

A True  **PROPHET**

(A musical in Two Acts about the Mormons)

Book and lyrics by Sidney Goldberg

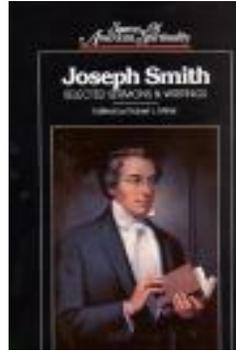
Music by

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A True  **PROPHET**

Cast in order of appearance

JOSEPH.....14, 20, 34 years old.

EMMA.....Joseph’s wife. 17 -30.

GOD

JESUS

LUCY.....35 years old, Mother, personable.

MORONI.....Angel.

OLIVER.....40 years old, religious scribe.

REVEREND WITTER.....60 years old, evil.

HYRUM.....23, 33 years old, Joseph’s brother.

CLEM.....50 years old, sheriff, evil.

OFFICER.....Non-descript.

JUDGE HEWLETT.....65 year old Judge, evil.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.....40 years old.

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

🎵 Songs 🎵

DEAR FATHER (Joseph).....1-1-3

FOLKLORE (Lucy and Joseph).....1-2-9

SALVATION (Joseph).....1-3-8,10,11

MORONI (Joseph).....1-4-13

HE HAS DREAM (Moroni).....1-5-16

FATHER (Joseph).....1-5-18

IT IS YOU (Emma and Joseph).....1-6-22

WHY ME? (Joseph).....1-7-23

THIS IS MY DESTINY (Oliver).....1-7-26

HE HAS DREAM (Underscored).....1-8-28

CALL IT AN ITCH (Reverend).....1-8-30

YIELD (Lucy, Hyrum, Joseph, Oliver).....1-9-33

WORRIED (Hyrum, Joseph, Oliver).....1-10-35,38,41

CALL IT AN ITCH (Underscored).....1-11-42

AN EYE FOR AN EYE (Lucy, Joseph, Hyrum, Oliver).....1-11-43,47,48

CALL IT AN ITCH (Underscored).....2-22-49

JEWS (Hewlet and the Reverend).....2-2-53

WE ARE GRATEFUL (Oliver, Hyrum and Joseph).....2-3-56

OH HAPPY DAY (Lucy, Joseph, Hyrum and Oliver).....2-4-61

DEAR FATHER (Underscore).....2-5-65

HE IS OUR REWARD.....2-15-66

HE HAS A DREAM (Underscored).....2-5-68

AND THEN WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN (Reverend, Clem, men).....2-6-71

SALVATION (Underscoring)..... 2-7-75

OVERTURE.....2-8-78

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 1

**1820.
Palmyra, N.Y.**

**JOSEPH, 14 years old is walking
through a forest and sings .🎵**

DEAR FATHER

JOSEPH

Dear father, son and the Holy Ghost.
I seek thy wisdom, King of all Hosts.
My empty cup won't thee please refill?
And help me to do what be thy will.

My mother has joined the Presbyterian Church.
But I have this need that's why I must research.
Dear Lord please tell me what you want me to do.
For all that I want dear Lord is to please you.

The butcher and baker, they all live in sin.
They lie and cheat for they always have to win.
And when will they see that in order to live?
Instead of taking they must learn how to give.

Dear father, son and the Holy Ghost.
I seek thy wisdom, King of all Hosts.
My empty cup won't thee please refill?
And help me to do what be thy will.

And Satan the devil, who corrupts all man.
If they prayed to Jesus and did all they can,
They would be saved and their sins forgiven.
And they'd walk in Eden where God doth live in.

Dear father, son and the Holy Ghost.
I seek thy wisdom, King of all Hosts.
My empty cup won't thee please refill?
And help me to do what be thy will.

(JOSEPH is disturbed, because there are so many churches and HE does not know which one to believe in. HE looks to the heavens and talks to himself.)

JOSEPH

(Aside.)

I don't understand why there has to be so many churches? Calvinist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, and why do they constantly argue with each other; if we pray to one God, who needs all these churches? And their arguments only add to my confusion. I was reading one day, the Epistle of St. James and it said: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraided not; and it shall be given him.* Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to my heart than this did at this time to mine. Either I must remain in darkness or I must do as St. James directs and ask God for guidance.

(Looks around and kneels down and it suddenly gets dark.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

I feel so alone, filled with indecision, not knowing what I should do.

(WE see a pillar of light, with the brightness of the sun over Joseph's head as he sees a vision of the Father and the Son, which is projected on a screen, He kneels and smiles.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

What is this wonderful feeling of peace and serenity I suddenly feel? Where does it come from? I find myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound.

GOD

(GOD points to JESUS.)

Joseph, this, is my beloved son. Hear Him.

JOSEPH

My Lord Jesus, please tell me which church I should join to get closer to thee and to follow thy holy beckoning?

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-5

JESUS

Thou must join none of them, for they are all wrong; their creeds are an abomination in My sight; those professors are all corrupt; they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of Godliness, but they deny the power thereof. You must not join with any of them.

(Light fades.)

End of Scene 1

Joseph Smith,
A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 2

Some time later.

Bedroom. FATHER wakes up JOSEPH and speaks to HIM as He gets dressed.

FATHER

You know we have a lot of work to do on the farm, and I know how excited you are son, having a vision, talking to the Father and Son yesterday morning, how lucky can you get? And I'm glad our Lord told you not to join any church. You just do what THEY want you to do and you got my blessing, Joseph, you got my blessing. Tell me how you truly feel.

JOSEPH

Concerned, Father; Telling about my vision to some of my supposed friends and town folk, even Reverend Witter has been the cause of great persecution; much to my dismay, they laughed and some called me crazy. I felt like Paul when he made his defense before King Agrippa and related his account of the vision he had when he saw the light and heard a voice, but there were some who disbelieved him as those that disbelieve me. And I feel guilty my father, guilty for sometimes associating with jovial and not spiritual minded company as the Good Lord wants me to. In consequence of my misgivings, I often feel condemned for my weakness.

**LIGHTS flicker:
Some time later.**

**Kitchen in a farmhouse, wood burning stove, table and many chairs.
LUCY, Joseph's mother is cooking, and, getting ready to serve JOSEPH.**

LUCY

Now, Joseph Smith Jr., your father already left for work, your late, and your brothers and sisters have already eaten their breakfast. Now eat this porridge I prepared for you, because you're just a 15 year old growing boy.

JOSEPH

Thanks, but I'm really not hungry, mother.

LUCY

Why, because you're still thinking of your vision you had during the day, yesterday? What does that have to do with you not having breakfast? Why, when you came home from the forest, I was very worried about you, because you looked different, you didn't say a word and went straight to your room. Now, what is it young man, what's bothering you?

JOSEPH

Never mind, all is well, I am well enough off. You see, Luke and Jacob and none of my friends, even the Reverend Witter didn't believe me when I told them that I talked to the Father and Son and They spoke to me. They just laughed, especially Reverend Witter and said I was touched in the head like all those drunks that go around talking to themselves. He said if God never spoke to him how could He talk to me? I'm not touched I'm not touched, am I?

LUCY

Is that why the Reverend and your friends said you were touched in the head, because you spoke to and heard God and Jesus? Why you are not like those old drunks who talk to themselves, they are touched, you are spiritual and they're just jealous, Joseph, they are jealous.

JOSEPH

Even Reverend Witter?

LUCY

Of course he's jealous; he and your friends never had a vision, that's why they don't believe you.

JOSEPH

I find it hard believing myself, mother I really do.

LUCY

I believe you, now tell me about that beautiful vision of yours tell me again, I love it. I can hear about your vision a thousand times, a thousand times.

JOSEPH

Now you promise you won't laugh like my friends and the Reverend, mother.

LUCY

That's what I said, didn't I?

JOSEPH

I was walking in the forest and it was real peaceful and I was talking to myself. Guess all my friends laugh at me, even Reverend Witter because I told them I talked to God: You believe me Ma, don't you?

(LUCY tries to contain her laughter.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

You said you weren't going to laugh, mother, you're laughing at me, why are you laughing at me?

LUCY

I'm not laughing at you I'm, laughing at how much we are a like. When I walk through the forest and it's a beautiful day, sometimes, even when it's raining, not that I would tell

(Laughs.)

anybody, 'cause I don't want them to laugh at me like they laughed at you, but I talk to myself, sweet Jesus do I talk to myself too, and thank heaven, my breath and your breath don't stink like all those sacrilegious old drunks, because we don't drink, do we? I know some of your friends have, but, you don't drink, do you Joseph? The only thing is, now you swear you won't tell your father, when I talk to myself, sometimes I get answers and

(Laughs.)

are they funny and I laugh, but not at myself mind you, not at myself, because I'm not touched.

JOSEPH

(Solemn.)

Me too mother, me too, I'm not touched, only you won't believe who answered me this time... God and Jesus, mother, they spoke to me, I swear I heard them and I saw them too.

(LUCY embraces JOSEPH.)

LUCY

Praised be God, mother Mary, Joseph and Jesus, my son, for like Abraham and Isaac in the old Testament, you are a prophet my son, you are truly a prophet, because the Good Lord spoke to you. And it is written, when the Good Lord speaks to you, you are a prophet, my prophet. Tell me again, tell me again.

JOSEPH

Oh, please mother, I'm just a kid who didn't go pass the third grade, who works his butt off, working with his father on the farm from morning 'til night. Just because God spoke to me, doesn't make me a prophet mother, I'm not smart enough and maybe He didn't speak to me, maybe I just imagined it? *Nah*, He spoke to me, and so did Jesus, mother. I heard them and not only did I hear Them, I felt Them in my soul. It was the most beautiful and serene moment I ever felt, it was wonderful, I sort of felt warm all over.

LUCY

Praised be God, mother Mary, Joseph and Jesus, my son, for like Abraham and Isaac in the old Testament, you are a prophet my son, you are truly a prophet, because the Good Lord spoke to you.

JOSEPH

You just said that, mother.

LUCY

(Threatening hand motion, smiles.)

Are you saying I'm repeating myself?

