man, I have seen.
Wiser than all the Kings in the world.
Can't you see how much I need you?

ABRAM and SARAI

(Arm in arm.)

I'll stay with you until the sun won't shine.
I promise that you'll always be mine.
We'll be together for all time.

ABRAM

Sarai, you're everything to me.
You're eyes are bluer than the sea.
I love thee.

SARAI

To me you are the only one.
Yet I never gave you a son.
I love thee.

ABRAM

I've loved you the first day I saw your face.
Your smile means everything to me.
Can't you see, how much I need you?

SARAI

You are the handsomest man I have seen.
Wiser, than all the Kings in the world.
Can't you see how much I need you?

ABRAM and SARAI

(Arm in arm.)

I'll stay with you until the sun won't shine.
I promise that you'll always be mine.
We'll be together for all time.

(They kiss.)

SARAI

You've been angry with me all these years, Abram, because I have not given you the son,
(Takes and caresses idol.)
that you wanted so badly. Unfortunately, I believe it is no longer possible, for now, I am
65 years old and you are 75. I beg your forgiveness, my beloved husband, and is it my
fault that Min, the GODdess of love and femininity has not blessed me to bear you a son?

ABRAM

(Angry, grabs idol and smashes it.)

This is what I think of your Min and your Tiamat, bearer of the skies and the Earth,
mother of Lahma and the rest of your false Idols!

SARAI

(Afraid, sobs.)

Abram, Abram, we will be cursed, we will live in hell for you have defamed our
GODs. Please Osiris, GOD of resurrection and eternal life, forgive my misguided
husband for he knows not what he is doing. You're drunk again, aren't you and you
smoked that, whatever you and your friends smoke. Leave this abode immediately and
do not come back until you ask your father to give me back all the idols that you have so
mercilessly destroyed! Have you forgotten, who will protect us from Satan, if not them?

(HAGAR, maidservant enters and is shocked to see the mess.)

HAGAR

Oh, Kishar, whole Erath and mother of Anu, what has happened here and befallen my Mistress Sarai and my Master Abram?

ABRAM

Hagar! You must never mention nor turn to Kishar or Erath, or any of those false Gods and idols in my home again, or you will be banished forever.

HAGAR

Why Abram, why are you so distraught? What happened to all our beloved Gods? Look, many are broken and scattered over all the earth.

ABRAM

(Angry, starts to break the rest of the idols.)

Many? How about all of them? There, are you satisfied, Hagar? Now, all of them are destroyed!

SARAI

I demand that you leave my home immediately and don't come back until you are able to replace everyone of my beloved Gods! Now leave!

(Disheartened, ABRAM exits. Stunned, HAGAR just stares)

SARAI (Cont'd)

What are you looking at young lady, just what are you looking at? I am not paying you to stand around idly and stare, just because you are so beautiful and my lunatic husband is attracted to you and your voluptuous body.

HAGAR

Sarai, you are mistaken. Abram is not attracted to me, forgive me, but you are mistaken. Why, he barely ever looks or speaks to me.

SARAI

He looks at you with those eyes of longing that he used to look at me with. He may be 75, and he never touches me any more, he says he tired, he's been tired for the last 20 years, I know, I know what goes on in that warped mind of his... Now, clean up this mess and wash my clothes and prepare dinner. When I return, I shall tell you what else to do. Start cleaning, you tart! Start cleaning!

(HAGAR is stunned as SARAI departs. HAGAR sings ♪)

HELP ME

HAGAR

What, does she want from me?
Mut, mother of all Egypt.
Will I ever be free?
Before I'm in my crypt.

Sarai seems so bitter.
Abram was very mad.
No children, no litter,
She always seems so sad.

Atum, God of all Gods.
In gloom, my life is hard.
Maid-servant is my task.
Help me, is all I ask.

Abram is misguided.
He's filled with so much pain.
This home is divided.
And I'm going insane.

She thinks I want her man.
But he is old and weak.
I wish she'd understand.
That all we do is speak.

Atum, GOD of all GODs.
In gloom, my life is hard.
Maid-servant is my task.
Help me, is all I ask.

End of Scene 2

In the **BEGINNING**

Act II

Scene 3

**That afternoon.
Outdoor.**

**Many men are listening to
an excited ABRAM. We hear the
refrain of "LOVE IS THE ANSWER."**

ABRAM

...And I tell you that you all have been deceived, led astray in believing the stars are God. I personally love not those that set. And the moon: Unless it guides me, surely would go astray... That was and is still you my brethren, lost in the wilderness.

(We hear murmurs of discord.)

ABRAM (Cont'd)

...As the sun rises, I have heard you say, "*This is my Lord, this is the greatest of them all.*" Oh my friends, I am indeed from your ascribing part to God. For me I have set my face and heart toward *Him*, who created the heavens and the earth, as a man of pure faith and one by nature upright, and I am not one of those who call himself a partner with his Gods. I beseech you to throw away all your idols and believe in *Elohim, Adonoi, and Hashem* as the one and only GOD, and you will find peace and serenity, something I am sorry to say you know little of.

HOAB

How dare you deprecate our holy Gods? Have you no respect? These are the Gods of our forbearers.

MUNG

(Shows idol.)

Where is this, whatever you call your GOD? I demand you show him to us! Here, here is Apis... You can see Apis can't you, well where is your Elohim? I demand you show him to me immediately! For we all know about your rhetoric, don't we Abram?

ANER

(Shows idol.)

...And here is Geb, the God of Earth, son of Shu and Tefnut...! Where is your GOD,
(Holds hands as if feeding a dog and laughs.)
Abram? Anyone see his Adoshem. Here Adoshem, come on boy, come to papa.

ESHCOL

(Shows idol.)

...Here is my God, Heqet! Can you not see him? Can you not feel him? Where is this
God of yours? Show him to me, let me touch him, at least let me smell him!

ABRAM

You take idols that you call Gods, that my father made for greed, avarice. Surely you and
your people are in manifest deviation.

KOL

I believe Abram is calling us crazy.

MAMRE

It is he that is crazy in believing in an *Adoshem* as he calls him, that he can't produce.

(Laughs.)

Here, *Adoshem, Adoshem*, come to papa. Come on Adoshem, come to papa. Anyone see
Adoshem?

ABRAM

You pray to your Gods, idols made by MY FATHER. How ridiculous to think that my
father has power to create Gods. You pray to your misbegotten idols, to the Moon and all
heavenly bodies, which cannot be God, because they set according to laws authored by
Elohim, my God. Your worship is senseless and futile! Serve the God of all Gods, the
Lord of all Lords who has created the heavens and earth, the sea and all therein. The,
God of Nimrah, and the God of Terah, the GOD of the East, the West, the South and the
North.

(Refrain ends.)

HOAB

What suddenly made you believe in *your* GOD, Abram? Haven't we always drank and
smoked as we prayed to our Gods, the glorious sun, and Nimrod together?

