

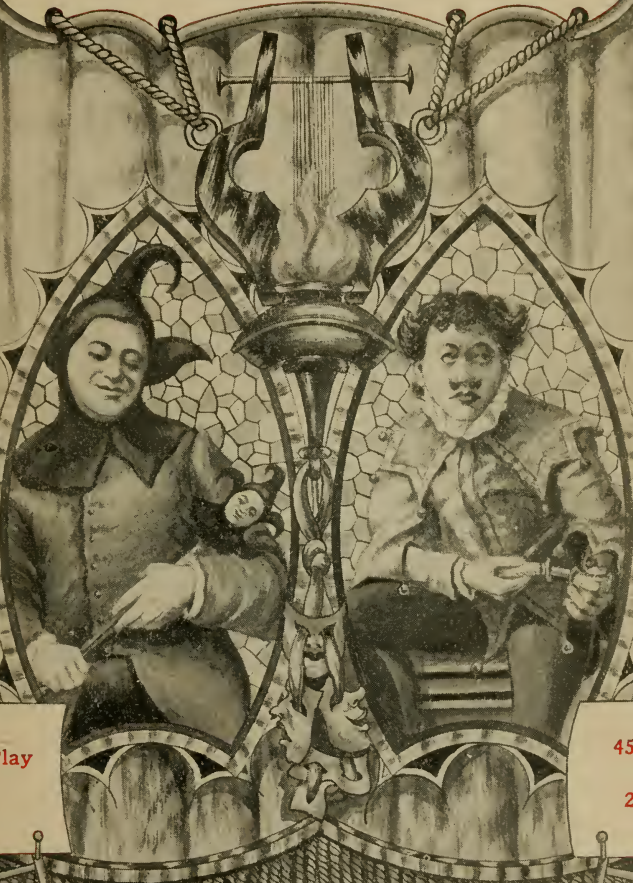
WERNER'S PLAYS

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The Blind Man



Biblical Play

6m, 2f

45 Minutes

25 Cents

EDGAR S. WERNER & CO.

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New Plays and Entertainments

BLIND MAN. \$.25. Henry Evarts Gordon. Biblical play. 6m. 2f. Three acts. 45 min. Blind beggar, cured by Jesus, returning joyously home accompanied by maiden who has befriended him, finds father and mother in despair over threatened dispossession for non-payment of rent. His mother at first slights maiden, who proves to be daughter of landlord, who not only accepts young man as son-in-law but causes him to be restored to synagogue, from which rabbi, hostile to Jesus, had cast him out. Tableau finale shows family kneeling in light reflected by approach of Jesus (who does not actually appear on stage).

COUNTY FAIR AT PUNKINVILLE. \$.25. Farce in 2 scenes. Any number of characters. 1 hour, or longer, according to specialties. Old farmer tells wife and children, instead of going to football game, he's going to take them to fair. After much talk and many preparations, they arrive, having exciting and funny experiences with tight-rope walker, snake-charmer, moving-pictures, singers, shoot-the-chutes, horse-race. Farmer, asked for his purse, gives it to man, but purse is restored. Chance for varied costumes and all sorts of business and specialties that are at county fairs.

JENKINSES GO TO THE CIRCUS. \$.25. Sarah Pratt Carr. One-act rural Romp. 7m. 6f. 45 min. Hard-working Western farmer paying off mortgage, after his and family's long struggle, uses odd dollars, thrown off by mortgagee who feels indebted to farmer's wife for help in sickness, to buy clothes and toys and to take family to circus. Entire action of play is in preparations made to start for circus. Wife at first suspects husband is out of his head; but, learning good news of getting out of debt, she energetically orders around and helps her numerous children who cut up all sorts of antics.

KIDNAPPING. \$.25. Helen Clifford Wilbur. Children's Comedy. 6f. 45 min. Girls, to get even with boys who have offended them, play brigands and plot to steal little girl whom boys have in play tied fast as captive. Girls' written demand on boys for ransom money falls into hands of servant maid, who takes affair seriously and calls for aid on her friendly policeman. Girls get out of scrape by helping maid routing her rival with policeman, maid explaining "It was an April fool joke, only date got shipped a bit." Baby talk, business with doll, Irish-dialect by maid.