(BOTH sing. ♪)

FOLKLORE**LUCY (cont'd)**

I feel like the luckiest mother around.
My son is a prophet.
The boy always has his both feet on the ground.
To Jesus he doth commit.

JOSEPH

My mother has the greatest sense of humor.
She always makes me smile.
Some people say that she is a late bloomer.
A woman with such style.

LUCY and JOSEPH

Part of our folklore,
I want an encore.
One thing I am sure.
I'll always want more.

LUCY

I believe he will climb the highest mountain.
That is what prophets do.
And one day he will drink from our lord's fountain.
His, vision a worldview.

JOSEPH

My mother has taught me to always believe.
She is my guiding light.
And what I must do is to overachieve,
Always keep God in sight.

LUCY and JOSEPH

Part of our folklore,
I want an encore.
One thing I am sure.
I'll always want more.

End of Scene 2

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 3

Night.
Three years later.
Bedroom.

JOSEPH clasps hands and prays,
as he sings ♪.

SALVATION (1)

JOSEPH

I know not where to go.
I know not what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me a glow...

Dear Lord above,
Give me your love.
I seek thy salvation,
Hear my salutation.

I must confess.
Please wilt thou bless?
I have gone astray,
Help me find the way.

I know not where to go.
I know not what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me aglow.

HE sees a light that increases in intensity until the entire room is very bright and he sees a man by his bedside, suspended in air, wearing a white robe, with his hands and examines evident. Moroni is the spirit's name. WE hear the underscoring of "DEAR FATHER."

MORONI

Joseph, my name is Moroni and I am a messenger sent by God who has work for you to do, your name should be had for good and evil by all nations, kindred and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken among all people.

JOSEPH

Moroni, did you just say your name is Moroni and why did God choose me, why me?

MORONI

Because, like His beloved people, the Jews, you are one of His chosen, and like Moses and King David, you too shall lead your people.

JOSEPH

Mr. Moroni, I'm not smart enough and you must have the wrong guy, because I don't have any people to lead.

MORONI

It has been decreed that in time you will have a multitude of people who will follow you. There is a book deposited in a hill near here, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent and the source from whence they sprang. The fullness of the everlasting Gospel is contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants of America. With the plates there are two stones in silver bows fastened to a breastplate, together these are called Urim and Thummim, and God has prepared these stones for the purpose of you translating these plates.

JOSEPH

Stones called Urim and Thummim and the gold plates, I don't understand?

MORONI

In time you will be enlightened. You must not show the plates of gold and breastplate with the Urim and Thummim to any which you have not been commanded to show them.

JOSEPH

(Has vision.)

Wait a minute, I think I see where it's buried, in that hill, yeah, I see exactly where it's buried, and I don't believe it.

(MORONI appears to fly away and disappear.)

JOSEPH

Wait, please wait. There's so much I don't know..

(Lights flicker to denote passing of time. Underscoring ends and JOSEPH sings reprise of SALVATION.)

JOSEPH

I know not where to go.
I know not what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me a glow...

Dear Lord above,
Give me your love.
I seek thy salvation,
Hear my salutation.

I must confess.
Please wilt thou bless?
I have gone astray,
Help me find the way.

I know not where to go.
I know not what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me aglow.

The time is now,
And I know how.
Jesus is the one,
My time has now begun.

I know not where to go.
I know not what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me aglow.

(Lights flicker to denote passing of time. Underscoring of “DEAR FATHER” resumes and MORONI once again appears. There is a repeat of opening with the lights and MORONI flying above JOSEPH.)

MORONI

Joseph, my name is Moroni and I am a messenger sent by God who has work for you to do, your name should be had for good and evil by all nations, kindred and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken among all people.

JOSEPH

I know I remember everything you told me and I can't wait to get the plates and start translating, because the Lord wants me to do that, right?

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-14

MORONI

It has so been decreed.

JOSEPH

I know, you told me that too.

MORONI

Humor is one of the great gifts God bestows on us, Joseph.

JOSEPH

That's because it's been decreed, right?

(THEY both smile.)

MORONI

The plates of gold are for the glory of God and you must have no other purpose in mind for them. You will not receive the plates at this time, but you must wait four years of probation. Have patience, Joseph, for patience is a virtue. During that period you must go to that hill each year on this same day. I must warn you, the devil comes in many disguises, and Satan will try to get the plates in order to become rich, so beware, trust no one.

(The underscoring ends as MORONI flies away and disappears as the lights are restored. JOSEPH sings ♪ part of "SALVATION," as lights fade.)

JOSEPH

The time is now,
And I know how.
Jesus is the one,
My time has now begun.

I now know where to go.
I now know what to do.
Relieve me of my woe.
Thy will sets me aglow.

End of Scene 3

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 4

A week later.

**The kitchen. LUCY is cooking as
JOSEPH sings. ♪**

JOSEPH

MORONI

Moroni has spoken to me.
Moroni told me what must be.
Moroni there's no counterplea.
Moroni you have to agree.

They'll never believe me,
They'll say that I'm nuts.
They'll say don't deceive me,
No if ands or buts.

I will go to that hill,
I know that it's there.
And I will feel a thrill,
Of this I do swear.

Moroni has spoken to me.
Moroni told me what must be.
Moroni there's no counterplea.
Moroni you have to agree.

Said I was a prophet.
He made a mistake.
And I have to admit,
I have a headache.

Moroni has spoken to me.
Moroni told me what must be.
Moroni there's no counterplea.
Moroni you have to agree.

JOSEPH

I hope you believe that Moroni was a messenger sent by God, and I visited the hill and he showed me where the plates were buried and when I tried to retrieve them I got shock because it wasn't the right time to take them. He instructed me to come to the hill on the same day for the next four years and then I will receive the plates. It looks like I'll have something to do, mother.

LUCY

It certainly does, Joseph, and I am touched, because, I love you so much, my prophet, for it was God that spoke to you and you must do as commanded by his messenger, for like Isaiah, you are my chosen, Joseph.

JOSEPH

And you are my chosen, I love you mother.

(JOSEPH kisses MOTHER and exits as lights fade.)

End of Scene 4

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 5

Moonlit night.

JOSEPH holding EMMA'S hand is walking.

JOSEPH

Emma, I don't know how to say what I truly feel.

EMMA

Just what do you truly feel, Joseph? Please tell me.

JOSEPH

(Looks to God, aside.)

I... I.... Dear Lord, please help me tell Emma how I feel about her.

EMMA

What is it Joseph? You, who have such abundance of speech, who can out talk anyone I know, who is so animated, what is it you are trying to say?

JOSEPH,

I love you Emma, there I said it, I love you more than anyone I've ever known and I can't live without you. I will not live without you, or I will surely die a lonely and brokenhearted man. Is that what you want my beloved?

EMMA

How sweet, Joseph, I don't know what to say and please don't die lonely and brokenhearted, for that would break my heart.

JOSEPH

Say you will marry me, say you will marry me, say, you will marry me, and stop breaking your heart and mine as well.

EMMA

Well, why didn't you say so in the first place instead of beating around the bush.

JOSEPH

You will marry me?

EMMA

Marry you, how can I marry you when for the last four months my father is against me even seeing you. He says you're some sort of magician, a diviner and he said you claim you cannot only locate water near the surface, but also treasure buried by the Indians many years ago. He also said you also have some magic stones which you look into in order to discover the buried treasure, and beside, I'm a year older than you. I'm sorry but my father said I cannot marry you even though I, I...

JOSEPH

You must marry me, for something has told me that I must marry a girl named Emma Hale, and you are the only girl with that name, am I right?

EMMA

I'm sure there must be dozens of girls named Emma Hale in these great United States, in Virginia, Pennsylvania and maybe even in Washington. Seek and ye shall find all the Emma Hales your little ole heart desires.

JOSEPH

But I'm sure I was meant for only you my beloved, for there is no one as beautiful or as warm that I long so to caress to have my 10 children, if you will only have me.

EMMA

Flattery will get you everywhere, Joseph and did you say 10 children?

JOSEPH

Maybe more and does that mean you will marry me, my beautiful beloved?

EMMA

Well, I really don't know.

JOSEPH

You must marry me, and if allowed I will bring you on my next visit to that hill, where Moroni hid the ancient records, two gold plates and two stones, Urim and Thummim set in silver bows, and he said I must visit the hill every year on September 22. And as my wife, hopefully you will accompany me but not our 10 children.

EMMA

And neither our 10 children nor will I be allowed to see these ancient treasures of your Angel Moroni?

JOSEPH,

Perhaps in time, and I make no promises, but if you do come with me to the Hill, you will have to turn your back to the blessed Angel Moroni and the treasures he will bestow on me, for he told me no one must see the treasures, but who knows?

(THEY kiss and sing 🎶)

IT IS YOU

JOSEPH

It is you I covet.

EMMA

It is you I loveth.

JOSEPH

You and I will marry.

EMMA

Your children I'll carry.

JOSEPH

Arm in arm we shall live.

EMMA

All to you I will give.

JOSEPH

I'll love you forever,

EMMA

For you are so clever.

JOSEPH

God has given me you.

EMMA

And there's so much to do.

JOSEPH and EMMA

Jesus Christ our savior.
Guide our behavior.
The son, the Holy Ghost,
He is the king of Hosts.

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-20

You'll become my best friend.

EMMA

Stay with you 'til the end.

JOSEPH

Take my heart, warm my soul.

EMMA

We will never be cold.

JOSEPH

JOSEPH and EMMA

Jesus Christ our savior.

Guide our behavior.

The son, the Holy Ghost,

He is the king of Hosts.

End of Scene 5

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 6

WE hear the underscoring of “DEAR FATHER,” as **WE** see **MORONI** Suspended in air, perhaps there are Clouds as **HE** sings ♪.

HE HAS A DREAM

MORONI

I said he would find the plates,
Of course I told him when.
He thinks its part of his fate,
He better think again.

He hasn't proven himself,
But I know that he will.
As soon as he asks for help,
He's gonna get a thrill.

When He translates,
The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
He'll learn his fate,
And that will more than suffice.

He has a dream,
That all men will know peace.
Peaches and cream,
The poor shall have a feast.