ABRAM

Who is Nimrod, but a dog, who calls himself a God that worship be offered to him. The Eternal, He is God, The Eternal and although you cannot see Him, He is everywhere. Truth and belief and you will be rewarded beyond your wildest dreams. He is God. You have prayed to the sun: despite its size and light, also disappears from sight and therefore, I came to realize it was folly to worship created phenomena. I have set my face toward *HIM* who created the heavens and the earth, a man of pure faith, and I am not those who call themselves partners with God, for God has no partners. His will be done, not mine.

ANER

(Loud.)

WHOSE WILL BE DONE, WHOSE WILL BE DONE?

ABRAM

(Exits.)

Perhaps one day you will find out, Aner? I bid you all peace and serenity, *shalom*.

(ALL sing 🎵)

DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO

ALL

Abram, you're nothing but a bum.
Who never learned to have some fun.
And we don't really like you,
So, don't try and tell us what to do.

MAMRE

He may have gone to school.

MUNG

But he's stubborn as a mule.

ESHCOL

And more foolish than a fool.

HOAB

All he does is deceive.

ANER

Yet he wants us to believe.

KOL

While my poor heart, doth grieve.

ALL

Abram, you're nothing but a bum.
Who never learned to have some fun.
And we don't really like you
So, don't try and tell us what to do.

MAMRE

Doesn't he know it's June?

MUNG

That's why we pray to the moon.

ESHCOL

And that makes him a loon.

HOAB

I say we do him in.

ANER

And I say lets kill him.

KOL

I don't think it's a sin.

ALL

Abram, you're nothing but a bum.
Who never learned to have some fun.
And we don't really like you,
So, don't tell us what to do.

End of Scene 3

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT II

Scene 4

One week later.

ABRAM is walking aimlessly in the desert, talking to HIMSELF.

ABRAM

(To self, walking.)

I mean, I saw all those, what *HE* called miracles, and they were unbelievable, but, I don't know: I mean all I got from believing more in *HIM* and *HIS* miracles, than all of those *things*, those false idols that my father makes, and who secretly laughs behind the backs of all those fools who buy them, is grief. Sarai threw me out of my own tent, and my friends, who I've known for most of my life, and who I have drank wine with and smoked that sacred herb, turned against me, when I told them how ridiculous it was to worship idols as Gods, when there is only one true GOD. Who else could make it... I believe he called it snow in the middle of the desert? Who else could make a star with fire cross the heavens, just because He willed it? Hey, I heard *Him* say it was going to happen, remember? Who else could turn night to day, except *Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem?*

(There is thunder and lightning and GOD appears.)

GOD

How nice of you to remember my name, Abram.

ABRAM

How could I forget? And, am I glad to see you, I mean hear you and feel you in my heart and soul, but I sure wish I could see Your face, just one time, please, just let me see it one time.

GOD

I see there is something troubling you my son.

ABRAM

You have no idea...

GOD

I beg your pardon.

ABRAM

I mean, I know you know what's troubling me. You know everything, don't You?

GOD

Not only what is troubling you, my son.

ABRAM

Sarai, threw me...

GOD

...Out of your own tent, I know. She feels inadequate, because she did not give you a son, but one day she will.

ABRAM

(Laughs.)

Are You saying that a child shall be born to me, who is past 75, and Sarai who is 65? Now, I don't mean to be disrespectful, but at this stage in my life, I don't think I can, and Sarai definitely doesn't have any desire and to tell You the truth, neither do I.

GOD

When the sun crosses this point your wife shall be with child, when it crosses the next point she shall give birth to a child, my son, but first you must separate yourself completely, not just from your land, but from your birthplace, Ur in Mesopotamia, from your father's house to the land I will show you.

ABRAM

Really, I mean I was born here, and what kind of land are you talking about?

(GOD sings ♪)

A LAND

A land, where the sun will always shine.
A land, that will be yours for all time.
A land, where your people will heed my call.
A land, a land for one and all.

Children will dance and sing.
You will pray ev'ryday.
There will be everything.
And you will find your way.

There will be figs galore,
A sea for you to sail,
And love forever more.
For you will never fail.

A land, where the sun will always shine.
A land, that will be yours for all time,
A land, where your people will heed my call,
A land, a land for one and all.

Your time will surely come.
People will multiply.
Your heart warmed by the sun,
And tears that you may cry.

One day there will be peace.
All will all call your name.
And you must never cease.
For there is much to blame.

A land, where the sun will always shine.
A land, that will be yours for all time,
A land, where your people will heed my call,
A land, a land for one and all.

ABRAM

And what about my friends...? Do you want me to forget them just like that?

GOD

They are not true friends if they associate with Babel, idolatry, superstition and heathenism. You must disassociate yourself from such people, places and things.

ABRAM

I know, I tried to tell them...

GOD

And to no avail, I know Abram, and your name one day I shall change.

S Goldberg

1-1-45

ABRAM

You are going to change my name, why, what's wrong with my name?

GOD

Both yours and Sarai's and in due time you will know why.

ABRAM

Really, when?

GOD

In due time.

(Thunder and lightning and GOD disappears.)

ABRAM

Wait, please don't go, I have so much I want to ask You.

End of Scene 4

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT II

Scene 5

Two hours later.

**Almost euphoric, with some trepidation
ABRAM enters tent and finds SARAI,
Sitting and feeling remorseful, doesn't
Respond. WE hear refrain of
"TOGETHER."**

ABRAM

Hello Sarai... Sarai, I'm home, I had to see you, tell you the wonderful news... Don't you want to know the good tidings I bring? Sarai, please speak to me.

SARAI

Did your father make new idols for me? Well, did he?

ABRAM

I didn't even ask him.

SARAI

Then I'm not talking to you, Abram.

ABRAM

He said he's going to change my name and yours too.

SARAI

Who's going to change our names?

ABRAM

Elohim, Adonoi, Hashem...

SARAI

Who are they, and you may be my husband, for the moment that is, but that doesn't give you the right to give whoever they are the right to change my name! And until you bring

back my Gods, my personal Gods, I must ask you to leave my home immediately. Please leave.

ABRAM

Don't you understand my beloved...? This was *our* home.

SARAI

You got that right; it *was* our home, and stop calling me your beloved. The way I feel right now I could, I could...

ABRAM

...Kill me? GOD would frown upon such an action, even the thought, especially since I'm his first and only covenant. Imagine that, I finally became a covenant.

SARAI

AGAIN WITH THE COVENANT, AGAIN WITH THE COVENANT? I'VE HAD UP TO HERE WITH YOU AND YOUR COVENANT. Please Apis, tell me what a covenant is before I lose my mind!

ABRAM

I believe a covenant, me, is someone who believes in *Hashem* with his whole heart, me. And let me tell you, I've never believed more and I will follow Him forever. Me, me, me.

SARAI

I'll give you me, and who is this Hashem? and don't tell me, *Elohim* and *Adonoi*.

ABRAM

Exactly.

SARAI

You mean you call all those phonies G0d? I mean give me a break, will you?

