

The Trial of Mary: Mother of Jesus

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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Publication of this play indicates its availability for performance.

ISBN-13: 978-1724530882 (paperback available on amazon.com)
ISBN-10: 1724530887

Published by:

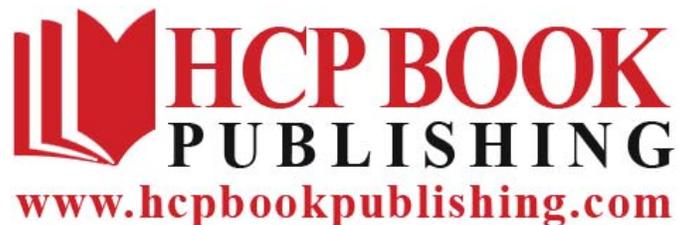


Table of Contents

Characters	4
Setting	5
The Story	6
Play Details	7
SCENE I.....	9
SCENE II	20

Characters

Judge Serious	(Male)
Obnoxious Prosecutor	(Male)
Humble Defense	(Male)
Quiet Mary	(Female)
Cousin Elizabeth	(Female)
Doctor Willimeaner French	(Male)
Nervous Husband to be Joseph	(Male)
Baliff	(Male)

Setting

The entire play takes place in a Courtroom.

There's a High-Rise Seat for the Judge Up Stage; the Prosecutors Desk is Stage Right, slightly turned so the Prosecutor can sit behind the desk and have a clear view of the Judge and the audience; the Defense is Stage Left, with his desk also slightly turned. The Audience is both congregates, and jury and they will decide the Final Verdict.

The Story

It is the year 5 BC, and a young virgin discovers that she will be bearing God's Son - a conception that will take place without her having to - you know.

Though prophesied, though expected - life changes for everyone involved as Mary is brought before a Judge to answer to charges of Adultery and if found guilty she would be sentenced to death.

Enter Obnoxious Prosecutor. For him, this is the most ridiculous case he has ever been assigned to, and he makes sure everybody knows it. As a matter of fact, he calls only one witness.

Enter Defense. He believes in God and miracles and argues along that line.

What transpires is a series of events that will strengthen the faith of those who already believed - and change those who doubted or didn't have a clue as to what is going on.

This is a very simple, funny and witty play that was written in such a way that Kids can perform it (*many lines to memorize*); Teens can produce it, and Adults can have fun presenting it.

Play Details

Length: 45 Minutes

Cast: 5 Males, 2 Females, Plus Extras.

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Courtroom Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE I

LIGHTS UP

The Bailiff walks out and faces the audience.

BAILIFF: All rise.

Everyone in the audience should stand.

BAILIFF: Judge Serious presiding.

Judge Serious enters and takes his place at the high rise seat.

JUDGE: Everyone but the Defendant and Lawyers, please be seated.

Everyone else sits.

Judge looks through his files and glances up at Mary over his glasses.

JUDGE: Miss Mary, do you know why you are here?

MARY: Yes sir.

JUDGE: You'll be answering to charges of Adultery. Do you understand the seriousness of this offense?

MARY: Yes sir, I do.

JUDGE: And of these charges, how do you plea?

Judge takes a sip from his coffee.

MARY: Not guilty, Your Honour.

Judge chokes on the coffee. Recovering, he removes his glasses.

JUDGE: Really?

MARY: I have not committed any sin, sir.

Judge replaces his glasses.

JUDGE: Well then. Let this trial begin. You may be seated. Mr. Prosecutor, your opening arguments, please.

Prosecutor prepares himself and moves from around his desk.

PROSECUTOR: I think this whole gathering is hilarious, don't you Judge?

Prosecutor looks at the Judge for a response, but the Judge's expression remains neutral.

PROSECUTOR: Well, I do. For a virgin to be with child and deny doing what needs to be done in order to conceive; hilarious. (*laughs alone*) I think in all due fairness that this court should be adjourned and this little liar taken out back and stoned to death. (*looks to Judge*)

JUDGE: Motion noted, considered, and denied.

PROSECUTOR: Well, then. I think the case will speak for itself and as foolish as it feels to continue this poppy-show exhibition, I will humbly take my seat.

JUDGE: Before you humbly take your seat, Mr. Prosecutor, may I remind you that this is my courtroom and you will behave and speak accordingly, (*Prosecutor rolls his eyes*) and if you roll your eyes at me just one more time, you will spend some jail time for contempt. Do I make my self clear?

PROSECUTOR: Crystal.

Prosecutor takes his seat.

JUDGE: Will the Defense please present his opening arguments.

The Defense stands and straightens his jacket.

DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honour. In addressing this courtroom, may I take you back a little to the time when our ancestors faced open waters with Pharaoh and his army in hot pursuit. What happened next? Yes, the Red Sea parted in two and millions crossed over on dry land, safe and in one piece. May I remind you how one man stood against a Philistine army, how 300 defeated millions, and I could cite many more examples just to prove to you this day that nothing is impossible with God and that's why we are really here; to put God's truth and ability once again to the test ---

Prosecutor jumps to his feet.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour.

