



THE HEART OF A CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

Written by us, inspired by Jesus

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

An Original Stage play

By

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THE CHARACTERS.

THOMAS
DAVID
PETER
JACOB
CAIPHAS
EXTRAS (Male & Female)

SETTING

An Old Market scene with stalls, merchandise, sellers and buyers.

THE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

(Outdoor market, afternoon. Old friends Thomas, David, Peter, and Jacob are standing in front of one of the stalls talking.)

THOMAS: (smiles at the DAVID, PETER, and JACOB.) Beautiful day, isn't it.

DAVID: At least it's not as cold—

JACOB: What's so beautiful about it? Just a day like any other.

(The other three men are surprised at his reaction.)

PETER: What's wrong, Jacob? Have a fight with your wife?

JACOB: No, I didn't have a fight with my wife. I'm just tired of the way we live.

DAVID: The way we live? We eat. We sleep. We go to the marketplace.

DAVID: Where we solve all the problems of the empire.

JACOB: You make light of it. But what do we have? Absolutely nothing.

THOMAS: You must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed.

JACOB: What's it to you? And for your information I always get up on the right side of the bed. Never the left.

DAVID: You believe in that—that superstition! That you can't get up on the left side of the bed?

PETER: It's bad luck.

DAVID: What's bad luck?

PETER: Getting up on the left side of the bed.

THOMAS: A ridiculous superstition. That's all.

PETER: You think so, do you? Well, let me tell you about my brother-in-law. One day he was in a hurry and didn't scoot over on the bed. You know what happened?

THOMAS: Yeah, he got up on the left side.

PETER: (Giving THOMAS a disgusted look) He fell and broke his ankle, that's what happened.

THOMAS: That's ridiculous.

JACOB: As I was saying before all this nonsense came up—

DAVID: What were you saying, Jacob?

JACOB: Don't you see anything wrong with the way we live?

DAVID: Well, it would be nice not to have to worry about where the next meal is coming from?

THOMAS: That's just the way it is. Nothing we can do about it?

JACOB: I'm not suggesting anything. I'm telling you. We shouldn't have to live the way we do.

THOMAS: We're alive. The four of us have our health.

PETER: Let's listen to what Jacob has to say.

THOMAS: (Shrugs) So go on, Jacob.

JACOB: Soldiers patrol the streets. Pushing or kicking us out of the way if we don't move fast enough.

DAVID: That's just the way it is, Jacob.

JACOB: The way it is. Do you think it was always that way?

PETER: So far as I can remember.

JACOB: You're not thinking, Peter. Do you suppose it was that way back in the time of the ancients?

PETER: The ancients? Who are we talking about here?

JACOB: People like the prophets. People like Moses who wasn't afraid to lead his people to the promised land.

DAVID: To the promised land. Some promised land, if you asked me.

JACOB: That's what I'm saying, David. The nobility treats us like vermin. Do you think they even consider us human beings?

THOMAS: Of course, they don't.

PETER: They chop off people's heads for no reason. Just because they're in a bad mood.

DAVID: And look at the taxes. It's almost impossible for most families to make it through the year. The farmers have to give Caesar Augustus so much grain, so many goats or cows, they hardly have enough to sustain themselves till the following year.

THOMAS: And since we're talking about things like this, look at the hovels we live in compared to the nobility.

JACOB: Like night and day.

PETER: And look how Herod lives.

DAVID: Herod? Nothing like Augustus and his marble palaces.

THOMAS: And people's morals. We've become completely ungodly. Living together in sin. The wealthy men having concubines instead of wives.

PETER: And the risk we're taking right now. Think about that.

JACOB: What risk, Peter?

PETER: What if Herod's men or the emperor's men heard us talking? What do you think would happen?

THOMAS: Well, I for one am not afraid to express my opinion.

PETER: But we *are* being foolhardy. Any of the people in the market could be the king's spies.

(Pause)

THOMAS: What can we do, but enjoy life until our time comes? Absolutely nothing.

JACOB: Maybe there is something.

DAVID: What are you going to do, Jacob? Start a revolution?

JACOB: Nothing like that. Just pray maybe.

DAVID: Pray? For what?

JACOB: You know the prophecies as well as I do.

DAVID: Psh!

THOMAS: What prophecies?

JACOB: I'm talking about the Son of God.

THOMAS: We're all children of God.

JACOB: I'm talking about the Savior, the Messiah.

DAVID: Do you believe that old tale?

JACOB: Of course, I believe it. It's been prophesied by—

PETER: It's nothing more than a myth.

JACOB: It's no myth, Peter. All you need is faith. The Savior will be born.

DAVID: But when? After we're long dead and gone?

JACOB: Or maybe tomorrow or the next day.

PETER: Maybe never.

THOMAS: Brothers, I must go check on my wife. She is due to give birth any day now. I need a good mid wife.

JACOB: Seems a lot of babies are being born in Bethlehem these days.

PETER: And they grow fast too. My son is already 1 year old. Can you believe that? It's been one year since I circumcised him. Feels like yesterday.

DAVID: I feel old. All my children are grown.

(David, Peter and Thomas turn to look at Jacob)

JACOB: Please, guys. Not now!

(The three shrugs, and walk away)

DAVID: (speaks softly to Thomas) You think his wife will ever return.

THOMAS: Nope!

JACOB: I can hear you.

(The LIGHTS fade to black.)