ABRAM

Sarai, why are you so angry with me, what did I do?

SARAI

(Emotional.)

If you really want to know, I will I tell you...I can't stand that everyone's been laughing at me behind my back. Is it my fault that I've been cursed, that I'm responsible for the extinction of your family? What family? Thanks to me you never had a family.

ABRAM

It's not your fault, honey and no one I know has been laughing at you, no one.

SARAI

Not even your God?

ABRAM

Elohim is compassionate and truly cares about everyone, especially you. In fact, he told me you are going to have my son.

SARAI

(Sobs.)

Do you expect me to believe such nonsense? I'm 80 years old, 80 years of utter and debilitating infertility, Abram, and you know it.

ABRAM

Please don't cry, Sarai. Your tears are more than I can bear, for I truly love you... I've always loved you.

SARAI

If you love me so much as you say, then you'll do what I ask.

ABRAM

Anything, anything.

SARAI

Behold now, your supposed *Adonoi*, even my beloved Gods has restrained me from bearing children: I pray you go in unto my handmaid Hagar, whom you have so desired, haven't you! It may be that I may obtain children by her. Before I die, ask your GOD, each of them to allow me to be called a mother.

(**ABRAM** sings 🎵)

ANYTHING YOU ASK I'LL DO

Anything you ask I'll do.
For, you are my beloved.
Anything you want I'll get,
My pet, you I covet.

We've both grown old together.
For better or for worse we vowed.
Been told it will get better.
To show my allegiance I bow.

For you are all I desire.
You smile and I can touch the sky.
Your lips set my soul afire.
And when you cry, well so do I.

Anything you ask I'll do.
For, you are my beloved.
Anything you want I'll get,
My pet, you I covet.

Believe and you will receive.
More than you've ever dreamed.
Love, you will no longer grieve.
This is what my Lord hath deemed.

Anything you ask I'll do.
For, you are my beloved.
Anything you want I'll get,
My pet, you I covet.

(SARAI walks away and sings.)

YOU ONCE WERE

I'm old and I'm tired.
I have no desire
It's time I retire.
For, I've lost my fire.

For eternity
You said you'd love me.
But now I can see,
He doesn't need me.

I feel so forlorn,
And why was I born?
Sad, that's why I mourn,
I'll just move along.

You once were everything.
My summer, and my spring.
You touched my heart and my soul,
And now we're very old,
And you don't care, any more about me.

Said he'd always care,
But, he's never there,
I just cannot bear,
I'm losing my hair.

He wants me to hate,
Ra is that my fate?
He may be my mate,
But he'll have to wait.

For better or worse,
I could use a nurse.
Yet, why do I curse?
It's time for my hearse.

You once were everything.
My summer and my spring.
You touched my heart and my soul,
And now we're very old,
And you don't care, any more about me.

(HAGAR enters.)

SARAI

Speaking of the Devil, I was just talking about you, Hagar.

HAGAR

You were, have I done something wrong, Mistress?

SARAI

On the contrary, a woman as beautiful as you could never do anything wrong, isn't that right, Abram?

ABRAM

If you say so, SARAI.

SARAI

Come Hagar; let's take a walk. There's something I'd like to ask you.

End of Scene 5

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT II

Scene 6

The next day.

Walking, ABRAM meets all his friends. THEY are chanting as they drink wine and smoke, they are holding idols and praying. THEY stop and make sarcastic remarks, trying to hurt and dissuade ABRAM from disbelieving their Gods, because how can they be wrong? WE hear refrain of “WE SHALL BE SAVED.”

Night.

MUNG

Well, look who's here, if it's not the non-believer himself. How the hell are you Mr. Non-Believer?

MAMRE

(Sarcastic, laughs.)

Hey Abram, how's your Elohim doing?

HOAB

Talk to your *Adonoi* lately? Seen any miracles you want to tell us about?

KOL

(Laughs.)

I think he called his God *HaShem* too, didn't you Abram? Didn't you call Him *HaShem*?

ANER

Now that's a name for you, don't you think fellas? *HaShem*, what a dumb name.

ESHCOL

(Laughs.)

First time I ever heard of a God that had so many names. He must be pretty special to have all those names, wouldn't you say, fellas? It was four names, wasn't it yeah I think his God had four weird names

ABRAM

You must never take the Lord's name in vain!

HOAB

Why, what's your *Adonoi* gonna do, kill me? Yeah, let's see Him kill me. Hey fellas, don't you want to see his GOD kill me?

(HOAB is suddenly stricken and falls to the Earth clutching his throat and barely screams. ALL will panic.)

HOAB (Cont'd)

HELP ME, I CANNOT BREATHE, I CANNOT *B-R-E-A-T-H-E!*

ANER

Something has happened to Hoab.

MAMRE

He looks like he's dying!

MUNG

Open his mouth, he cannot breath! I think he's dying!

(Concerned, THEY surround him. Suddenly WE hear birds begin to sing as ABRAM touches HOAB and he miraculously recovers.)

HOAB

For a moment I felt like I was dying and you touched me and I was saved. I don't know what you did Abram, but thank you. Thank you, thank you, my friend.

ABRAM

Thank *Elohim*, I did nothing, for He is my Lord, who makes all miracles, I asked Him to help you, my friend Hoab, and as you see, He did. I am merely His trusted servant. *Adonoi* creates all miracles.

MAMRE

Why, don't you ask your *Adonoi* to show us one of His miracles, Abram, I haven't seen a miracle in years, have you Aner? And if you desire Abram to deliver yourself from the fire of Nimrod, bow down before him, get down on your knees and believe in NIMROD!

ABRAM

May the Eternal rebuke thee, vile, contemptible, accursed blasphemer!

ANER

Ya know, I could go for a miracle right now, Abram. What say fellas?

ALL

(Chanting.)

We want a miracle, we want a miracle, we want a miracle, we want a miracle, we want a miracle!

(Suddenly more birds, hundreds sing loudly. MUNG, MAMRE and ESHCOL bow down to ABRAM.)

ABRAM

Do not bow down before me, but before GOD, the Master of the Universe who has created the heavens and all of us. Serve Him and walk in His ways, for it was He who delivered me from the flames and it was He who has created the soul and the spirit of every human being who formed man in the womb of his mother and was brought into the world. He saves from all sickness, those who trust and believe Him.

KOL

(Raises idols and is about to throw them away.)

I don't know about you, but I'm convinced, because Abram just made all those birds sing, and we didn't even see them! There are no birds in the desert, how did he do it?

ABRAM

It is not I, only GOD can make a miracle. Trusting in the Lord is the miracle.

KOL

(Throws the idols away.)

Anyone want Amun and Aten...? No one...? Alright, here goes...

MAMRE

Hey, you just saw what happened, Abram made all those birds sing, and I never heard that before, I mean, is that a miracle or is that a miracle?

MOAB

And didn't Abram just save my life? I don't know about you guys, but Abram, I believe in Abram, don't you? Abram believes in *Elohim* and you know what that means, we better start believing in Him.

