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THE DREAMER - STORY OF JOSEPH

Original Stage Play

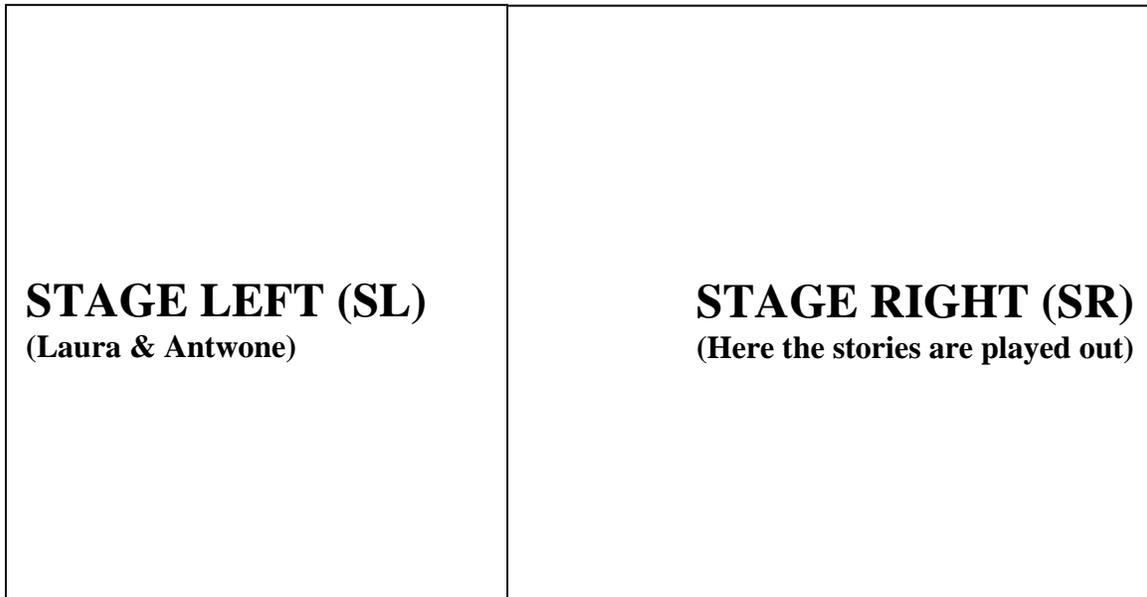
By

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

Joseph
Jacob
Simeon
Levi
Brother
Potipher
Potiphar's Wife
Guards
Pharaoh
Pharaoh's wife

SETTING



AUDIENCE

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

Jacob and some of his sons are onstage working (i.e. planting, plowing, Anything that can be demonstrated on the stage)

Joseph enters.

JOSEPH: Good morning father,

It is obvious that some of the brothers are annoyed at Joseph.

JACOB: Good morning son. You sleep well?

JOSEPH: Yeah, I did...but I had some really weird dreams last night.

BROTHER: Yeah wow great, we are all so happy to hear that... anyway...some of us aren't so lucky to sleep half way through the day. It would be good if you could help around here from time to time, little brother.

JACOB: Leave him alone. He's young. His time will come.

ANOTHER BROTHER: So you say, we've been working this ground since daybreak. Why does he only get to work for only a few hours and then gets to relax for the rest of the day? It's just not right.

JACOB: Joseph my son, don't pay these brothers of yours any mind. Look here ...I have something for you.

BROTHER: Father...you spoiling that boy.

JACOB: I spoilt all of you.

Jacob retrieves a very colourful coat and puts it around Joseph.

JOSEPH: Wow...father...thank you...it's very, colourful.

JACOB: I knew you would like it...anyway, Joseph walk with me. Have a few things to discuss with you.

JOSEPH: Alright.

Jacob puts his hand around his son and they exit.

The brothers stop their work and gather at CS.

BROTHER: Why that little brat. Why does he get all fathers attention?

RUEBEN: Remember, he was born when father was already an old man.

BROTHER: What? So does that mean he can't do anything wrong.

RUEBEN: I didn't say that.

ANOTHER BROTHER: He's always running to father telling him what we are doing. He's nothing but an informer.

RUEBEN: Why you all hate him so much.

BROTHER: Why you always taking up for him?

OTHER BROTHERS: Yeah...

RUEBEN: I aint taking up for nobody.

BROTHER: Be sure about that brother... you better be sure.

The brothers instantly go back to work as Jacob and Joseph re-enters.

Jacob looks troubled.

RUEBEN: Father...why the troubled face?

JACOB: Joseph's been trying to tell me about some weird dreams that he's been having.

Some of the brothers roll their eyes.

RUEBEN: About what?

JACOB: Best you hear it from him.

SIMEON: This better be good.

JOSEPH: Well, we were all in the fields tying up bundles of wheat when my bundle stood up and yours formed a circle around it and bowed down.

RUEBEN: SO what...you think we're gonna bow down to you... ha, ha. You think you're gonna be our king?

BROTHER: Ya think you're gonna rule over us?

JOSEPH: I don't know...

BROTHER: You sleep too much...that's what. You should be out here doing your share of work.

JACOB: Joseph...go fetch some water at the well.