LITTLE REBEL. \$.25. Harold Strong Latham. "Sane" Fourth-of-July Play. 25m. 1f. (or 14m., performers doubling their parts).

Female part may be played by male as "Herald of Liberty." Special suitable for schools. Moral of play is that Independence Day should be celebrated in a way more rational than by horrible noises and dangerous shootings and fireworks. The 13 original States are represented, each having something to say about itself. One of the States refuses at first to give up old-fashioned way but finally yields.

LOVE STORY OF UNEEDA AD. \$.25. Mattie Lee Hausgen. Quaint conceit romantic comedy in two scenes. 11m. 6f. and supes. 1 hour. Unique entertainment bringing in widely-advertised foods and household articles as Uneeda Biscuit, Sapollo, Baker's Cocoa, Hiawatha Pure Spring Water, Dutch Cleanser, Gold-Dust Twins, Heinz Pickles, Ham Devil, McLaren Cheese, Peter's Milk Chocolate, Ralston Miller, Dutch Paint, Winchester Rifle, Quaker Oats, Swift's Cook, etc. Ends in marriage of Pure Food and Uneeda, playing of Lohengrin Bridal Chorus and tableau of flags of different nations, and advertising flags; dancing of Highland Fling (to bagpipe music), Indian dance, Virginia Reel, Cake-Walk, Quaker dance.

MODEL GROWL. \$.25. Agnes Electra Platt. Store Window Wax-Figure comedy. 1m. 8f. 30 min. Scene opens with window-trimmer arranging figures and placing placards; two shopgirls spat over their respective admirers, then six wax-figures guy one another, sing woman rights song, grab window-trimmer when he tries to quiet them and forces him to carry banner "I'm for Woman's Rights" at end of procession.

PEDLER OR SPY. \$.25. Edward Vassar Ambler. Revolutionary War Military Court-Trial and Romance. 19m. (1m. is Washington) 3f. 1 hour. Colonial and military costumes. British Royal Hussar captain, disguised as pedler, entering American lines to visit sweetheart, is, through jealous and unsuccessful rival, arrested and tried as spy, but is acquitted. Comedy parts as well as serious trial proceedings.

PARSON'S GREETINGS. \$.25. Gail Kent. Two-act romantic comedy. 1m. 10f. 1 hr. Parson, whose fiancée breaks their engagement because meddlesome woman church member tells her she's not qualified for pastor's wife, directs maid servant to mail his New Year's greetings to lady members of congregation; maid mistakingly mails parson's returned love-letters, causing ludicrous results, revealed at meeting of sewing society; parson returning to clear up matters and to be reunited with fiancée. Maid speaks in Irish dialect.

Address the Publishers

EDGAR S. WERNER & COMPANY
43 East 19th Street, NEW YORK

The Blind Man

**Biblical Play Based on
Ninth Chapter of St. John**

6 m, 2 f.

45 minutes

By HENRY EVARTS GORDON



EDGAR S. WERNER & COMPANY
43 EAST 19TH STREET
NEW YORK

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The Blind Man

CHARACTERS

ELAH, the Blind Man.
JOSEPH, his father.
REBECCA, his mother.
MIRIAM, his sweetheart.
BENJAMIN, MIRIAM'S father and
owner of dwelling of JOSEPH.
AARON, } Rabbis.
JOSHUA, }
JONAS, special messenger

ACT I.

Scene is laid in house built Oriental fashion of sun-dried bricks. Floor and side-walls are finished with rough plastering of earth; ceiling is thatch of roof; door at left leading without; two doors at right from within house; single, small window at back sheds dim light on scene. Rude table C., couch L., bench R., and other furniture suited to combination family-room.

[From upper door R. young man slowly advances, feeling his way to table, where he stands, and, raising his sightless eyes, calls:]

ELAH. Mother! mother!

REBECCA *[entering lower door R.]*. Thou art awake early, my son!

ELAH. I could not sleep.

REBECCA. Thou art not ill? Shall I bring thee food?