ESHCOL

Tell you the truth, *Atem, Atum, Anuket* and all the rest never made birds sing for me, and Abram just saved Moab's life and you guys saw it, didn't you? I'm getting rid of these useless idols and I'm going to do what Abram says. I'm going to believe in his GOD...

ABRAM

It is not what I say, for I am only his trusted servant and do only what he bids. He wants all of his covenant to obey, for He is the truth. Forget about His miracles and believe in...

KOL

If we believe in *Adonoi*, is that what we become, His covenant?

ABRAM

All who believe are part of His Covenant.

ALL

Hip, hip for the Covenant.

ANER

Abram, my brother, my fellow *covenanteer*, please forgive me for ridiculing you, for not believing, that these idols are merely man made, nothing, utter garbage and not your GOD of miracles as you have decreed and as we now truly believe in your *Elohim*.

(Refrain ends. ALL sing 🎵)

WE WILL BE SAVED

We have been led astray.
But, we have found the truth.
We have believed in clay.
Idols are so uncouth.

We know with *Adonoi*,
We will love one and all.
With GOD there will be joy,
Adonoi we will call.

We are saved.
There will be peace on earth.
For all we are worth,
We will be saved.

ABRAM

Until ye all have heard,
That there is just one God.
Come let us spread the word,
That life shall not be hard.

ALL

Suddenly there is hope.
War is a thing of the past.
We have untied the rope.
Our sins we shall cast.

We are saved.
There will be peace on earth.
For all we are worth,
We will be saved.

MOAB

I speak for all of us, we believe in...

ALL

Elohim, Adonoi, HaShem!

ABRAM

There's one more, the King of Kings.

ESCHOL

Where'd that come from?

(ABRAM smiles.)

ALL

Elohim, Adonoi, HaShem, the King of Kings!

KOL

We believe in the King of Kings, the one and only GOD and we are pleased to become his devoted covenant and we shall follow you Abram to *OUR* new Promised land, for you believe in God and we believe in you and that is our miracle.

End of ACT II

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 1

Some time later.

Tent. HAGAR is very pregnant. To SARAI'S consternation, ABRAM pays too much attention to HAGAR. WE hear refrain of "HELP ME."

ABRAM

Look how beautiful Hagar looks, Sarai. Doesn't she look beautiful? Adonoi is kind, for he has blessed us with the son that we both so hungered for, and our trusted Hagar has been gracious enough to carry our baby, *our* baby Sarai, *our* baby.

SARAI

Yes she is, isn't she? BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN SHE DOES NOT HAVE TO
(To Hagar.)

WORK! WHAT AM I PAYING HER FOR? WHY, HAVE YOU NOT WASHED MY ROBES AS I ASKED YOU? WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED COOKING? AM I NOT STILL THE MISTRESS OF THIS HOME? MY HOME!

ABRAM

Sarai please, Hagar is in her ninth month. She has a hard time walking, much less working. Please, be a little bit considerate. Compassion is a virtue, my beloved.

SARAI

Sure, you slept with here a 100 times until you impregnated her and you still can't wipe that stupid grin off your ugly face, and you have the audacity, the unmitigated gall to call me your beloved? You love her, don't you? And don't think I don't know it. You love this tramp, who gave herself willingly to you, more than me! Don't you Abram, don't you? And you wanted her, you've wanted her since the day you saw her, and you enjoyed her, like you once enjoyed me, didn't you?

ABRAM

Despite the fact that God willed that I shall have a nation, and as you know, His will be done: He knows all these years you have felt unfulfilled, unrequited, less than the woman you are, and to me you have always been more than I deserve: perfect, the ideal woman and I could ask for no more. Dearest, throughout the ages, many women have asked their handmaiden to do their bearing and it has been widely accepted that the children born belonged to the mistress. You should thank Adonoi, for soon you will have the chance to be the mother you always wanted to be, and it has been decreed that you will be the mother of all mothers. I know that to be true.

SARAI

And did your *Adonoi* also will that you fall in love with her?

ABRAM

I do not love her as I love you, and He has said that you too will bare me a son, *our* son.

SARAI

My wrong be upon you: I have given my maid into your bosom: the Lord judge between me, and you. It breaks my heart that you love her more than you do me and it's my fault.

HAGAR

Why do you think your husband loves me? He merely impregnated me to make you feel whole, to give you the serenity that you so long for, to make you feel as a woman, and as a mother. Have you not cried that you want to be called Mama? I heard with my own ears and because of my compassion and allegiance to you, I agreed to your beckoning. Do you think that I want to give away my own flesh and blood? Ra knows it is the only child I've had. Only because I am your handmaiden do I acquiesce. Forgive me Edjo,

(Sobs.)

serpent Goddess of the Delta, forgive me Bes, protector of children, my son, my only son, my only son .

ABRAM

Behold, your maid is in your hand: do to her as you like, Sarai, but be compassionate, for the Lord sees all and is witness.

SARAI

If that's the case, get out, you slut, and don't return until you give me my son!
That's right, my son, not your son! Now, be off!

(Refrain ends.)

(Crying, HAGAR runs out. SARAI sings ♪))

AM I ASKING SO MUCH?

SARAI

Let her go!
She has stolen my husband's love from me.
All I know,
Since that day, I know not peace, nor reverie.

Satan's curse,
May she sleep and dwell in the Devil's bed.
In her hearse,
Lord I pray that the tramp soon will be dead.

Am I asking so much?
She ruined my life.
But I'm to blame,
I made her his wife.

I can't look at my face.
I hate what I've done.
I hate the human race,
And I hate the sun?

I can't breathe,
It seems jealousy is eating my soul.
What I need
Is my beloved husband to warm this cold.

Was a time,
When I was the only thing that mattered.
Now he's blind,
And now that is why my whole world's shattered.

Am I asking so much?
She ruined my life.
But I'm to blame,
I made her his wife.

I can't look at my face.
I hate what I've done.
I hate the human race,
And I hate the sun?

End of Scene 1

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 2

**The Desert.
Seven years later.
Night.**

**Happy, ABRAM is walking in the
desert. Suddenly night becomes day.
WE Hear refrain of
“LOVE IS THE ANSWER.”**

ABRAM

Elohim...? Am I glad to see You, I mean hear You, I mean You know what I mean.

GOD

How, did you know it was I, my son?

ABRAM

You are the only one I know that makes miracles, I mean, who else can turn night into day, make stars with fire, make it as You say, snow in the desert?

GOD

It was really nothing and I see you are quite pleased.

ABRAM

Thanks to You my Lord, we just celebrated our son Ishmael's seventh birthday and thanks to Your benevolence, I am truly blessed and could not be happier.

GOD

Nor I, for you are the first true believer, who has brought many to my covenant. In time, your nation will grow into the multiples and you will become the father of my people. Your name will be a holy name, revered and cherished by many religions forever.