JUDGE: On what grounds?

PROSECUTOR: The Defense is trying to twist the mind of this courtroom.

JUDGE: My mind is not twisted. Is yours?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, yes it is.

JUDGE: Over-ruled. *(To Defense)* Please continue.

DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honour. In light of our past, what has happened to this young woman today should not shock us. God can do what He says He will do!

Defense pause, and takes his seat.

Judge completes writing his notes.

JUDGE: Okay then. Who wants to call the first witness?

Prosecutor stands.

PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, I call Doctor French to the stand.

Enter Dr. French. He goes to the podium and stands raising his right hand.

PROSECUTOR: Will you tell the truth?

DR. FRENCH: Aren't I supposed to hold a Bible or something?

JUDGE: Just answer the question. There will be no swearing in my court.

DR. FRENCH: Okay. Yes, I will tell the truth.

PROSECUTOR: The whole truth?

DR. FRENCH: Yes, the whole truth.

PROSECUTOR: And nothing but the truth?

DR. FRENCH: Why didn't you ask me all that one time?

JUDGE: Answer the question, sir.

DR. FRENCH: Yes, nothing but the truth.

PROSECUTOR: Good. Be seated, Doctor.

Dr. French sits.

PROSECUTOR: For the record, can you state your name, profession, and address.

DR. FRENCH: Dr. Willimeaner French, ah, I'm a Doctor, obviously, ah, Jerusalem Street.

PROSECUTOR: Good. Do you know why you are here?

DR. FRENCH: Not really, but, I had nothing to do with the death of that Salesman.

PROSECUTOR: What salesman?

DR. FRENCH: Okay, you don't know about that?

PROSECUTOR: No sir, anyway, Doctor, in your profession, have you ever in your whole life seen a virgin get pregnant.

Pause.

Longer pause.

DR. FRENCH: What? What kind of question is that?

JUDGE: Just answer the question.

DR. FRENCH: Your Honour, in all fairness, that is not a question. Who asks a question like that? I mean, not even my idiotic cousin would ask that. It's not even a statement.

Dr. French stands to leave.

DR. FRENCH: I'm embarrassed that such a question would even be poised to me. I don't need this right now.

JUDGE: Sit down.

DR. FRENCH: But, Your Honour ---

The Judge gives him a stern look, and he sits.

PROSECUTOR: Could you answer the question?

DR. FRENCH: No, to your less than stupid question. God, I feel so stupid answering that question. I'm easily annoyed so, please let your next questions at least be based on common sense.

PROSECUTOR: Do you know the defendant?

Dr. French looks across at Mary.

DR. FRENCH: No. I've never seen her before.

PROSECUTOR: Well, she wants this court to believe that somehow she has miraculously become pregnant without, you know.

DR. FRENCH: There's no way you can be pregnant without, you know.

PROSECUTOR: You sure about that, Doctor?

DR. FRENCH: I would bet my life and the life of my family on that.

PROSECUTOR: No further questions, Your Honour. *(to Defense)* All yours. *(smiles and sits)*

Defense stands.

DEFENSE: Doctor Willimeaner, do you believe in God?

DR. FRENCH: Who doesn't?

DEFENSE: Do you believe He can do the impossible?

DR. FRENCH: Maybe, sometimes --- I dunno.

DEFENSE: Do you believe in the prophecies?

DR. FRENCH: What prophecies?

DEFENSE: That one day a Messiah would come and save Israel?

Prosecutor jumps up.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour?

JUDGE: Over-ruled.

PROSECUTOR: You don't even want to know why I'm objecting?

JUDGE: *(without thinking)* No, sir.

Prosecutor sits.

DR. FRENCH: Save Israel from what?

DEFENSE: From themselves.

DR. FRENCH: What are you saying?

DEFENSE: I'm saying that the God who parted the Red Sea put a Baby in this young woman's stomach without, you know.

DR. FRENCH: Why would He do that? Humans are capable of making babies on their own.

DEFENSE: You would want our Messiah to come through natural causes?

DR. FRENCH: Well, yes, why not. We wouldn't be here in court now if He had done that.

DEFENSE: You believe He is here then?

DR. FRENCH: I didn't say that.

DEFENSE: But, you said ---

DR. FRENCH: Objection, Your Honour. The Defense is badgering me.

The Judge looks at the Doctor.

JUDGE: You know you can't object. Why don't you people just behave yourselves?

DR. FRENCH: Sorry.

DEFENSE: Just one final question, Doctor Willimeaner, is there any way you can check a young lady to see if she is, in fact, a virgin?

DR. FRENCH: *(losing all professionalism)* Oh yes. It's what I do. *(Smiles cheekily at Mary)*

Mary jumps up.

MARY: Objection, Your Honour.

Judge hangs his head and shakes it, laughing to himself.

JUDGE: Don't any of you'll watch TV? Miss Mary, only two people can object, and you are not one of them.

MARY: But, Your Honour ---

JUDGE: There will be no buts in my courtroom.