ELAH. Nay, only ill of mind! Eat? I cannot!

REBECCA. Then lie down again and spend this day in rest.

ELAH. And lose thereby the alms that sustain us?

REBECCA. Let thy father fare forth in thy stead.

ELAH *[bitterly, half to himself]*. Day by day to lie in the heat and dust of the wayside—and beg! It troubleth me sore! Why was I ever born?

[*Aged father, JOSEPH, enters lower door R. noiselessly and stands watching scene.*]

REBECCA. My son, these words sound strange from thee!

ELAH. Forgive me, mother! I know not what made me say them, unless moved upon by this grievous pain in my eyes! And that I am ill in mind.

[*ELAH starts to go out; his father stops him.*]

JOSEPH. No, my son, lie down! I go in thy place to-day.

ELAH. No, no! father, thou shalt not! I am better able than thou!

JOSEPH. Rest awhile at home, I entreat thee, and I will hold thy place. When the heat of the day is passed; and thou art refreshed, thou mayest come. [*Exit L.*]

ELAH. What have I done? Mother, call him back! O God, what have I become? I send my father forth that I may sit in idleness at home. Bring me my staff—I will go and send him back!

REBECCA [*detains him*]. Nay! It will not hurt thy father to go in thy stead for once. But what hath made thee ill in mind?

ELAH. Mother, last night I dreamed. It was a glorious and a hateful dream!

REBECCA. Let me hear it, son.

ELAH. I thought my eyes became like the eyes of other men. I saw! I was wild with joy! I cried out in ecstasy!

REBECCA. Son, son, how pitiful!

ELAH. Yes, yes, for that cry awoke me, and I was yet without sight. Most miserable of men am I! [*Falls on bench R. despairingly. Door L. has been opening slowly; JOSEPH staggers in and falls on couch L. REBECCA runs to him and kneels.*]

REBECCA. Joseph, Joseph, what is it?

JOSEPH [*feebly*]. The heat! Water—quickly! [*REBECCA brings him cup of water from table.*]

ELAH [*while REBECCA and JOSEPH are speaking, rises and feels his way to corner R., takes staff and comes toward door L., paus-*

ing C.]. Curse me, father, I am a selfish dog! Thou art old! The sun beateth on the highway like fire!

JOSEPH [*gaspingly, reviving*]. Elah, blame not thyself. The water hath already revived me.

ELAH. The water hath revived thee and thy brave example hath revived thy son. And now I go. [*Exit L. Silence follows. REBECCA caresses JOSEPH, who rises on one elbow and listens to sound of the retreating footsteps.*]

JOSEPH [*while REBECCA is speaking pushes aside her hands and slowly comes to sitting posture*]. "Brave"? Nay, I am weak—worthless!

REBECCA. Thou judgest not rightly. Thou art already strong again.

JOSEPH [*rising to feet and leaning heavily upon table listens as though to make sure Elah has really gone*]. Mother, that cannot be!

REBECCA. Why, what secret meaning hath thy words?

JOSEPH. I have suffered the pains of death! I thought I should never see this room again. I had not gone a score of steps when I was stricken down as one who is pierced with a sword. I crawled back on my hands and knees!

REBECCA. Be not overcome of fear. Even now thou art revived! It was but the withering heat that assailed thee.

JOSEPH [*his fears allayed, caressing REBECCA*]. Thou comforter!

[*Door L. after quick, loud knock, opens and owner of house, one BENJAMIN, enters.*]

BENJAMIN [*harshly*]. Come! Come! Ten pieces of silver for the hire of this house!

[*During this speech REBECCA and JOSEPH have risen and retreated R.*]

JOSEPH. Alas! Silver and gold have we none! Perhaps to-morrow——

BENJAMIN. Then out ye go! Ye are rich in naught but promises of to-morrow and to-morrow!

JOSEPH. Sir, wilt thou not give us a week in which——

BENJAMIN. Now, or out ye go!