In him people shall believe,
That they have found their leader
In times, when they too must grieve,
In need he'll be their kneader.

When He transcribes,
The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
He'll get those vibes,
And that will more than suffice.

He has a dream,
That all men will know peace.
Peaches and cream,
The poor shall have a feast.

(The lights flicker and MORONI flies away and then we see JOSEPH walking and stop at hill Cumorah, and smile, for he knows this is where the gold plates are buried.)

JOSEPH

At last I am here and I will find the gold plates and do with them as I have been told to do.

(HE uses a large branch and lifts the rock and stares.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Alas, there is the box. I shall lift off its cover and hopefully all will be there.

(HE lifts the cover and is amazed to see the gold plate.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

At last I am here to finally receive the gold plates as I was promised. I'm not going to get a shock, am I?

MORONI

No shock Joseph, only a blessing from our Lord, here.

(MORONI gives JOSEPH the plates.)

JOSEPH

Thank you and praised be the Lord has given me what I was promised, Jesus Christ. I am blessed dear Lord, thanks to you I am blessed.

(MORONI speaks.)

MORONI (VO)

Joseph, you must always keep the commandments of the Lord.

(JOSEPH turns and sees MORONI. Guilt overwhelms JOSEPH.)

MORONI

Do you remember what I told you about the devil, Joseph?

JOSEPH

I believe you said, *“I must warn you, the devil comes in many disguises, and Satan will try to get the plates in order to become rich, so beware, trust no one, now go and tell all of the vision you have received.”* I told my mother and my father even though he was very busy. What more do you want me to do?

MORONI

Remember, you must always keep the commandments of the Lord and I know I repeated myself; humor is a gift God has blessed us all with.

(MORONI flies away and disappears as underscoring ends. The lights flicker on and off four times, and we see JOSEPH return to the same hill each time. On the fourth time we see him lift up the box and remove every thing mentioned, smile gloriously and sing 🎵.)

JOSEPH

FATHER

Father, I ask for thy guidance.
Humbly, I seek thy benevolence.
Father, I will do all thou ask.
Grateful, I will fulfill thy task.

Moroni called me a prophet,
A messenger of God.
I better do what I've been asked.
I pray it's not too hard.

He told me of the prophecies,
In the Old Testament.
And all I want to do is please,
And ask for God's consent

Father, I ask for thy guidance.
Humbly, I seek thy benevolence.
Father, I will do all thou ask.
Grateful, I will fulfill thy task.

I walk through the shadow of death,
I will see no evil.
I thank the Lord for ev'ry breath.
My will he shall fulfill.

Father, I ask for thy guidance.
Humbly, I seek thy benevolence.
Father, I will do all thou ask.
Grateful, I will fulfill thy task.

(FATHER enters bedroom.)

FATHER

How are you my son? How was your day?

JOSEPH

Having been blessed by the Father and Son, I feel humbled and blessed for having been chosen.

FATHER

To be humble, grateful and to admit your weakness and ask for forgiveness and the Lord will forgive you and I believe you are destined to establish a kingdom of God on Earth for all of mankind.

JOSEPH

Like the Angel Moroni, you have repeated yourself. Moroni quoted from the Old Testament; *For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble; for they that come shall burn them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

FATHER

And, I'll say it again you are destined to establish a kingdom of God on Earth for all of mankind.

JOSEPH

And again he quoted the fifth verse of Malachi, chapter 4, thus: *Behold, I will reveal unto you the priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

FATHER

And, I'll say it again I believe my son is destined to establish a kingdom of God on Earth for all of mankind. Go and do as commanded by the messenger of God.

End of Scene 6

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 7

September 22, 1827.
Kitchen.

JOSEPH, holding the two stones, is
staring at the gold plates, HE sings 🎵.

WHY ME?

JOSEPH

I do not understand why God chose me?
I who am uneducated,
And these plates are antiquated.
It appears that I am ill fated.
Why did God, have to chose me?

At this moment I feel so frustrated.
I'll never do what he asks.
He'll see when He unmasks,
That I'm not up to His tasks.
So just call me frustrated.

Dear Lord, I'm not good enough.
I'm not made of the right stuff.
How, I wish that I cold hide.
Because I've this pain inside.

And who am I to be called His chosen?
I am but a humble man,
Who will do all that he can.
But will never understand,
Why he calls me his chosen.

Dear Lord, I'm not good enough.
I'm not made of the right stuff.
How, I wish that I cold hide.
'Cause I have this pain inside.

JOSEPH

What is this strange writing I see? It is so foreign to my eyes. I have tried everything, but I cannot translate what the angel Moroni said that God asked me and said I would be able to do. And these stones, Urim and Thummim, what are they for? I know that they were given to me, but how will they be able to help me.

(HE places the stones on the tablets, birds start to sing and HE is stunned.)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

I must pray for these to work... I don't believe what just happened, a miracle, for
(Excited.)

suddenly I understand this strange and exotic writing. Emma, come here and please transcribe what I am about to attempt to translate! Please bring pen and paper, for there is much work to be done. Up until a moment ago I did not understand the writing, but a miracle that only the good Lord could bestow upon me occurred. I placed two stones which I cannot show you, for they are hidden beneath this cloth upon the tablets and miraculously, suddenly I could translate what was written and as you know I am not a scholar.

(EMMA rushes to JOSEPH and from behind curtain he starts to read.)

(The lights flicker to denote passing of time. There is a knock on the door, JOSEPH opens it and OLIVER COWDERY enters and extends hand and JOSEPH shakes it.)

OLIVER

Joseph Smith, I am Oliver Cowdery, I have been a school teacher for some time and fairly well educated and I am pleased to finally meet you. Please forgive me coming unannounced, but Martin Harris has brought me to help you transcribe the ancient gold plates and I believe two stones, Urim and Thummim and I've come because naturally I was overwhelmed with intrigue. A remarkable find in this day and age and I believe the writing on the gold tablets is foreign to you, is that not so?

JOSEPH

Mr. Cowdery...?

OLIVER

...Please call me Oliver.

JOSEPH

My pleasure, Oliver.

JOSEPH and OLIVER

...The lord makes everything happen.

JOSEPH

I don't believe that we both said the same thing at the same time.

OLIVER

Thank you, Jesus for bringing me to Joseph Smith's home. Is that the gold plates and two stones, I heard about you keep under that cloth.

JOSEPH

It is Oliver.

OLIVER

May I examine it more closely, for I am a scribe and if you would allow me, I would like to write what you will translate from these holy plates?

JOSEPH

You may not examine it Oliver but beware, I might take you up on your offer of writing what I have been translating, for writing is not one of my virtues. My wife Emma has tried, but she is busy with the baby and the house, and I could use your help.

(Excitedly, OLIVER ponders.)

OLIVER

How remarkable. Did you say you could translate what is written on those most beautiful and ancient gold plates which I hope to see in the near future?

JOSEPH

With the Lord's help, I have been.

OLIVER

That will be quite an accomplishment, because I believe perhaps the writing will be in perhaps Chaldaic, Assyriac or some other exotic unknown language, and I don't think there are five people in America that can decipher any of them. May we get started, for I am anxious to be of service to you, I have brought numerous ink pens and paper in hope of just such a fortuitous occurrence.

(JOSEPH will read plates behind curtain, as OLIVER will write.)

JOSEPH

Hmmm, the Angel Moroni explained that it concerns descendants of a family who left Jerusalem about 600 B.C., a father Lehi, took his family upon a ship and fled because he knew Jerusalem was doomed. They crossed the ocean and landed somewhere on this continent.

OLIVER

How interesting, utterly fascinating.

JOSEPH

From this family sprang two nations, the Nephites, who were God fearing and the Lamanites, evil and are the origin of the American Indian. Following the teachings of Christ, the Nephites lived in peace and harmony. Among these prophets was Mormon, who compiled all the records of the people who lived here on many plates of gold.

OLIVER

Unbelievable! Those must be the plates you cannot show me!

JOSEPH

You are right; he gave them to his son who buried them in the hill outside of town. .

OLIVER

Is that where you found them?

JOSEPH

Shhh, don't tell anyone but The Angel showed me where he buried the plates 1400 years ago.

(OLIVER Sings 🎵)

THIS IS MY DESTINY

OLIVER

I believe I've found a friend.
Someone that I can trust,
Who, believes in God as I do.

He appears to be gifted,
And as smart as a whip.
I am sure he will quote Mathew.

I feel that this is my destiny.
Transcribing the Book of our Lord.
A destiny that is meant to be.
Because I know I won't get bored.

A dream that has been fulfilled.
A scribe of ancient text.
And I shall do my very best.

The history that's involved.
And all that I will learn.
I hope that I will pass the test.

I feel that this is my destiny.
Transcribing the Book of our Lord.
A destiny that is meant to be.
Because I know I won't get bored

End of Scene 7

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 8

Two days later.

JOSEPH is excited as he withholds showing EMMA the plates. WE hear underscoring Of “HE HAS A DREAM,”

JOSEPH

I am sorry Emma, but I cannot yet show you the gold plates that we have been working on, nor the two miraculous stones, Urim and Thummim that have been helping me translate them. I prayed and looked into the two stones, and it all became clear and I understood its ancient writing. Can you imagine? It was written in reformed and I could read it.

EMMA

I bet they're strange looking, aren't they?

JOSEPH

They're ancient Emma, they date 600 years before our Savior, Jesus Christ.

(SHE looks closer.)

EMMA

And the writing, how can you understand Egyptian? When you can barely read English.

(There is a knock on the door and JOSEPH hurriedly gathers the plates and, the stones and hides them in a cupboard.)

JOSEPH

I mustn't let anyone see them, I must hide them for as I told you, Moroni spoke of the devil's quest for them...

EMMA

...I know and Satan comes in many disguises, doesn't he?

(EMMA opens the door and sees Reverend Witter who has a limp. SHE feels Uncomfortable, because he was once her reverend when she went to church.)

EMMA

Why, Reverend Witter, what a pleasant surprise. Please come in.

REVEREND

Hello Emma Hale Smith, how nice to see you. It's been quite awhile since I saw you or your husband Joseph Jr., hasn't it?