ABRAM

I am humbled by Your belief in me, my dear Lord, but I don't deserve it, for I am nothing but a humble man, Your trusted servant, who is in need and seeks Your guidance.

GOD

Because you are the first monotheist and believer in your *Elohim*, who is your GOD, your only GOD, I change your name to Abraham, the father of the Chosen, My people.

ABRAHAM

Abraham, huh? And You said I am the father of the Chosen, Your people; a nation, how many people and what kind of nation are You talking about?

GOD

When you come to the Promised Land, you and your people will multiply and reach the far corners of this earth. They will become great doctors and lawyers and artists and preachers: Great scientists and leaders of the free world, respected, and admired by one and all. Your people, your nation, and my covenant will one-day help rule this glorious planet that I alone have created in six days. On the seventh day, the Sabbath, I rested and so shall you and all your children.

ABRAHAM

In six days You created the Earth, wow, and on the seventh day You rested and so shall we? I think I like that. Now, that's a miracle and what about my name?

GOD

Hence, I shall call you Abraham to demonstrate that I, your one and only GOD, has the power to even rename his initial disciple: you, my beloved son, Abraham, the father of my people, the Chosen.

ABRAHAM

I don't mind being called Abraham, in fact I think I like it, yeah, Abraham. Wait'll I tell Sarai, Ishmael, Hagar they have to call me Abraham... I wonder what Sarai will think?

GOD

Her name, I too shall change.

ABRAHAM

Er, I don't know about changing Sarai's name, I mean she hasn't been too thrilled lately.

GOD

She is discontent because, in her heart she still does not accept Ishmael as her own son, and she resents that you have taken Hagar as your wife and all the attention you have given to her; that the life of your sexual instincts cannot be tamed nor altered is a man-made character defect, and how you cherish and adore Ishmael, this too disheartens her. Try to understand, that since Adam and Eve, who were a culmination of your GODs creativity, unfortunately, the human being is both savage and divine, both animal and

angel, both heaven and earth, and I forgive and love you all, despite your character defects, for I have decreed, that Sarah shall bear your son.

ABRAHAM

Wait a minute and I don't mean to be disrespectful: I mean You are the one and only God, my God, King of Kings, because I've seen Your miracles, remember? I think we went through this once before, but shall a child be born unto him that is a 100 years old and Sarai who is 90?

GOD

You mean Sarah, the mother of my Covenant, my Chosen people, your glorious nation, *Sarah* it shall be...

ABRAHAM

...All right, you can call her Sarah, but I don't think she'll be able to...

GOD

...Bear your son. She will and you will call him Isaac.

(Refrain ends. ABRAHAM sing 🎵)

THANK YOU

I am going to have a son with my wife.
She is the most important person in my life.
Thank you my *Hashem*.

A son my heavenly father will give me.
At last we shall enjoy peace and serenity.
Thank you *Elohim*

There is so much I have to be thankful for.
And both of us shall be thankful forever more.
Thank you *Adonoi*.

I believe, in the King of Kings.
I believe and so my heart sings.
I believe there will be joy and mirth.
I believe the meek shall inherit the Earth.

I am blessed to have witnessed my Lord's miracle.
With His guidance my life is now so lyrical.
Thank you my *Hashem*.

Only He has the power to turn night to day.
He commands us to rest on the Sabbath day.
Thank you *Elohim*.

Look to the heavens and I see a shooting star.
Believe in the Lord you will find out who you are.
Thank you *Adonoi*.

I believe, in the King of Kings.
I believe there will be joy and mirth.
I believe and so my heart sings.
I believe the meek shall inherit the Earth.

End of Scene 2

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 3

6 six years later.

Tent. SARAH has given birth to ISAAC, and is nursing him. ABRAHAM is beaming. HAGAR hates the fact. WE hear refrain, "LOVE IS THE ANSWER."

SARAH

Is not Isaac, your *true* son, the most beautiful boy you have ever seen, Abraham?

(ABRAHAM looks at HAGAR and agrees.)

SARAH (Cont'd)

(Smiles sarcastically at Hagar.)

If I doubted your GOD, *Elohim, Adonoi, and Hashem* before, *my* beloved husband? I shall question no more that he is truly the King of Kings, Lord of all Lords, The Messiah and my beloved GOD, for He has granted me the miracle of all miracles, and yes I now believe, as you have spoken about all His miracles, Abraham. And you Hagar, from this moment on will never bring nor speak of your false idols whom you refer to as Gods in my home! How ridiculous, how utterly inane. And your bastard son, Ishmael must do the same, he must stop mumbling his futile mantras to his and your ridiculous Gods, or I will banish the both of you from our sacred home forever! For my husband has said *Adonoi* is a jealous GOD, is He not my beloved?

(Refrain ends.)

HAGAR

But Sarai...

SARAH

...It is Sarah! I have told you that *Elohim* has decreed that my name is to be Sarah, and I saw how your animalistic son Ishmael was staring at my baby with hatred in his eyes. If he so much as touches one hair on Isaac, I will not only kill him, I will kill you!

HAGAR

(Aside.)

Save me Seti, Hamon, for I am Abram's wife and mother of his son, Ishmael and I am being threatened in the home he said was to be mine that is why I live here. And where shall I go, where shall I go?

SARAH

I heard you mumbling, I heard you mumbling you whore!

ABRAHAM

Please Sarah, be kind to Hagar for she is...

SARAH

...Is what, your whore? She gave you an illegitimate bastard that I, as an old fool orchestrated. You don't need her or your bastard son any more: You, have me and Isaac, your true and only family.

(ALL will sing.)

WON'T YOU SHOW ME HOW

HAGAR

I'm not wanted,
I'm not needed,
I must go.

I am taunted,
And not heeded,
I don't know...

What I'm doing here,
This is not my home.
I just live in fear,
I feel so alone.

SARAH

I am wanted,
I am needed,
What I know.

I'm not taunted,
'Cause I've heeded,
My Lord shows.

At last there is joy.
Suddenly it's spring.
I have my own boy.
And I want to sing.

ABRAHAM

Since I was born,
I needed you,
As you know.

And so I'm torn.
What shall I do?
I don't know.

Lord, I need you now.
Because I am lost.
Won't, you show me how?
'Cause, you are the boss.

(Lights flicker and it is 13 years later.)

SARAH

(Angrily holding up idols.)

Hagar! What is this I found hidden in the wash? What is this?

HAGAR

It is Harpocrates, the son of Isis and Osiris, Sarai. I, meant no harm, please forgive me.

SARAH

Harpocrates, Harpocrates, what did I tell you 13 year ago about bringing your forbidden GODs into my home and why do you still call me Sarai? Is it because you disrespect the King of Kings, my Lord, well is it?

ABRAHAM

Sarah, please, what do you care what she calls you? Does it really matter? She and Ishmael have been with us so long. Does it really matter? They are part of our family.

SARAH

Your bastard son, Ishmael and his whore mother are a part of your illegitimate family, not mine!