JOSEPH [*gesture of appeal*]. My son is blind and ill. Hard-by he lies, begging in the filth of the street. Surely, sir, thou wilt give us a week? I may find strength to toil again——

BENJAMIN. Thou dost not deserve so much as an hour! But twenty-four I will give thee. The money then, or go! [*Exit L.*]

REBECCA [*pitifully*]. A blind son! A husband ill and stricken in years! Our habitation to be taken from us! Oh, God of Israel, show mercy. [*Kneels in prayer. JOSEPH sits with head bowed in hands.*]

[CURTAIN]

ACT II.

SCENE: Same as Act I.

DISCOVERED: JOSEPH and REBECCA sitting on bench R.

REBECCA [*turning to JOSEPH*]. Elah should soon return.

JOSEPH [*shaking head sadly*]. Return but to hear how Benjamin will drive us forth.

ELAH [*heard outside, his voice ringing with joy*]. Mother! Mother!

[REBECCA and JOSEPH start up in wonder at sound.]

REBECCA. The voice of Elah! But it hath an unaccustomed sound! Like one who knoweth not sorrow!

ELAH [*rushes in L. followed by MIRIAM*]. Mother, mother, thy son that was blind! Behold, he seeth thee!

REBECCA [*amazed and rejoiced*]. Thou seest? Seest thy mother's face that never thou hast seen before?

ELAH. Even so! [REBECCA in joyous amazement advances. ELAH embraces her, holds her at arm's length, then embraces her again. Turns to JOSEPH.] Thou too, oh, father, whom I now behold as thou beholdest me!

JOSEPH [*embracing him*]. How did this marvel come to pass?

ELAH [*turns to MIRIAM*]. Thou, Miriam, speak!

MIRIAM [*hesitates with maidenly modesty*]. I?

REBECCA [*with curiosity*]. Who is this Miriam?

ELAH. A maiden fair of face and soft of speech—who hath befriended me with words of cheer when blind I begged upon the highway.

MIRIAM [*checking him, addresses REBECCA*]. Nay, I am only a passerby who each day in her going and coming hath seen thy son at his task.

REBECCA [*waiting for her to continue*]. Well?

MIRIAM. To-day, when I chanced to be passing, a crowd pressed close upon him; and, as I drew near—I saw the wonderful thing that was done!

REBECCA. Thy story—quickly!

MIRIAM. In the midst of the multitude there was One whose face shone with a strange glory! And a man of the company said unto him, pointing toward thy son, “Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

REBECCA. And what answer made the One they hailed as “Master”?

MIRIAM. He answered them, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.”

JOSEPH. He must be a rabbi.

MIRIAM. Then He spat upon the ground and made clay of the spittal; and, when He had anointed thy son’s eyes, He lifted his hand as though calling down the power of God: “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam!”

ELAH [*breaking in*]. Mother, I shall never forget that journey! This Miriam, whom then I had not seen, led me down to the Pool. And when I had washed—I saw men as trees walking; I saw this woman, Miriam, more beautiful than the vision of an angel!

REBECCA [*with some impatience*]. Go on—thy story!

ELAH [*points to staff*]. That staff I took and broke it to pieces, and walked and ran and leaped into the air! Oh, God, I thank thee! My dream of the night hath become the glory of the day!

But, mother, something troubles thee! Else thou wouldst rejoice aloud at my deliverance.

REBECCA. I do indeed rejoice, but, alas, I must dim thy new-found joy and mine by what I have to tell thee.

ELAH [*anxiously as she pauses*]. Speak!

REBECCA. We no longer have a dwelling-place. To-morrow we shall be wanderers upon the highway, for we cannot find the wherewithal to pay for shelter.

ELAH [*courageously*]. Grieve not, mother. Now, that I have my sight, I can soon provide for thee, food, shelter, raiment!

REBECCA. Alas, we may tarry here only until another day-break!

ELAH. I can borrow until then.

REBECCA. There is no one to help us!

MIRIAM [*gently stepping forward*]. Let me be thy friend. I will help thee.

REBECCA [*repelling her*]. Help from thee? Nay, thou art a stranger to our household, and overbold, it seemeth me, for one so young!