EMMA

I suppose it has.

REVEREND

And how are you Joseph Jr.? And why have you stopped coming to church, is it because of you discovering those ancient gold plates that must be so valuable, not to mention those stones with the silver bows? Lead me not unto temptation, young man and remember tithes, ten percent of all you have you must give to me, I mean the church, I mean the church.

JOSEPH

Perhaps and how do you know about the gold plates, Reverend?

REVEREND

It has been the talk of the town, and may I please see them, for I am a Reverend of great repute, as you know?

JOSEPH

Despite all of your repute, I'm not allowed to show them to you Reverend?

REVEREND

Surely you must be mistaken. I believe an angel gave them to you, his name was Moroni, was it not, and did not our Lord send this angel for you to share this fortune with your Christian brethren, meaning me? And am I not a messenger of the Lord myself and must I once again remind you of tithes, Joseph Jr.?

EMMA

According to Jesus, we are all his messengers, are we not, Reverend Witter? And Joseph was ordered not to show what was entrusted to him, to anybody and that means me including you. So please, don't ask my husband what he is forbidden to do and as far as your tithes is concerned, I'm sure the good Lord will make sure you get what you deserve, won't He?

REVEREND

Are you saying he didn't show the gold plates to you, Emma Smith?

EMMA

Well, I'm his wife and maybe he did, and maybe he didn't?

REVEREND

You know we are a poor congregation and with the price of gold and silver sky high these days, I'm sure those plates and silver bows would surely help feed and clothe all the poor and needy folks that are in such dire need. Remember, give and ye shall receive Joseph Jr., give and ye shall receive.

(Underscoring ends. The REVEREND smirks as he sings ♫, because he is greedy and wants the plates for himself.)

CALL IT AN ITCH**REVEREND (cont'd)**

They think I want the gold plates for the church.
But I want them for myself.
They know not that the church I would besmirch
The poor let them help them self.

Call it an itch.
I must be rich,
I shall bewitch,
And make a switch.

They must not find out that I'm a sinner.
And was Cain any different?
For, I was destined to be a winner.
Perhaps one day I'll run for President.

Call it an itch.
I must be rich,
I shall bewitch,
And make a switch.

I'll tell them that it is for the needy.
And the Lord wants them to give.
And they will never know that I am greedy.
How else can a Reverend live?

Call it an itch.
I must be rich,
I shall bewitch,
And make a switch.

End of Scene 8

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 9

**A week later.
EMMA'S Kitchen.**

**JOSEPH, EMMA, OLIVER and his
Brother HYRUM are gathered.**

HYRUM

I'm telling you my brother, I have heard rumors that Reverend Witter is after your gold plates, you know what a money hungry badger he is and he's is rounding up some of the meanest drunks around town who are opposed to you because of your decisions concerning the church, and he wants them to ransack your home and get him the gold plates. I think we better set up some protection, don't you, Joseph?

JOSEPH

I fear not, because the plates are hidden, Hyrum and the Lord will protect me and the plates until the work of the Lord is completed.

HYRUM

Emma, will you tell this stupid husband of yours that that greedy Reverend means business. And what about your son, Joseph, what about him? The Reverend is cruel and determined, he might kidnap your family and ransom them and then what will you do?

JOSEPH

Fear not for me-and-my-family my brother, for with Jesus at my side nothing bad will happen, "Yea though I walk..."

ALL

"...Through the shadow of death I will fear no evil."

OLIVER

Why don't we tell the sheriff?

HYRUM

Have you forgotten Oliver, the sheriff is the Reverend's brother in-law and they're both two of a kind, greedy and evil.

(A spiritual production number. ALL Sing 🎶)

YIELD

ALL

Gather together, and pray to God.
Join hands together nothing will be hard.
God doth clothe the vegetation of the field.
And all that He asks of us brother is that we yield

EMMA

Lord I pray for the protection of my beloved son.
I pray for the protection of his family.
Doing the Lord's work Joseph must not be outdone.
All I ask for is his peace and serenity.

HYRUM

My brother he exercises his undying faith.
He forgives our debts and forgives our debtors.
Preaches only loves, does not know the word hate.
Wants only to give to you and will not take yours.

ALL

Gather together let us pray to God.
Join hands together nothing will be hard.
God doth clothe the vegetation of the field.
And all that He asks of us brother is that we yield

OLIVER

I believe that he is the coming of Moses.
The kingdom of all the heavens has now drawn near.
Beware to the devil and all men who opposes.
I will follow him for now it all seems so clear.

JOSEPH

If they dare kill me like Jesus I will arise.
Angels in heaven behold the face of the Lord.
See the lamb of God and you too will be surprised.
Be open and all your powers will be restored.

ALL

Gather together let us pray to God.
Join hands together nothing will be hard.
God doth does clothe the vegetation of the field.
And all that He asks of us brother is that we yield

OLIVER

Because I was so concerned for your safety, Joseph, I went to his church and his sermon was that of the devil. He said, "*The gold plates were given to Joseph Smith by God, and God meant those gold plates are to be given to the poor and impoverished. He said they should all rise up and take what is rightfully theirs.*" He asked for volunteers and at least ten or fifteen of the meanest sinners I ever saw stood. He asked them to swear on the Bible that they would do as he told them to do and they all swore they would. It was like a revival meeting, with them whooping and screaming, and after the service he gave those drunks all the whiskey they wanted and that got them really crazy.

HYRUM

So, what do you say to that brother?

(JOSEPH takes HYRUMS hand and all join hands and sing.)

ALL

Gather together let us pray to God.
Join hands together nothing will be hard.
God doth does clothe the vegetation of the field.
And all that He asks of us brother is that we yield

End of Scene 9

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 10

Two days later.

JOSEPH, HYRUM and OLIVER are worried about the safety of Joseph. THEY Sing ♪. (Production number.)

WORRIED

HYRUM

Dear God, in circumspection.
Joseph needs is thy protection.
And not his genuflection.

OLIVER

I worry about this man.
Sure he does all that he can.
But what he needs is a plan.

JOSEPH

I fear not for I believe.
That is why I shall not grieve.
Like Adam I have my Eve.

OLIVER

I have to tell you Hyrum; because of your brothers God given ability to translate the hieroglyphics on the Lord's plates, I couldn't be more excited.

JOSEPH

Before you volunteered to transcribe them for me, my beautiful wife Emma tried, but found it difficult. Don't tell her, but she wasn't as competent as you, Oliver.

OLIVER

Oh, I'm sure she was fine.

JOSEPH

She was fine, but you are brilliant and very fast, why you can write as fast as I speak.

OLIVER

Compliments will get you everywhere, Joseph and are you sure the plates are safely hidden?

JOSEPH

Only I know where they are hidden.

HYRUM

That's right, he didn't even tell me, his own brother.

JOSEPH

And that is for your own protection and yours Oliver and I did not even tell Emma, for I fear for her safety too.

HYRUM

A wise decision my brother, for I have heard that many of the men in church...

OLIVER

...He means those sanctimonious drunks that have such a hatred for you...

HYRUM

...Because you have said once too often that the church is not fulfilling its obligation of augmenting the desires of our savior...

OLIVER, HYRUM and JOSEPH

...Jesus Christ.

JOSEPH

I only said what I believe, that Jesus speaks of a man from whom an unclean spirit comes out. The man however, does not fill the void with good things, so, he becomes possessed by seven more wicked spirits, I give you our reverend.

(The door is burst open and numerous men with painted faces including the REVEREND and CLEM who are wearing brown hoods, storm in, brandishing guns and knives surround JOSEPH, HYRUM and OLIVER, Who are startled. WE know it's the REVEREND is because limps.)

REVEREND

Why are you looking at them like fools? You drunken bums, tie them up and start looking for those gold plates and those stones with the silver bows right now!

(The men threatening THEM with the knives and guns tie THEM up.)

REVEREND (cont'd)

All right, now start looking and you better find it or else, no more whiskey!

(The men start rummaging and throwing everything and finding nothing, CLEM reports to the Reverend.)

CLEM

I'm sorry Reverend, but there isn't anything here. I mean we've looked all over and it just isn't here.

REVEREND

What do you mean it's not here, you nincompoop? The plates have to be here! Where else could they be?

CLEM

What about in the barn, Boss or maybe he buried them somewhere outside? Want us to look?

REVEREND

Brilliant, but before we go, make sure their all tied up real good!

(CLEM checks the ropes on all.)

CLEM

Tight as a clam, Boss, they're all tied up real good.

REVEREND

Okay, let's check out the barn, and for your sake Joseph, it better be there!

(THEY exit and JOSEPH, HYRUM and OLIVER breathe a sigh.)

OLIVER

I never thought they'd leave, did you?

HYRUM

Unfortunately they will be back...

JOSEPH

...And that is because the plates are not in the barn.

HYRUM

I fear for your safety, Joseph, because we know it's the Reverend.

JOSEPH

With that limp, it's obvious my brother.

OLIVER

Thanks to Clem, and even though the Reverend didn't call him Clem....

HYRUM

...There's only one Clem I know and that's his lowlife, sacrilegious drunken brother in-law the sheriff.

(ALL Sing 🎵)

WORRIED

OLIVER

He knows nothing of deceit.
A man that's almost complete,
And to me he's like St. Pete.

HYRUM

A man of nobility.
He has sensibility.
And prays with humility.

JOSEPH

And I think in circumspect.
I believe I am correct.
That Jesus will resurrect.

(The mobs returns and the REVEREND is furious. HE limps over to JOSEPH and points a gun at his head.)

REVEREND

If you don't tell me where the gold plates are I am going to kill you, you hear?

JOSEPH

You may kill me or do what you want, but I am forbidden to show or tell you where the holy plates are.

REVEREND

Forbidden, who the hell forbid you damn it?

JOSEPH

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-40

REVEREND

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, what do you have to do with them?

JOSEPH

They are the ones that sent Moroni to give me the plates.

CLEM

Whose Moroni, Boss, I never heard of any Moroni, have you?

REVEREND

Who is this macaroni of yours?

OLIVER

Moroni is an angel sent by the Lord.

REVEREND

And just who are you?