End of Scene 3

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 4

**Two days later.
Night.**

**ABRAHAM is walking in the desert.
HE sees a shooting star and knows.**

ABRAHAM

Adonoi, is that Thou Adonoi?

(There is thunder and lightning and GOD appears.)

GOD

It is none other my son and I like what thou hath called me, Adonoi. Adonoi, yes, I like the way it sounds, gorgeous. Say it again, let me hear thou say it again.

ABRAHAM

Adonoi, Adonoi, Adonoi and thanks, I'm glad Thou like it, that's what I've been calling Thee and I'm glad Thou like it.

GOD

Things of such a benevolent nature only come to prophets.

ABRAHAM

Are Thou calling me a prophet? I'm not a prophet I'm just an ordinary guy, like Mamre and Eshcol and all the other guys.

GOD

I speak only to thee and all those I speak to will forever be called prophets.

ABRAHAM

Gee, I was never called a prophet before, not even by my, mother. I don't know how to thank Thee.

GOD

Perhaps there is a way? I am the Almighty GOD: walk before me, and be perfect, and I will make my covenant between me, and thee I will multiply thy seed accordingly.

ABRAHAM

I hate to say this, but I don't know what Thou meaneth by making me a covenant? You said it before and I told Sarah and she also didn't know what it means.

GOD

What it means is this: Thou shalt circumcise the flesh of thy foreskin, and that shalt be a sign of the covenant between Me and thee.

ABRAHAM

(Clutches self in desperation.)

I hope Thou don't meaneth what I think Thou meaneth?

GOD

Throughout the generation every male among you shall be circumcised at eight days.

ABRAHAM

That lets me out and am I glad. Whew, am I glad.

GOD

As for the home born slave and one bought from an outsider who is not of thy offspring, Thou and they must be circumcised.

ABRAHAM

Oh no, not me, please not me. Thou just said it has to be done when they're eight days old. It's too late, isn't it? It's too late for me. I'm an old man, a 100-years old. Thou don't want an old man like me to do it, do Thou? And I bet it's really going to hurt.

GOD

And if any male, Abraham, who, is not uncircumcised fails to be circumcised, that person shall be cut off from me, his King, for he has broken my covenant so, take heed.

(ABRAHAM, with trepidation sings as he holds self.)

BOO HOO

ABRAHAM

He wants me too,
But I don't want to,
But I have to...
Boo hoo, boo hoo, boo hoo.

S Goldberg

1-1-68

I know he's heaven sent,
He's *Elohim*.
It's in His covenant?
Did I ask him?
I know it's gonna hurt.
I'm gonna cry.
I'll turn into dirt,
Then I will die.

He wants me too,
But I don't want to,
But I have to...
Boo hoo, boo hoo, boo hoo.

Said I was a prophet.
Called him *Adonoi*.
I wish he would stop it.
Oh boy oh boy.

I do what he asks me.
He knows what is best.
But why doesn't he see?
I might fail his test.

He wants me too,
But I don't want to,
But I have to...
Boo hoo, boo hoo, boo hoo.

End of Scene 4

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 5

Night.

ABRAHAM, sort of limping and holding himself meets his friends, who are drinking wine and smoking. WE hear birds sing.

ESHCOL

Doth my eyes deceive me. Can it be Abraham, whom we have not seen since he found his...?

ALL

...Elohim, Adonoi, HaShem!

ANER

(Hands jug of wine to Abraham.)

Just in time. Here is a taste of some delicious wine my father has just squeezed.

ESHCOL

It's really good...

MOAB

(Because he is high, slurs.)

I love it, don't you, fellas?

ALL

WE LOVE IT! WE LOVE IT!

MUNG

I personally prefer the sacred weed, for I do not get a hangover as I do from the grape. My wife frowns when I get a hangover, for she rarely imbibes as I do. And, I don't understand why she does not drink? I drink everyday, morning, noon, and night.

KOL

(Laughs.)

And my fat wife doesn't stop, she drinks everyday, more than I do.

(ALL laugh.)

MUNG

That is why I prefer to smoke, hangovers give me a headache.

(ALL laugh.)

ANER

Forgive my asking, Abraham, but why are you walking like that? What be it your problem?

MOAB

And why are you holding yourself like that? You're not 13, remember?

(Again ALL laugh.)

KOL

13? He's 100 years old, and, if you had two wives, especially one as beautiful as Hagar, and being a 100 years or not, you'd hold your... too.

(ALL laugh.)

MAMRE

Want to tell us about it, my *covenanteer*?

MUNG

Only the good parts, I only want to hear the good parts.

(Again ALL laugh.)

MOAB

We are waiting for the good parts, Abraham. Would you not tell us, your brethren why you hold yourself?

(Birds sound louder.)

ABRAHAM

Well, I'm holding myself, because I have this pain, but it is a wonderful pain: a pain that our God, your *Elohim* has given me, because at last I am his true covenant.

ESHCOL

Are you saying that *Elohim* gives pain to his covenant? I thought he only made miracles, now pain is a whole other thing. Tell you the truth, I really don't go for pain, and if there's pain, I don't know about being in His covenant anymore, do you fellas?

KOL

Well if pain's involved, I'm out. No pain for Kol, no way and forget about his covenant, I pass.

ALL

FORGET ABOUT HIS COVENANT!

MAMRE

Want to tell us about your pain, Abraham?

ABRAHAM

You must believe in the Lord that is the gift, for when you believe all is possible. I believe in GOD and that is my strength. He said I had to be circumcised.

(Birds stop singing.)

ALL

(Taken aback.)

CIRCUMCISED!

MOAB

Covenant or no covenant, I'm not getting circumcised, no way...!

ANER

...Especially at my age, and what about my wife? What's she going to do...?

MAMRE

...My wife likes it just the way it is... She calls it her cutie.

KOL

...And what happens if they cut off too much...?

ESHCOL

...What are you worried about *too* much for...?

KOL

...Because my little *piggy* is not that big to begin with... But don't tell anybody.

MUNG

(Laughs.)

(Loud, announces, laughing.)

I didn't know you had a little *piggy*. Now hear this, Kol has a little *piggy*, I mean a tiny

(Spread fingers and laughs.)

little piggy! Poor boy, it's not even this big.

(Refrain ends. ALL laugh and sing 🎵)

KOL HAS A LITTLE ONE

MUNG (Cont'd)

Kol has a little one,

(Spreads fingers.)

It's not even this big.

ESHCOL

Kol has a little one,

And he calls it his pig.

MOAB

Kol has a little one,

I pity his poor wife.

MAMRE

Kol has a little one,

Now it's gonna face the knife.

ANER

Kol has a little one,

That's what he just told me.

ALL

Kol has a little one,

Which, we all want to see.

(ALL laugh.)

And now, it's going to be even smaller.

I think that it's a joke.

Just take it like a man and stand up taller

And then just have a smoke.

MUNG

Kol has a little one,
But *shhh* don't say a word.

ESHCOL

Kol has a little one,
And I think that it's absurd.