ELAH [*warmly to MIRIAM*]. Thou art overkind, she means. Forgive my mother that she speaketh harshly. Sorrow hath tried her overmuch. But yet we need not ask thy aid. Straightway I will seek out the owner of this house and ask his patience for a little time.

REBECCA [*bitterly*]. Seek rather some hovel where we may hide from the angry face of the man who threatens us.

MIRIAM [*to REBECCA*]. But who so hard of heart as not to heed the pleadings of thy son?

REBECCA. I'll tell thee who. He is a rich merchant, owner too of vineyards and of cattle. His name is Benjamin.

[MIRIAM *starts*.]

REBECCA [*turns to ELAH*]. The day was when thy father had lands and gold beyond the Publican who now oppresses us.

ELAH. Publican? Then I fear, indeed, there is no mercy in him!

MIRIAM. But I do know this Benjamin. And I tell thee that, though a Publican, he hath still a heart of grace. I will speak with him in thy behalf.

REBECCA. Thou stranger maid! I do not trust thy fair promises.

ELAH [*pained*]. Mother, speak not so!

MIRIAM. Thou, Elah? Dost thou not trust me?

ELAH. Trust thee? Yea, and more. Thou knowest it without the asking.

MIRIAM [*smiles sweetly on him*]. Then I am content. [*She goes to door and opens it. JONAS is discovered outside.*]

JONAS [*looks toward ELAH as he enters*]. Is this the son of Joseph the smith? The son who was blind?

[MIRIAM *slips out.*]

ELAH. It is. And what wouldst thou with me?

JONAS. I am come but now from the Temple where the tale of the miracle hath been told. Thou art summoned there. Thou and all thy household.

ELAH. Gladly will we go! Gladly will I testify of the miracle and the Shining One that wrought it!

JONAS [*warningly*]. Rejoice not overmuch! For I must say unto thee that the rabbis distrust thy tale of healing. Their displeasure awaits thee if thou failest to persuade them to believe in the truth of what thou has to tell them.

REBECCA [*horror-stricken*]. The displeasure of the Rabbis? Woe to all of our blood! We call forth but poverty, sickness and enmity!

ELAH. Dost thou forget that now I have the blessing of eyes that see? Be of good heart, mother. I fear not the Rabbis. [*To JONAS.*] Tell them the blind man cometh straightway to the synagogue, to give glory to God for His healing, and testify thereunto.

[JONAS *bows and departs. ELAH puts arm about his mother's neck, and takes hand of JOSEPH as he stands between them.*]

[CURTAIN]

ACT III.

SCENE: Court of Solomon's Temple.

DISCOVERED: Two Rabbis who approach and greet each other solemnly.

AARON. This is the Holy Sabbath of our God.

JOSHUA. Bless his Holy Name.

AARON. Peace be to all his people.

JOSHUA. Which cannot be while this cursed Nazarene doth desecrate his Holy City.

AARON. Desecrate—his Holy City!

JOSHUA. On my way hither to worship, I passed a multitude gathered in the street; and, when I had asked the cause, I learned how that this Jesus of Nazareth had performed the miracle.

AARON. Yea?

JOSHUA. They proclaimed that he had made clay of the dust of the street and spittal, and anointed the eyes of the blind man and had sent him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.

AARON. Thou wast not foolish enough to follow?

JOSHUA. Nay, but I left a trusty messenger who will bring me full report. I think he comes now. [*JONAS enters and makes obeisance. To JONAS.*] Didst thou summon him hither—him and his parents, as I bade thee?

JONAS. Yea, I did summon him, and he bade me inform thee that he will come straightway. [*Greatly moved.*] He that was blind seeth. It was a miracle!

AARON. How! Be careful, fellow, what thou sayest!

JOSHUA. Thou hast been tricked. But tell us as thou didst see it.

JONAS. I followed him to the Pool; he washed the slime from his eyes, and came forth seeing as I do see.

AARON. Thou art a fool. It is clear now that this fellow was never blind—a lying beggar!

JOSHUA. Who takes our Holy Sabbath as a day in which to pollute the minds of our people? Thou hast done well, Aaron,—this fellow cannot escape us now. [*To JONAS.*] Thou art free to go hence until we have need of thee. [*Exit JONAS.*]

AARON. But what of the miracle-worker—this Jesus, what of him?