OLIVER

I am Oliver Cowdery and I am a scribe.

REVEREND

And what are you scribing, damn it?

OLIVER

I am writing what Joseph is translating from the holy plates.

REVEREND

Oh, so you know about the gold plates too.

(CLEM runs over and puts a knife to OLIVER'S throat.)

CLEM

You better tell us were the gold is or I'm going to cut your throat too!

HYRUM

Do not harm Oliver, because he does not know where the plates are either.

(CLEM runs over and puts a knife to HYRUM'S throat.)

CLEM

And who the hell are you?

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-41

REVEREND

He's Hyrum, Joseph's brother.

CLEM

(To Joseph)

Well if you want to keep your brother Hyrum alive, Joseph, you better tell us where the gold is!

HYRUM

Do with me what you will but do not harm my brother for he is a prophet and do not harm Oliver for he is doing the Lord's work.

CLEM

Should I kill 'em Boss, should I kill them all?

REVEREND

If you kill them you fool, how will we get the gold? Tar and feather them!

(The men tar and feather or paint JOSEPH, HYRUM and OLIVER.)

REVEREND (cont'd)

And we'll be back, Joseph and if you don't give me the gold when I return, maybe I will take your children and your beautiful wife? Now say goodbye boys and don't forget to thank them for having such a good time.

CLEM

Think we can have something to drink, Boss? The boys are awful thirsty.

(THEY exit.)

OLIVER

I hate to say this, but the Reverend looks like he means business.

HYRUM

Clem the sheriff sort of looks businesslike too, wouldn't you say?

JOSEPH

I never liked tar and feathers, did you?

(Production number. Still tied up THEY sing ♪)

WORRIED

HYRUM

Those clowns should be in burlesque.
I know I look picturesque.
But I feel so grotesque.

JOSEPH

I am of the impression.
They have such aggression.
Wait for their confession.

OLIVER

I wish that they would desist.
For, they are on my blacklist.
What they need's an exorcist.

End of Scene 10

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT I

Scene 11

**A week later.
Kitchen.**

**EMMA, JOSEPH, HYRUM, OLIVER and
are gathered in LUCY'S kitchen as LUCY
cleans JOSEPH'S wounds.. WE hear
the underscoring of "CALL IT AN TCH."**

LUCY

I don't know about you, but forgive me Jesus, for I say we should kill them before they kill us!

(WE hear thunder and JESUS speaks.)

JESUS (VO)

Violence is not the answer.

(WE hear thunder and JESUS is gone.)

JOSEPH

Was that, did you just hear what I heard?

LUCY

Of course we heard what you heard, Joseph and that wasn't one of those old drunks talking either, for we were all blessed to hear the Good Lord.

HYRUM

I guess JESUS speaking to me, makes me a prophet too, Joseph.

(ALL laugh.)

HYRUM (cont'd)

What do you think we should do, mother?

LUCY

I'm thinking about it, give me some time, I'm thinking about it.

OLIVER

Well, you know the Reverend and his drunken brother in-law are going to come back, sooner or later, because he won't stop until he gets the gold plates and we know it.

JOSEPH

Alcoholism does strange things to people, and the Reverend drinks as much as Clem, maybe more, that's why he's so mean and evil?

EMMA

I got it, when they show up, which can be any minute, I'll offer them some wine, which I know they won't be able to refuse and I'll put 10 sleeping pills in, that should do the trick. Then they'll pass out and it's sweet revenge time...

HYRUM

I have a strange feeling that they'll be here any minute. Why don't we pretend we are already drinking and when they arrive you give them the drugged wine, mother.

LUCY

A wonderful idea, Emma, and I'll go and fill our glasses and we'll make them think we are drinking; now I'll drug the rest of the bottle. They won't know what hit them, I promise.

HYRUM

Can I help you mother?

LUCY

Please do.

(THEY exit. Underscoring ends.)

JOSEPH

How could they do that to us, Oliver?

OLIVER

Trust me; they will get what they deserve.

**(LUCY and HYRUM return. THEY each look at the glasses filled with wine
And each touches the wine bottle and sing ♪)**

AN EYE FOR AN EYE

LUCY

Sock him in the eye.

HYRUM

I say mummify,

OLIVER

And, before he dies.

JOSEPH

Make him sanctify.

ALL

An eye-for-an-eye.

Let's tar and feather him.
Make him pay for his sin,
And there's this acronym.
Tear him from limb to limb.

EMMA

I must specify.

HYRUM

He is no ally.

OLIVER

He doth falsify.

JOSEPH

And it's cut and dry.

ALL

An eye-for-an-eye.

Let's tar and feather him.
Make him pay for his sin,
And there's this acronym.
Tear him from limb to limb.

(There is a knock on the door and LUCY opens it. The REVEREND and CLEM are standing there, smiling, thinking that they don't know it was THEY who attacked THEM. LUCY acts as if she doesn't know a thing and Graciously welcomes them in. ALL hold wine glasses and act a little drunk.)

LUCY

Why if it's not my favorite Reverend Witter and Clem, my favorite Sheriff. How nice to see you gentlemen, what a pleasant surprise, won't you please come in? Do you see what some bad people did to my boy? They tortured him because he would not tell them what they wanted to know. I've been giving him some delicious port, to ease his pain; I don't suppose you would like to join us gentlemen?

CLEM

I'd love some port Lucy, why port is my favorite wine.

LUCY

Shall I pour you some too, Reverend, it's imported from Spain and you know how those Spaniards make the finest port?

REVEREND

Do I? Why the best port I ever drank came from Spain. And after being tortured so cruelly, why didn't he just tell them what they wanted to know, Lucy? Now I hope I'm not being to presumptuous Lucy, but could you please make mine an extra large helping? I'm sort of thirsty you know.

CLEM

Me too Lucy me too, please fill mine to the top, 'cause there's nothing I like more than Spanish port and I'm even more thirsty than the Reverend.

LUCY

It will be my pleasure gentlemen. I shall return shortly with a full bottle of the most delicious port you ever drank.

(LUCY exits.)

HYRUM

So, how's my favorite Reverend doing these days?

REVEREND

Not bad, if I say so myself, and how are you doing Joseph?

JOSEPH

As you can see, I've been real busy.

REVEREND

And with what may I ask?

JOSEPH

I'd rather not say.

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-47

CLEM

Betcha he's busy with them gold plates, Boss.

(The REVEREND glares at CLEM for mentioning the plates.)

REVEREND

I tell you, I just can't wait for that port.

CLEM

Me too Boss, I sure can't wait for that port.

REVEREND

Is it as delicious as your mothers says, Joseph?

JOSEPH

Better, wait'll you taste it.

(LUCY enters with bottle.)

LUCY

(Almost Singing.)

Here it is the most delicious port imaginable. Please help yourself and there's plenty more.

(The REVEREND pours two heaping glasses and gives one to CLEM.)

REVEREND

I drink to your health and your beloved family's health, Lucy.

(The REVEREND and CLEM drink entire glass.)

CLEM

Why that is the most delicious port I ever drank, thank you Lucy.

LUCY

Why there's plenty more where that came from and I brought the whole bottle for you and the Reverend to drink, so please help yourself.

CLEM

Well, if that's the case, I don't mind if do.

REVEREND

And fill mine up too, because this is undoubtedly the finest port I ever drank.

CLEM

(Pouring.)

It sure is it sure is.

(BOTH drink entire drink and fall to the ground.)

REVEREND

Lucy, what have you done to me?

CLEM

I can't move Boss, I feel like I've been drugged.

REVEREND

Have you drugged us Lucy?

LUCY

Did you threaten my boys and tar and feather them?

**(HYRUM and OLIVER tie THEM up and put them in chairs and ALL sing
♬ Chorus.)**

AN EYE FOR AN EYE

Let's tar and feather him.
Make him pay for his sin,
And there's this acronym.
Tear him from limb to limb.

**(OLIVER exits and returns with a bucket filled with tar and one with
feathers.)**

HYRUM

And now I believe its retribution time.

OLIVER

Oh please, allow me the honor.

**(WE hear the underscoring of "AN EYE FOR AN EYE," as HYRUM slings
the tar and OLIVER and JOSEPH sling the feathers and LUCY applauds.)**

REVEREND

Please, I beg you stop, I can't take it anymore.

HYRUM

What did the Good Lord say?

OLIVER, HYRUM, JOSEPH and LUCY

An eye for an eye!

(THEY sing chorus ♪)

AN EYE FOR AN EYE

Let's tar and feather him.
Make him pay for his sin,
And there's this acronym.
Tear him from limb to limb.

CLEM

Please, I can't take it anymore, I can't breathe, I can't breathe.

REVEREND

Have you no mercy, Joseph? Clem can't breathe and I think he may die. Do you want that on your conscience?

OLIVER

I believe they've had enough.

(THEY untie THEM and bring THEM to the door.)

HYRUM

We're going to let you go this time, but if you ever come back we're going to get your

(Laughs.)

Wife and children, now, get out!

(THEY kick them out. Outside WE hear the REVEREND say, "You're not through with me Joseph Smith and your gold plates. I'll see you in court!")

End of ACT I

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT 2

Scene 1

**Two weeks later.
Court room.**

JOSEPH, LUCY, HYRUM and OLIVER,
are seated and speaking quietly to each
other. **WE** hear underscoring of, “**CALL
IT AN ITCH.**”

(Court officer announces.)

OFFICER

Hear ye, hear ye, all rise for the honorable Hewlet Marsh.

(ALL rise, HEWLET is seated and all sit.)

HEWLET

We are here, to hear the case of the very Reverend Hugo Witter and, Sheriff Clem Kadiddlehopper against, Lucy Mack, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and Oliver Cowdery. Because of the very nature of this case, the defendants wish to represent themselves, not that I think that is such a wise decision. The charges are as follows: Lucy Mack Smith gave some port wine to the Reverend and the sheriff, got them completely drugged and they fell on the floor and then the gentlemen in question tied up the good Reverend Witter, he’s my good Reverend and his beloved brother in-law, the Sheriff and then they tarred and feathered them real good.

(WE hear laughter.)

HEWLET

How do you plead?

LUCY

(LUCY rises and speaks.)