MOAB

Kol has a little one,
And to think I never knew.

MAMRE

Kol has a little one,
And he don't know what to do.

ANER

Kol has a little one,
And now we know that we are blessed.

ALL

Kol has a little one,
That's why he won't get undressed.

And now, it's going to be even smaller.
I think that it's a joke.
Just take it like a man and stand up taller
And then just have a smoke.

ESHCOL

So, are you going to tell us what really made you do it? I mean we got rid of our idols
and we're brethren, aren't we?

ABRAHAM

Except for Mung, he still has his Seti...

MUNG

How do you know?

ABRAHAM

I have been told.

MUNG

Well, when I told my wife about those miracles, she said it was black magic, orchestrated by none other than Satan himself. So, I got to thinking and... now with getting circumcised, who else would do such a horrible thing to man, if not the devil. Do you have any idea how much it's going to hurt, big time? Think about it, when you stub your toe or you bang your hand, how does it feel?

ALL

It hurts it hurts.

MUNG

Well, think how bad it's going to hurt when you get circumcised?

MOAB

Oh, I really don't want to do it, and I don't know anyone that knows how to... do you? Who did it, Abraham, who circumcised you?

(Birds begin to sing.)

ABRAHAM

I did it myself.

ESHCOL

YOU DID IT YOURSELF? What are you a sadist? How could you do it yourself?

ALL

HOW COULD YOU?

ABRAHAM

The Lord said, and don't quote me, I should circumcise my foreskin and there'll be a covenant between, me-and-Him. I think he was testing me, because he knew how bad I wanted to be in his covenant, anyway, I tried to talk myself out of it, I mean I really tried, but He said I had to do it, no doubt about it, so I did it. And don't make such a big deal about it? It hurt for about two or three days, and now, it's subsiding. Tomorrow, I bet I won't even feel it, and you said, your wife called it cute, didn't you Mamre? Now she'll say it's beautiful. Personally, I love the way it looks, gorgeous, just gorgeous.

End of Scene 5

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 6

ABRAHAM is walking and there is
Thunder and lightning and GOD
appears. **WE** hear refrain of
“**A LAND.**”

ABRAHAM

I know it is You *Adonoi*; it has to be my *Adonoi*.

GOD

Here I am, and there's no fooling you my son, and I love the name *Adonoi*, I just love it.

ABRAHAM

So, what can I do for You *Adonoi*, what kind of test are Thou going to put me through today and I'm sure it won't be as hard as that circumcision. Now, that was a test, okay, let me have it.

GOD

My ways are above yours, Abraham. This shall test thy endurance and true belief in being my covenant. What I shall ask you will test you beyond all human pain and suffering, but I must know and believe you will be the father of my people.

ABRAHAM

Are You sure You want me to be the father of Your people, when I have a hard time being the father of Ishmael and Isaac?

GOD

I want you to give up what is most precious to you.

ABRAHAM

Try me Lord, and put me to the test. I will do whatever You ask, for Your will and not mine be done.

GOD

I want you to sacrifice your beloved son, Isaac.

(ABRAHAM is stunned and heart stricken. There is a long pause,)

ABRAHAM

WHAT? I cannot believe that You want me to kill my son Isaac, who I love more than life?

GOD

Now, tell me who do you believe in? Do you believe in Me, the one that gave you your son, or do you believe in myths, ideas that you had prior to becoming my covenant, and prophet to the masses for time and anon?

ABRAHAM

I have waited all these years for this blessed son of promise, who You alone have chosen to walk on this earth that You have created. What have I done to bring this wrath of

(Cries.)

(Falls to the earth.)

my beloved God upon me? Why, why, why dear Lord *Adonoi* are you doing this to me? Why are you torturing me? Lord, God, *Adonoi, Hashem!* Please heed your trusted servant in this moment of anguish and turmoil and have pity on me. Why take this innocent child's life in sacrifice? This child born to Sarah and me in old age - this child of but few years - this beautiful child born of a miracle out of our shriveled, withered old bones - this longed-for promised child. I am not like the pagans who sacrifice their children, babies and lambs to their pagan Gods. Please have mercy on me. I beseech You.

GOD

The Lord, your God, *Adoshem, Elohim*, The Holy of Holies has spoken.

ABRAHAM

I pray to You, Lord God *Adonoi* and may my prayers please You, that You would take my life this moment, and please spare my beloved son! Isaac is Your Promised

(Cries.)

child, and the love and hope of this beleaguered soul, who bears within him the seed of your Promised Chosen People. And please God, spare this beautiful child Isaac, Your beloved – please take the life of this worn out decrepit old man who is of little value and means nothing! Lord, have mercy, have mercy on Your son, my boy Isaac.

GOD

Do as I have told you my son! Take Isaac, and go to Mount Moriah, and there build an altar to me. And when the altar is built, pile it high with wood, and bind Isaac, and when he is bound, slay him in sacrifice, like a bullock, and lay him on the altar. When he is laid upright on the altar, light a fire and sacrifice him unto me as a holocaust.

ABRAHAM

Please GOD, do not do this to me. If You take my son from my bosom, take me, for I cannot, nor do I want to live without my beloved son, Isaac.

GOD

You must do as I say, for I am, *Adonoi, Elohim, Hashem*, King of all Kings, the Lord Almighty, your GOD the Messiah who you must heed!

(Refrain ends.)

(Thunder and lightning and GOD disappears. There is a long pause for

ABRAHAM is saddened. With tears in his eyes, ABRAHAM sings 🎵)

TAKE ME INSTEAD

ABRAHAM

My life has now come to the end.
Isaac I must sacrifice.
The Lord who I called my best friend.
Has now turned my blood to ice.

I wanted to see my son grow,
Into a man, who prays to GOD.
And now Abraham doesn't know,
Why life has become so hard.

Take me, take me instead.
I can't, can't take this pain.
Wish I, wish I were dead,
Lord, please let it rain.

Please, please bury me.
In the deep, in the deep blue sea
I can, I cannot live.
For I cannot breathe.

He, is who I must now believe.
Hashem always knows what's best.
Alas, it is I who will grieve,
As I lay my son to rest.

Take me, take me instead.
I can't, can't take this pain.
Wish I, wish I were dead,
Lord, please let it rain.

Please, please bury me.
In the deep, in the deep blue sea
I can, I cannot live.
For I cannot breathe.

End of Scene 6

In the **BEGINNING**

ACT III

Scene 7

A week later.

The Desert.

Distraught, ABRAHAM is speaking to ISAAC. Two slaves are accompanying them as they are walking. WE hear refrain of "GOD."

ISAAC

Where are we going father and why was mother crying with such passion?

ABRAHAM

Your mother was crying, because she did not want to see you go. You know how much she loves you, and she always fears for your safety, as do I.

(ABRAHAM sings 🎵)

ABRAHAM

I CRY

I cry, because I am going to lose my beloved son.
I cry, because to me you are the only one.
I cry, because I do not want to live another day.
I cry, I cry, I cry, because I want to die.