JOSHUA. He should die!

AARON. Thou art a righteous judge. Not in the memory of living man hath one wrought such havoc in the holy ordinances of our sacred Church.

JOSHUA. He eateth and drinketh with Publicans. He maketh sinners his daily companions. He consorteth with harlots.

AARON. He breaketh our Holy Sabbath! He defieeth the laws! He preacheth false doctrines in the synagogues!

JOSHUA. Thou dost recall how he defied us at the last Feast Day?

AARON. Let there be no failure this time!

JOSHUA. But what if indeed he maketh the blind to see?

AARON [*with reproach*]. Hath the lie touched even thee?

JOSHUA. Many of the people believe in him.

AARON. Bah!

JOSHUA. They call him a prophet.

AARON [*scornfully*]. A prophet out of Gallilee?

JOSHUA. I am not his advocate. I repeat but what I hear.

AARON. 'Tis well! Thy forgiveness, if I seemed to doubt thee!—

JOSHUA [*offended*]. Thou didst seem to doubt me!

AARON. Nay, hear me out. I spake in haste. Let us not quarrel in this matter. Nicodemus is for him. Others are weakening. We must be firm—but, look, here they come!

JOSHUA. Do thou lead in questioning them.

[*Enter ELAH, JOSEPH and REBECCA.*]

AARON. What is thy name, fellow?

ELAH. Rabbi, my name is Elah, son of Joseph, the smith.

AARON. Art thou the fellow who hath been breaking the peace of this Holy Sabbath with thy false story of a miracle.

ELAH. Know ye not that I was born blind?

AARON. How is it, then, that thou dost now see?

ELAH. A man named Jesus put clay upon mine eyes. I did wash, and do see.

JOSHUA. This Jesus is not of God because he keepeth not the Sabbath day.

AARON. What sayest thou of him, that he opened thine eyes?

ELAH. He is a prophet!

AARON. Blasphemer!

JOSEPH [*advancing*]. Let not thy judgment be over-hasty, sirs!

AARON [*to JOSEPH*]. Is this thy son who ye say was born blind?

JOSEPH. This is our son.

REBECCA. And blind from birth.

AARON. How doth he now see?

JOSEPH. But by what means he now seeth we know not; he is of age, ask him; he shall speak for himself.

AARON [*to ELAH*]. Dost give God the praise? Or dost give honor to a sinner for thy healing?

ELAH. Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not; one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

JOSHUA. Repeat thy story and with care; what did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

ELAH. I have told thee already, and didst thou not hear? Wherefore wouldst thou hear it again? Believing it—ye would also be his disciples.

AARON. Thou art his disciple—

JOSHUA. We are Moses's disciples; as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is!

ELAH. Why, herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence He is and yet He hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but, if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. Since the world began it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God he could do nothing. Therefore He is a holy man—a prophet. Learn ye of Him!

AARON. Thou lying beggar! Thou wast altogether born in sin, and dost thou teach us? Away with thee! [*Takes ELAH by shoulder and thrusts him from the court.*]

JOSHUA [*to REBECCA*]. Let him not come again to the synagogue. He is a sinner and accursed!

REBECCA. Accursed? Woe! Woe is me!

[*JOSHUA points to R. and JOSEPH and REBECCA exit wailingly. Rabbis stand looking after them.*]

[CURTAIN]

ACT IV.

SCENE: Same as in Act I.

DISCOVERED: JOSEPH and REBECCA. JOSEPH is reclining on couch L., REBECCA is across the table from him with her head resting thereon.

REBECCA [*raising head*]. He is dead to us! Our only son cast out of the synagogue!

JOSEPH. But his sight—he has received his sight!

REBECCA. Would to God he were blind and all were as yesterday—this day is accursed!

JOSEPH. Rebecca, mother, say not so. I cannot think their act as lawful. It should have come to the knowledge of the Sanhedrim.

REBECCA. Joshua and Aaron rule there. No, the curse of God is upon us! We dare not harbor our son lest we too be cast out.