We plead guilty but with good cause, your honor.

HEWLET

What kind of good cause are you talking about, Lucy Mack Smith?

LUCY

Two weeks ago, your *very Reverend* Witter, who is the devil in disguise as God be my witness, the sheriff and a bunch of his drunken, rabble rousing hooligans burst into my Emma's and threatened to kill my two boys and Oliver Cowdery unless they gave him the gold plates, and then when my Joseph said he couldn't, because the Lord told him not too, they hog tied them and then they tarred and feathered my boys. What's good for the goose is good for the gander is it not? And not only that, your good for nothing Reverend Witter said he was going to kidnap Joseph's children and his beautiful wife, Emma Hale Smith. Do you deny that, Reverend Witter?

REVEREND

I honestly don't know what she's talking about your honor. I don't even know where she lives.

HEWLET

Do you have any proof to substantiate your accusations, Lucy?

LUCY

Well, ask him if he has any proof to substantiate his accusations, your honor?

HEWLET

May I remind you, that these are two of our most upholding citizens and you are questioning the integrity of the good Reverend, my Reverend, not to mention our sheriff who is sworn to up hold the law.

LUCY

Your honor, the Reverend and the sheriff have about as much integrity as my left foot. They think that my boys didn't know it was *your* Reverend that bushwhacked them, because they had painted faces, but besides recognizing his voice, he had the same distinguishable limp, and the fool, because he was so drunk called one of his members, that is his drunken brother in-law, the Reverend. And I wonder who the Reverend is? Do you know anybody else around here who Clem calls the Reverend, your honor?

REVEREND

I object your honor, for how dare she claim I am a bushwhacker and defame me and my church, where I read the Bible daily.

JOSEPH

And what Bible is that you read daily, Reverend?

REVEREND

Why the only Bible that matters, young man.

JOSEPH

And what Bible might that be?

REVEREND

Why the only Bible that all Christians read, the King James Bible.

JOSEPH

It seems to me that such a learned and devout Christian must know where the King James Bible emanated from.

REVEREND

And where is that, Joseph, where is that?

JOSEPH

The Old Testament, the Torah that the Jews worship to *daily*, as you do, where in Geneses, Adam and Eve, Cain and Able, Abraham, Jacob and the 12 tribes are mentioned. Funny, but I could swear I read about Geneses that the Jews were God's chosen in your King James Bible, did I not?

REVEREND

I object your honor; this man is defaming the church and saying that our Bible is a Jewish Bible. For Jesus Christ was...

JOSEPH

...Jesus Christ was what? I hear he was a teacher, a rabbi, a Jew, and the "*Last Supper*" where all our apostles ate was a *Seder*, a Jewish Passover *Seder*. Before he became Paul the Apostle, he was Saul of Taurus, and he held the coats of those stoning and persecuting followers of Christ. Jesus said He came to fulfill the law, and part of that law was the cabala, the secret doctrine of the Jews—their version of the mysteries. Such converts to Jesus' teachings as Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were undoubtedly learned in the cabala. So, no doubt, was Paul. The mysteries were concerned with man's problem of freeing his soul from the world. And we believe that Christ restored his church to the earth in these latter-days just as he did in the past by calling prophets, apostles and restoring the priesthood keys and authority so that men might once again have the fullness of the gospel and enjoy the ordinances contained in it. If the Jews had accepted Him as the Messiah, there would be no Christianity; we would all be Jews today."

(There is an uproar.)

OLIVER

It has been written in Joseph's Bible: In the last days, the Lord shall comfort Zion and gather Israel. The redeemed shall come to Zion amid great joy.

REVEREND

What a crock of nonsense this man is writing. Who the hell does he think is going to read his rag Bible?

OLIVER

Jews shall be gathered in all their lands of promise, atonement ransoms man from fall, the bodies of the dead shall come forth from the grave, and their spirits from hell and paradise. They, shall be judged, atonement saves from death, hell the devil, and endless torment. The righteous be saved in the kingdom of God. Penalties for sins set forth. The Holy One of Israel is the keeper of the gate.

HEWLET

Jews shall be gathered in all their lands of promise, keeper of the gate, I believe you are in contempt of court, Oliver. How dare you say that we would be all Jews, when we don't like Jews, we never have.

HIRUM

Does that mean you do not like nor love our savior Jesus Christ, your honor?

HEWLET

Jesus is the greatest man that ever lived. Why I love Jesus more that anything.

HIRUM

Well, for your edification, Jesus was born Jewish and he died Jewish, why he even had a *Bar Mitzvah* and He had a *Bris* and was circumcised.

(There, is an uproar.)

HEWLET

ORDER, ORDER IN THE COURT! You can forget about His *bris* or whatever the hell you called it and what kind of gold plates are you talking about that you say the good Reverend threatened your life for, Joseph?

JOSEPH

The gold plates that Moroni told me I would find and translate.

HEWLET

Moroni, would you please tell me who in the devil Moroni is?

JOSEPH

Moroni is an angel sent to me by the Father.

HEWLET

Are you saying the Father sent you an angel? You got to be kidding, 'because I have never seen an angel, have you seen an angel, Reverend?

JOSEPH

Excuse me for interrupting, your honor, but have you seen God or Jesus lately?

HEWLET

Well, err, I, I don't suppose, I have.

JOSEPH

Well, if you haven't seen the Father and the Son, how can you believe what you don't see, how do you know they exist and how can you be so sure the angel Moroni doesn't exist?

OLIVER

And excuse me for interrupting to interject these facts your honor, but it seems a whole lot of people believe there is an angel Moroni, because in the last three weeks, 127 souls from your prestigious ministry have been baptized and joined Joseph's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I wonder how many more of your parishioners are dissatisfied with the way you preach and teach about our Lord Jesus Christ, Reverend?

REVEREND

Your honor, we have enough churches in our small community, six to be exact and we do not need any more. And with him adding another church, which I'm sure no one will attend and saying that we are all Jewish is sacrilegious and this man, for the well being of this society and our churches should be imprisoned, because Joseph Smith is a danger to all men. Praised be Jesus, we are not Jews and will never be, because we don't like Jews, nobody in these parts would be caught dead talking to a Jew.

(Underscoring ends. **HEWLET** and the **REVEREND** sing 🎶)

JEWS

HEWLET

Jews, since the beginning of time,
Have, been involved with crime.

REVEREND

A people, who act like the devil.
That is why they revel.

HEWLET

And, the reason why they are unblessed.
It's 'because they love incest.

REVEREND

And did you ever, see their ears?
They'd make good souvenirs.

HEWLET and REVEREND

The hell with them all.
They're a detriment.
And they have such Gaul.
That's why I resent.

HEWLET

And all they do is tell them lies.
That's why I despise.

REVEREND

They don't know how to tell the truth.
And everyone's uncouth.

HEWLET

And they come off like they're needy.
That's 'because they're so greedy.

REVEREND

How could they be called the chosen?
Dead, they should be frozen.

HEWLET and REVEREND

The hell with them all.
They're a detriment.
And they have such Gaul.
That's why I resent.

HEWLET

Yes I had a revelation.
Jews are the damnation.

REVEREND

And every Jew has a big head.
Every Heeb should be dead.

HEWLET

And I think they are all insane.
Not to mention profane.

REVEREND

Do not call me a Jew hater.
Am I not a revelator?

HEWLET and REVEREND

The hell with them all.
They're a detriment.
And they have such Gaul.
That's why I resent.

(HEWLET goes back to bench and bangs gavel.)

HEWLET

Since there is no jury and the punishment is discretionary, in other words it's up to little old me, I hereby sentence, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and Oliver Cowdery to three weeks in jail. Lucy Mack Smith, even though you were a participant, I can't see myself sending such a fine woman to jail, so you are free. Case closed!

End of Scene 1

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT 2

Scene 2

Liberty Jail.

JOSEPH, HYRUM and OLIVER
are behind bars and pacing as a
jovial jailer holding a tray of food
enters.

JAILER

(Laughs.)

Here it is gents, the best chow you'll ever eat, so eat up, eat up!

JOSEPH

(Looks at food and frowns.)

TAKE THIS HUMAN FOOD FROM ME, OR YOU OR I WILL DIE THIS INSTANT!

(Frightened and trembling, the JAILER takes the tray of food and runs off.),

HYRUM

It's only three weeks my brothers, Judge Hewlitt could have given us three years.

JOSEPH

Three weeks away from Emma and the children will seem like an eternity.

HYRUM

He's such a romantic.

OLIVER

Alas, I wish I were a romantic.

HYRUM

In time my dear friend. Perhaps I will write a letter to my beloved wife Mary and ask how little John, little Hiram, little Jerusha and little Lovina and little Sarah are

(Reads what he writes.)

doing? I pray they are not as forlorn as their father is.

JOSEPH

My heart breaks for you Hyrum, for I too am of great concern for my family.

OLIVER

(Spiritual. Sings 🎵)

I WILL OPEN THE DOOR

This man wants a woman,
To hold to love and adore.
I will open the door,
For a woman to love.

I wish I had someone that loved me,
A family a loving wife.
I pray I will have a family,
A family to warm my life.

This man wants a woman,
To hold to love and adore.
I will open the door,
For a woman to love.

God decreed Adam must have his Eve.
No longer did he walk alone.
I am so lonely that I grieve,
For no one is there when I go home.

This man wants a woman,
To hold to love and adore.
I will open the door,
For a woman to love.

HYRUM

I remember when you were a little boy, seven years old and your leg was affected by typhoid.

JOSEPH

And I remember how you watched over me, for this I will always be grateful. And do you remember when I asked you who has the power to baptize us?

HYRUM

And John the Baptist appeared and baptize both you and Oliver, whom I shall never forget, and I heard they are going to release us tomorrow and you know what that means Joseph.

JOSEPH

That means we'll get started on our school. Oliver, I'll expect the door will be open and the books ready to be put on the shelves.

OLIVER

I've already placed a great many books on the shelves and thank the good Lord some of the school desks and seats have arrived.

JOSEPH

Well, why didn't you tell me?

OLIVER

Because, you know everything...

HYRUM and OLIVER

...Mr. Prophet.