Everyday I heard you laugh, my heart would sing.
You are my everything, that's why my heart would sing.

And when I saw you run across the fields of grass.
What more could I ask, than watch you run through fields of grass.

I asked *Adonoi* if He could not take me instead?
I wish I were dead, and that He'd take me instead.

I cry, because I am going to lose my beloved son.
I cry, because to me you are the only one.
I cry, because I do not want to live another day.
I cry, I cry, I cry, because I want to die.

Your mother, I pray that she will not lose her mind.
Perhaps she may go blind then she will lose her mind.

A father loves his son more than he loves himself.
I need help; I love you more than I love myself.

I must believe that the Good Lord knows what is best.
The Sabbath I must rest, for He knows what is best.

I cry, because I am going to lose my beloved son.
I cry, because to me you are the only one.
I cry, because I do not want to live another day.
I cry, I cry, I cry, because I want to die.

ISAAC

But why are you crying, father?

ABRAHAM

I cry for all the people that are suffering. People we do not know but who like us are also God's children.

ISAAC

Only you my beloved father have such compassion for the needy. Do you not offer food to those hungry travelers? Do you not offer a bed for those who are in need of rest?

ABRAHAM

Because we are the covenant, we must always help the unfortunate.

ISAAC

Is that why we are going to the mountain, to make our offering to pray for the unfortunate? To thank *Hashem* for all He has blessed us with, for is not the King of Kings always with us, and is He not our Savior and protector?

ABRAHAM

(Very emotional, looks into Isaac's eyes.)

Yes He is my beloved son, yes he is... Isaac, I don't know if I told you, but I love you

(Kisses Isaac for a beat.)

more than life itself. You are the son, the blessing I have always dreamed of, and here I am, an old man, thanks to you, living his dream.

ISAAC

Father, you tell me, and more than tell me, you show me your love for me all the time and I am grateful, overwhelmed by thy multitude of love for me. You are truly a father who the Lord has blessed me with and I am grateful. I love you father more than I can say, and I will try, with the Lord's help to grow up in your image. Please dear Lord; allow me to walk in the footsteps of my holy father.

(THEY both embrace and stop before a mountain. ABRAHAM speaks to one of his slaves.)

ABRAHAM

Eliezer, stay here the boy and I go up the mountain. We will worship, make an offering and then, GOD willing we shall return.

(THEY walk off and ABRAHAM gathers wood and gives it to ISAAC. ABRAHAM builds an altar, and arranges the wood on it and starts a fire.)

ISAAC

Father, we have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

ABRAHAM

GOD will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

(Thunder and lightning. ABRAHAM cries as he ties up ISAAC.)

ISAAC

Father, what are you doing? Why are you tying me up?

ABRAHAM

We too, are all condemned sinners and deserve the Lord's judgment. Now is the time to ask Hashem for His forgiveness, Isaac. Pray as you have never prayed before, my son.

(Emotional and uncertain, ISAAC looks up and sings 🎵)

I HAVE SINNED

ISAAC

Forgive me Blessed *Elohim* I have sinned.
I have gone astray,
Along the beaten path,
Guess I deserve your wrath, for I have sinned.

Your son cannot be perfect, but he tries.
Much to my despair,
Despite you're always there,
You are the reason this humble man cries.

No matter how hard I try I fail.
It, seems I'm never satisfied.
And after I turn to you I wail.
Because I'm filled with such false pride.

My, father who speaks of you with such love.
You are all he ever needs.
And when he ever bleeds,
He turns to you Dear GOD up above.

And promises that, you are always there.
To, comfort a broken soul.
To warm us when we get cold.
And heal us when we are filled with despair.

No matter how hard I try I fail.
It seems I'm never satisfied.
And after I turn to you I wail.
Because I'm filled with such false pride.

(ABRAHAM places ISAAC on the altar, takes out a knife and is about to slay him, when he hears and angel's voice.)

ANGEL (VO)

Abraham, Abraham here I am! Do not lay a hand on the boy, do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear GOD, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.

(ABRAHAM looks up and in the thicket he sees a ram caught by its horns. HE goes over and takes the ram, and sacrifices it as a burnt offering.)

ABRAHAM

I offer this ram as a burnt offering to Thee my Lord, and I say, believeth and the Lord will provide.

(ABRAHAM unties ISAAC, they embrace, SARAH appears, THEY all embrace and they sing 🎵)

DON'T FORGET ADONOI

ABRAHAM

The Lord giveth and He taketh.

SARAH

And, the bread that I maketh.

ISAAC

He blesseth for His saketh.

ABRAHAM

And the prayers that we offer.

SARAH

I whisper 'cause they're softer.

ISAAC

(Smiles and coughs.)

And sometimes I even cougher.

ALL

Elohim, Adonoi, Adoshem

Believe and end all mayhem.

ABRAHAM

Don't forget The King of Kings.

With Him your heart always sings.

ALL

When you believe, nothing can go wrong.

When you believe, the righteous will be strong.

When you believe, the tears will turn to mirth.
When you believe, the meek shall inherit the Earth.

Elohim, Adonoi, God of Gods.
Trust and nothing will be hard.

ABRAHAM

To me He is heaven sent.

SARAH

And we are His covenant.

ISAAC

That's why we don't pay rent.

ALL

Elohim, Adonoi, Adoshem
Believe and end all mayhem.

ABRAHAM

Don't forget The King of Kings.
With Him, your heart always sings.

ALL

(Sing 🎵)

Elohim, Adonoi, GOD of GODs.
Trust and nothing will be hard.

(ALL hug and embrace as ALL ABRAHAM'S FRIENDS appear.)

ANER

Do you think you can have a party without your best friends?

ABRAHAM

I don't believe it I don't believe it! How did you know I was here?

(FRIENDS point to the heavens and sing 🎵)

THANKS TO YOU

ESHCOL

Thanks to you, I found *Elohim*,

My Kings of Kings.

HOAB

Thanks to you, I found Adonoi,
I'm filled with joy.

KOL

Thanks to you, I found *Adoshem*
No more mayhem.

MAMRE

Thanks to you, I found *Elohim*,
He's everything.

MUNG

Thanks to you, I found *Adonoi*,
He gives me much joy.

ANER

Thanks to you, I have found true peace.
Now, lets have a feast!

ALL

When you believe, nothing can go wrong.
When you believe, the righteous will be strong.
When you believe, the tears will turn to mirth.
When you believe, the meek shall inherit the Earth.

Elohim, Adonoi, Adoshem
Believe and end all mayhem.

ABRAHAM

Don't forget The King of Kings.
With Him your heart always sings.

ALL

Elohim, Adonoi, God of Gods.

ALL

When you believe, nothing can go wrong.
When you believe, the righteous will be strong.
When you believe, the tears will turn to mirth.
When you believe, the meek shall inherit the Earth.
When you believe, the meek shall inherit the Earth.

S Goldberg

1-1-86

The End