JOSEPH. Thou dost not speak wisely. Let us wait with patience for better days, for this our son that was blind now seeth.

[*Door opens admitting MIRIAM, followed by BENJAMIN.*]

REBECCA. Begone, thou harlot, what have we to do with thee? Thou hast brought on us the curse of God. [*Sees BENJAMIN.*] Sir, let that woman out!

BENJAMIN. Herein is a marvelous thing; my daughter cometh bearing precious gifts and goeth bearing curses? Miriam, daughter, thy mercies are not meet for such as these.

REBECCA [*amazed*]. Thy daughter?

JOSEPH [*coming C.*] Sir, my wife is crazed with grief, and knows not what she saith. Not an hour ago they did drive Elah

from the synagogue, like one who hath the plague! This hath added to the sum of her sorrows until her heart is broken—forgive—

MIRIAM [*gently*]. Say no more. I knew well that some terrible grief had befallen thee. And Elah is cast out! [*Father and daughter exchange knowing glances.*] That were enough to break a mother's heart. Forgiveness is thine without the asking. My father bids me say to thee, let not thine hearts be troubled, for my father's friend, Nicodemus, hath granted Elah employ, so that he payeth all thou owest, and more!

JOSEPH. Nicodemus! Then there is hope! His word counteth much in the synagogue!

BENJAMIN. My influence with Nicodemus is not small and it shall be given to thy son. He will see to it that he hath a trial with a fair hearing and impartial judgment.

REBECCA. Oh, sir, thou dost heap coals of fire on my head.

BENJAMIN. Say not so—I am but the heart of Miriam. As that speaketh, I speak.

[*Door L. opens and ELAH enters. He seems strange, showing unwonted dignity, sweetness and poise.*]

ELAH. Mother, father, Miriam! [*To BENJAMIN.*] Honored friend, I salute thee! [*BENJAMIN bows gravely.*] Thou art welcome, and I do thank thee for thy word in my behalf with Nicodemus whom I did meet on my way thither. [*Turns to REBECCA.*] Mother, wilt thou not embrace Miriam? She who will be my beloved bride?

REBECCA [*surprised*]. Thy bride?

ELAH. Even when I was blind and beggared, she looked on me with favor, and hath persuaded her father to accept me as a son.

MIRIAM [*advancing to REBECCA*]. And I will be a true and loving daughter to thee if thou wilt give me an abiding place in thine affection.

REBECCA. Thou hast ever deserved that place, and now it is thine. Daughter! [*They embrace.*]

ELAH. And now I pray you will all be seated while I make

known what befell me while I lay outside the temple gate where the Rabbis had thrown me.

MIRIAM. As in a vision I see what befell thee. There came a man who spake as never mortal spake to thine ears before—Jesus of Nazareth!

ELAH. Thou art right. Thou art ever right, good Miriam! As I looked into His face He smiled and said, “Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” And I replied in mine ignorance—“Who is he, Lord, that I might believe?” And then His face did glow as He said, “Thou hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee.” Then His countenance became transfigured that I could no longer look upon it, and I bowed to the dust before Him and cried, “Lord, I believe!” He is the Christ! Oh, believe, believe all of ye, for thy very souls’ welfare, this IS the Christ! Believe Him, for the very work’s sake. Was I not born blind?

REBECCA [*wonderingly*]. And He gave thee sight by the touch of His hand!

JOSEPH. Would we might see and thank Him for His great kindness unto thee and us!

MIRIAM [*to BENJAMIN*]. Father, wilt thou too not confess?

BENJAMIN [*gravely*]. My heart is strangely drawn to this unknown Saviour!

ELAH. Magnify the Lord! Rejoice in God the Saviour! For even now Jesus of Nazareth cometh to bless this house. Miriam, thou and I together to receive that blessing—which kneeling we shall each and all receive.

[*Takes MIRIAM by hand. They go to door and throw it open. A bright light streams in. ELAH and MIRIAM kneel by door. Others kneel in background.*]

ELAH [*speaks reverently as in the Presence*]. Master!

[CURTAIN]

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