End of Scene 2

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT 2

Scene 3

**Three days later.
New schoolroom.**

**JOSEPH and OLIVER are excited as
They put bibles on desks and write on
blackboard. Smiling, Brigham Young
enters. WE hear the underscoring of
“DEAR FATHER.”**

JOSEPH

Good morning, how nice of you to visit our new schoolroom, and may I ask your name kind sir?

BRIGHAM

My name is Brigham Young and good morning to you Joseph Smith.

(THEY shake hands.)

JOSEPH

And how do you know my name Mr. Young?

BRIGHAM

Oh, please call me Brig, my friends call me Brig and I want to become your friend more than anything.

OLIVER

And why is that Brig? And my name is Oliver Cowdery, pleased to meet you.

(THEY shake hands.)

BRIGHAM

Why, you must be that brilliant scribe that wrote the Book of Mormons I've come to love. I am so honored to finally meet you, Oliver.

OLIVER

Brig, I did not write the Book of Mormons, Joseph did.

BRIGHAM

I know Joseph translated from the gold plates written by Nephi, and some other ancient American prophets even some of Jewish decent.

JOSEPH

I am impressed Brig and how do you know that?

BRIGHAM

Why, I come all the way from Mendham New York, because once I read your wonderful Bible, which to me is a true teaching of the Son, I read it again and again and again, and knew I had to meet you, for you are a true prophet of our Lord, and I see you are

(Kisses the bible.)

placing your Bible on all the desks like the one I am holding in my hand. Can I please help you and can I please join The Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, and would you allow me to contribute something to your most holy church, Joseph? I hope **(Takes money from wallet and gives it to Oliver.)**

you are the treasurer, Oliver, and I hope this small contribution helps?

OLIVER

Why thank you, thank you. Joseph, I believe the good Lord has sent us a benefactor and true believer. Our prayers once again have been answered as they always are. Seek and ye shall find.

BRIGHAM

Thank you but you are too kind, for I am nothing but a humble man in need and I pray that I am all you think I am, Oliver and as for my meager contribution, all I ask for is Joseph to baptize me, a lost soul that is in need of his guidance.

(Underscoring ends.)

BRIGHAM (cont'd)

Please, I beg you Joseph Smith cleanse my soul and heal my broken heart and baptize me.

(THEY Sing 🎶)

HE IS OUR REWARD

BRIGHAM

Heal me, and my broken heart.
From thee I will never part.
A prophet sent from above.
Heal me and give me thy love.

JOSEPH

There's no serendipity.
The Lord has sent thee to me.
Of course I shall Thee baptize.
Together we both shall rise.

OLIVER

Brigham is just what we need.
For, he knows that we must heed.
Brigham is a man of peace.
Believe, in time we'll increase.

ALL

Jesus is power.
The son of our God,
An April shower,
When, nothing is hard.

BRIGHAM

I am a lamb that has been lost.
Who, has to walk on the right course.
A man that has lived with deceit,
I pray dear Lord make me complete.

JOSEPH

A man, who's int'ested in prayer.
Yet, he seems to have such a flair.
He speaks of Christianity,
And, is filled with humanity.

OLIVER

A part of Americana,
Graham can become our manna.
For now we can reach for the moon.
And forever we shall commune.

ALL

Jesus is power.
The son of our God,
An April shower,
When, nothing is hard.

BRIGHAM

So, Joseph is it convenient for you to baptize me tomorrow?

JOSEPH

How, does nine AM sound?

BRIGHAM

It sounds wonderful and would the both of you allow me to take you out to lunch?

JOSEPH

Thank you for the offer, but I'm afraid not, but why don't you go Oliver; a good lunch might do you some good?

OLIVER

Are you sure you won't join us?

JOSEPH

I have some things I'd like to take care of. Go, go have a good lunch and find out all you can about Brig, I think I like him?

BRIGHAM

You only think?

JOSEPH

I am certain that we were destined to be friends.

BRIGHAM

Now you're talking like the prophet I love and admire. Shall we go, Oliver?

OLIVER

My pleasure, Brig.

(THEY both exit. WE hear the underscoring of "HE HAS A DREAM," and WE see a bright light and MORONI, flies overhead.)

JOSEPH

Moroni, I was waiting to speak to you because I have so much to tell you about.

S Goldberg

Prophet

1-1-64

MORONI

I know Joseph, you have completed your task and the Lord is pleased and so am I.

JOSEPH

Thank you, but I only did what I was commanded to do.

MORONI

And you did it very well; the Book of Mormon is exceptional.

JOSEPH

Thank you for the holy opportunity. I feel blessed to have served the Lord.

MORONI

You are blessed, that is why God has called you to be a prophet. You must gather certain people for the purpose of showing them the plates and making them special witnesses of the plates. After I have shown them the plates I will take them back again.

(The lights dim as MORONI flies away and disappears.)

End of Scene 3

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT 2

Scene 4

**Two days later.
Classroom.**

JOSEPH and HYRUM are doing things in the classroom, when suddenly many Men with pained faces and as seen before, come storming in. As before, the, REVEREND will limp and CLEM are present. WE hear underscoring of “JEWS.”

HYRUM

I'm proud of you Joseph for sending some of our brothers to preach to the Indians that we are Latter-day hosts of Israel.

CLEM

(Points gun.)
All right, don't Nobody move!

HYRUM

(Puts arm around Joseph.)
Lay not thy hand upon this lad.

CLEM

WHAT?! Put your hands up and lie down on the floor, real nice and easy.

REVEREND

What do you want them to do Clem, put their hands up or lie down on the floor? They can't do both, dummy.

CLEM

Well, what do you want me to do Boss?

REVEREND

(Looks at Bible.)

Tell all your men to gather up these sacrilegious Bibles and just tell these Jew lovers to put their hands up.

(The men start gathering Bibles.)

CLEM

You heard what the boss said, put your hands up.

HYRUM

Whatever, you say, Clem.

(Laughing, JOSEPH and HYRUM lie down on the floor.)

CLEM (cont'd)

What should I do Boss, their lying on the floor, what should I do?

REVEREND

If they don't get up, shoot them!

CLEM

Where should I shoot them, Boss?

REVEREND

I don't know, pick a place, *aw*, why don't you shoot them where they sit?

HYRUM

Please, not where we sit, that will hurt, when we sit.

CLEM

He don't want me to shoot him where he sits, what should I do Boss?

(REVEREND takes out a flask and drinks.)

REVEREND

(Gives flask.)

Just, tie and stand them up so I can keep an eye on them! Want a taste, Clem?
We haven't had a taste for about an hour.

CLEM

(Takes a long drink from flask, and drinks.)

Why thank you Boss, that's mighty kind of you and it's about an hour and a half.

REVEREND

Don't drink all of it damn you, that has to last me until we get back.
(Underscoring ends.)

CLEM

I'm sorry, I'm real sorry and what are you going to do with all those Bibles?

(THEY sing 🎶)

AND THEN WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN

REVEREND

I think it's time we had a revival?
And then we will burn every bible.
These two Jew lovers are full of libel.
We have to do it for our survival.

CLEM

You think I should just shoot them in the ass?
Because these guys seem, like the lower class.
So maybe I'll bury them in tall grass.
And we of course are from the upper class.

(Production number. The MEN sort of dance and sing 🎶)

MEN

It's time for a hoedown.
And give 'em our six-gun.
Let's bring them into town,
And then we'll have some fun.

REVEREND

These two remind me of a Frankenstein.
And that is why I must now draw the line.
They are enamored with old Palestine.
And if I'm not careful I'll lose my mind.

CLEM

Why theses two guys will drive me insane.
Maybe that's why I have this pounding pain.
And they talk about being humane.
What I could use is a glass of champagne.

MEN

It's time, for a hoedown.
And give 'em our six-gun.
Let's bring them into town,
And then we'll have some fun.

(The underscoring of "JEWS" resumes.)

REVEREND

(Points gun.)

Okay Joseph, I want those gold plates right now, or else! Where are they damn it? And if you don't give them to me, you're going to get it right between those blue eyes of yours!

CLEM

And don't forget about those silver bows

REVEREND

I want it all Joseph, I want it all right now, or else!

JOSEPH

I would give it to you, but I can't.

REVEREND

Why not damn it, why not?

JOSEPH

Because Moroni took them back.

REVEREND

WHO TOOK WHAT BACK?

CLEM

You know that angel Boss.

REVEREND

Do you really expect me to believe you gave the gold plates to an angel, when we both know there's no such a thing as an angel?

HYRUM

You may believe what you want Reverend Witter, but Moroni took those plates back to our Lord.

REVEREND

I'm not a Reverend, I was never a Reverend, what, are you crazy, what kind of Reverend?

HYRUM

Even though your faces are painted, we know who you are, sheriff, Reverend. We've always known it was the both of you, and why don't you both have another drink? Looks like you can use it.

CLEM

What do you say Boss?

REVEREND

What do I say about what?

CLEM

About another drink, I sure could use one, can't you?

REVEREND

What are you staring at you fool? Let's have a drink, they know who we!

CLEM

They know who we are, Boss, what are we going to do with them?

REVEREND

Stop calling me Boss, I hate when you call me Boss, I am a Reverend, am I not?

CLEM

You sure are a Reverend and my favorite Reverend, 'cause you give me all the booze I want, but what are we going to do with them Boss they know who we are.

REVEREND

You are going to put them in jail where they belong, and the next time you call me Boss will be your last time, you nincompoop!

End of Scene 4

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT II

Scene 5

**The following day.
Carthage Jail.**

**JOSEPH, HYRUM, WILLARD and
TAYLOR look through cell bars.**

HYRUM

We've been here two days and that's the third letter you've written.

JOSEPH

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, Brother Hyrum. I can't tell you how much I miss Emma and the children; it's the only way I can stay in touch. Here's what I just wrote her; "*I am very much resigned to my lot, knowing I am justified and have done the best that could be done. Give my love the children and all who inquire after me. May God bless you all, eternally your, Joseph...*" Brother Taylor, would you favor me and sing part of my favorite song?

TAYLOR

(Sings 🎵)

My pleasure, Brother Joseph.

A POOR WAYFARING MAN

A poor wayfaring man of grief,
Hath often crossed me on my way.
Who sued so humbly for relief,
That I could never an answer nay.

I had not power to ask his name.
Where to he went or whence he came.
Yet there was something in his eye,
That won my love, I know not why.

HYRUM

That was mighty fine, Brother Taylor and Joseph, you make it sound like we are lambs going to the slaughter house, it's not your last letter, and we'll be out in a day or two. Governor Ford has to realize that we are innocent and the sheriff has to protect us, it's the law, he just has too.

JOSEPH

I believe the Governor is just as culpable, for he knew of our innocence before and closed his eyes, that's, why we've been incarcerated so many times. Come let us join hands and sing together.

(Production number. ALL sing ♪ and hold hand.)

WE ARE GRATEFUL

JOSEPH

Cheer up, nothing lasts forever.

HYRUM

Cheer up, for you are too clever,

WILLARD

With God I have an endeavor.

TAYLOR

Whatever, nothing's forever.

WILLARD

I know that being here in jail.

HYRUM

Will not make you want to regale.

JOSEPH

I feel more like I want to wail.

TAYLOR

All his tears could fill up a pail.

ALL

We are grateful for our health
We are grateful for our sanity.
We believe in the commonwealth
We believe in humanity.

WILLARD

Joseph has been given a dream.

HYRUM

He is a man of high esteem.

JOSEPH

What, I must do is sacrifice.

TAYLOR

For, he's prepared to pay the price.

WILLARD

Yes our life is transitory.

HYRUM

He does not seek any glory.

JOSEPH

We are merely a grain of sand.

TAYLOR

And we call him a humble man.

ALL

We are grateful for our health
We are grateful for our sanity.
We believe in the commonwealth
We believe in humanity.

HYRUM

My brother is truly blessed, for who else could undertake such an overwhelming task as translating an ancient text? Abraham, Moses, those men were prophets, but nobody can be compared to our Savior, and you my brother Taylor, you too are one of God's chosen.

JOSEPH

(Grins.)

What about me? I thought you said I was a chosen prophet?

HYRUM

Yes you are a prophet my favorite prophet and I would follow you anywhere.

WILLARD

(Grins and shakes bars.)

He's only saying that, because how far can you go, six feet?

(WE see CLEM who is hidden from sight, sneak up and listen.)

HYRUM

Perhaps I can ask mother, when she visits us to smuggle in a Book of Mormon?

JOSEPH

Nothing would make me happier than to continue reading it, but I fear the sheriff is still after the gold plates.

WILLARD

I believe that too. I hope they are well hidden.

JOSEPH

They are my brother; they were hidden in a hollowed birch log...

HYRUM

A hollowed birch log, what a splendid idea.

JOSEPH

They were hidden in a hollowed birch log, but...

(CLEM, rubbing his hands with excitement, mouths, "Hollowed birch log," and sneaks out as WE hear gunshots and HYRUM rushes to window.)

HYRUM

IT'S A MOB! There must be a hundred armed men! Most of them have their faces painted white or wearing hoods! They've all gone mad and got that crazy look in their

(WE hear a shot and bullet hits HYRUM.)

eyes. Joseph my brother take heed, for I fear for your life... *Ohhhhh*, I, I've just been shot... Joseph, I am a dead man. Thank God it was me and not you.

(JOSEPH rushes to HYRUM and holds him in his arms. ALL, in great pain Hover over THEM.)

JOSEPH

(Listens to HYRUMS heart and realizes HE is dead.)

Oh, my dear brother Hyrum, please do not leave me... I pray that the dew of God brings
(Cries.)

you back to me... Rest in peace my beloved brother, rest in peace.

WILLARD and TAYLOR

(Bowed heads.)

Rest in peace brother Hyrum, rest in peace.

(WE hear the underscoring of "A POOR WAYFARING MAN." The jail is rushed, hooded men, some with painted white faces, enter pointing guns. Shots are fired, Taylor is hit. WILLARD pushes him under bed and is shot in the ear. JOSEPH grabs a gun that is pointing through the door and gets off a couple of shots, runs to the window and HE is shot dead.)

End of Scene 5

Joseph Smith,

A True  **PROPHET**

ACT II

Scene 6

Some time later.
Kitchen.

EMMA, LUCY and OLIVER
are dressed in black.

LUCY

Jesus gave his life for us and so did my two boys, Joseph and Hyrum; May they rest in peace and his two brothers in the gospel, Taylor and Richard who did all they could to help them.

EMMA

Don't be sad Lucy, Oliver let's celebrate. Let's hold hands and sing a hymn praising their passing, 'because they're in a better place than we are.

(ALL hold hands and sing 🎵)

OH HAPPY DAY

EMMA (Cont'd)

Oh happy day, the Lord be praised.
I let Jesus caress my soul.

OLIVER

Oh happy day, what can I say?
Why the Lord took away the cold.

LUCY

Oh happy day, I found the way.
I feel like I'm walking on air.

EMMA

Oh happy day, I'm turning gray.
I gained some weight and I don't care.

ALL

It's no surprise.
Conceptualize.
Become Christianized,
And then get baptized.

LUCY

Oh happy day, show me the way.
I've been given all I need.

OLIVER

Oh happy day, happy birthday.
I pray that I shall not misread.

EMMA

Oh happy day, what thou say.
Oh please grant me humility.

LUCY

Oh happy day, smell that bouquet.
We need peace and civility.

ALL

It's no surprise.
Conceptualize.
Become Christianized,
And then get baptized.

(OLIVER picks up empty glass and feigns drinking, ALL follow suit.)

OLIVER

(In jest, laughs.)

Why Miss Lucy, this is the finest port I ever drank. Just where did you get it and don't tell me this fine port came from Spain?

LUCY

(In jest, laughs.)

I hate to tell you this young man, but this is not port, its wine that my father in-law made, and why did you ask?

HYRUM

(Laughing.)

Well I hear this Reverend Witter and Sheriff Clem Kadiddlehopper are going around telling people that they should not drink your port, because they drank it and got drugged, because your mother in-law drugged it, how could she do such a thing, Emma?

EMMA

I do declare, I wonder why he would ever say such a thing.

(ALL laugh and feign drinking.)

OLIVER

You are the greatest druggier I ever saw and where's your husband?

LUCY

You know where he is, he's working the fields like he always does, missing out on the bad and good times, like he always does, isn't that right, Emma?

EMMA

Don't I know it.

OLIVER

And where's your children, Emma?

EMMA

With a friend who is watching them.

OLIVER

I say we pray for our beloved Joseph, our own prophet for having completed the most beautiful book ever written, the Book of Mormon, right now. May he rest in peace with our Lord Jesus Christ; all I did was transcribe what Joseph translated.

EMMA

Modesty will get you nowhere, my beloved Oliver. I tried to help Joseph but wasn't much help. If you didn't translate it, we'd have no Book of Mormon.

OLIVER

I was merely a tool; without our Joseph there would be no Book of Mormon. And as he often said, *Praise be the son of the Lord, how divinely beautiful, the principle of the glory of God is intelligence.*"

LUCY

Now that deserves a toast!

(ALL raise empty glasses.)

ALL

THE GLORY OF GOD IS INTELLIGENCE!

LUCY

And my beloved son, Joseph had the most beautiful and revolutionary idea. He approached one of the most renowned linguists, a Jewish Rabbi, I believe his name was Joshua Robert Mathias and he is going to teach Hebrew in our school.

(ALL raise glasses and toast.)

ALL

TO THE RABBI!

OLIVER

Well, I'm sure the Reverend Witter is going to feel mighty pleased about that, won't he? Not only has 25 per cent of his congregation deserted him and come over to the Church of Jesus, Latter-day Saints, I hear he is getting real anxious to get his greedy hands on the gold plates, and Urim and Thummim with the silver bows. He promised a \$100 to any of his drunken renegades if they bring him his booty...

End of Scene 6

Joseph Smith,

A True **PROPHET**

ACT II

Scene 7

**A week later.
Cemetery.**

BRIGHAM YOUNG is leading the Funeral service. LUCY, EMMA, and OLIVER and other people are there. WE hear the underscoring of the Overture. WE also hear the crowd say “I love you Joseph,” throughout.

BRIGHAM

Lucy, Emma, all your beloved children, brothers, friends and citizens, we are all gathered here in sorrow and darkness to pay our respects to the most beautiful man I have ever known, Joseph Smith, who God has chosen to make a prophet and his brother Hyrum. He was the man who dedicated his life to the teaching of the Bible and his beloved Book of Mormon. Like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he too was one of God’s Children, the Chosen.

(Breaks up and cries.)

He was given gold plates by the angel Moroni, and in my heart and soul, he is now an angel, the most beautiful angel there ever was. He translated those ancient plates that were written by the Prophets who lived in ancient times. I must thank his close friend and bosom buddy, Oliver Cowdery for transcribing the Book of Mormon, which was the most important undertaking in young Joseph’s life. I didn’t know him very long, but not only did I respect him for his dedication, he started schools, and churches, and despite being ridiculed, brought one of the finest linguist to teach Hebrew in our schools, because like the Jews, he felt we too were the chosen and God’s children. I could talk about this humble and spiritual man for the rest of my life and still not have enough time to tell you what I think about him. Joseph added 180 proper nouns, to the English language, Shakespeare only added 30. The book he translated fulfills Bible prophecies; even the exact manner in which it shall come forth, to whom given, its purposes and accomplishments and declared it to be the word of God. And as a lamb going to the slaughter he willingly gave his life becoming a martyr but would never deny his testimony of the divinity of the Book of Mormon. And I swear that we will build Zion and settle there.

(There is a moment of silence.)

BRIGHAM

I know this may not be the moment to tell you this, but it touches my heart and I could not be happier. The devil in disguise, Reverend Witter and his brother-in-law, Clem Kadiddlehopper, that thieving sheriff have just been indicted and brought up on charges of stealing from the church and murder, and I hear they may be spending the rest of their lives in jail. Praised be the son of the Lord, Jesus Christ, thy will be done.

(There is thunderous applause as the Overture is heightened.)

The End