JOSEPH: Yes father.

Joseph exits.

BROTHER: Why you always entertaining him and his so-called dreams.

JOSEPH: What you expect me to do?

Pause.

BROTHER: The same thing you do for us. Nothing.

The brothers get back to work as Jacob hangs his head and sighs.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Two days later while they are all gathered around the table eating.

JOSEPH: Guess what, I had another dream last night.

BROTHER: So did I. So what?

JACOB: Let the boy speak....

JOSEPH: This one is different from the other one. This time I say the sun and the moon and all the stars in the sky bowing down before me.

JACOB: That is a strange dream my son. Do you think that your mother and I are the sun and the moon and your brothers the stars and we are all bowing before you?

BROTHER: What, you all hear this.

JACOB: Silence.

Jacob and Joseph move to the back of the stage.

LEVI: This boy has gone too far this time. We need to do something about him before he gets any worse.

RUEBEN: And what do you suggest we do brother. In case you haven't noticed he's the apple of our father's eye. Hurt him and we hurt father.

LEVI: There must be a way. There must. We can't continue living like this. Father loves him more than us, what does that say about our future and our inheritance.

BROTHER: You know you're right. We have to put a stop to this.

LEVI: Yeah.... but how.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

The brothers are all on stage (except Joseph). They are talking amongst themselves. They see Joseph coming in the distance.

LEVI: Look everyone, here comes “the dreamer”. I wonder what dream does he have for us today. You know this could be our chance to finally get rid of him. What do you say fellas.

BROTHER: Well I don’t know... what will we tell father.

SIMEON: We could say that a wild animal attacked him and killed him.

LEVI: Yeah that’s a good idea...okay it’s a deal... now let’s see what will become of his DREAMS.

Joseph enters the stage.

JOSEPH: Hello brothers. Father sent me to check on you to see how you all were doing.

LEVI: We are doing great.. Come on and over here a sit with us.

JOSEPH: (He sits) Boy the sun is sure hot today.

SIMEON: It sure is.

JOSEPH: I’d love to sit and chat but I have to bring back word to father.

As he tries to leave a few of the brothers grab him, tear of his coat and begin tying him up.

JOSEPH: Why are you doing this to me?

BROTHER: We are sick and tired of you and your stories.

JOSEPH: But I’ve never done anything to hurt you.

LEVI: Shut up boy. Here’s a good spot, we can kill him here.

JOSEPH: Kill me.. please don’t. please.

RUEBEN: Wait..

BROTHER: What now Rueben.... Your either with us or with him. What's it gonna be.

RUEBEN: Just hear me out... let's not kill him. Let's just throw him in this dry well over here. We don't need to kill him, we just need to teach him a lesson.

LEVI: Rueben, this better work.

As they throw him in the well the Lights Fade.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

SIMEON: Brothers look, here comes some Egyptian Traders. Why don't we sell the boy to them? As Rueben says let's not kill him... let's teach him a lesson he will never forget. So what do you say?

BROTHER: What about Rueben. What will we tell him when went he comes back looking for the boy.

SIMEON: We'll figure something out.

With this they pull Joseph put of the hole and sell him to the Traders.

JOSEPH: Why are you doing this?

LEVI: This is all your fault, if you had just kept your mouth shut. Meet your new masters, let's see if they will bow down before you.

JOSPEH: No... Don't do this brothers... I'm one of you.. don't do this.

BROTHER: Too late it's already done.

JOSEPH: No...please.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

Rueben enters the stage in haste.

RUEBEN: How's the boy doing?

LEVI: Well we don't know... he aint here...

RUEBEN: What? What have you done with him?

BROTHER: Well we sold him to some Egyptian traders..

RUEBEN: Are you out of your mind... what will we tell father.

SIMEON: Well at least we didn't kill him... we could take some goat's blood and smear it on Joseph's robe and show it to father.

RUEBEN: My God, what have we done.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

All the brothers gather around their father on stage as Rueben shows him Joseph's robe smeared with blood.

RUEBEN: Father, we are so sorry, we tried all we could but...

JOSEPH: My son, my precious son... gone. I shouldn't have let him out of my sight.

LIGHTS OUT

END OF SCENE.

SCENE 4

Joseph has arrived in Egypt.

TRADER: Potiphar my lord, I have another slave for your household. Look (he pulls Joseph before him) he is strong and intelligent he would make an excellent slave. So what do you say?

POTIPHAR: I'll take him.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

Joseph is on stage. He is working. Potiphar and his wife stand and watch as he and the other slaves work. Potiphar's wife keeps a keen eye on Joseph. Potiphar goes over to Joseph and speaks with him.

POTIPHAR: Joseph, I have been watching for awhile now and I like how you work. Ever since you came to this house everything has been going well. And so I have decided to put in charge of my house and all that I own. You have authority over everything I have except my wife.

JOSEPH: I don't understand but thank you sir.

Potiphar returns to his wife.

POTIPHAR'S WIFE: Husband. Who is that young slave you just spoke to.

POTIPHAR: Oh that's Joseph my dear. He's one of our Canaanite Slaves. He's a very good worker.

POTIPHAR'S WIFE: Joseph you say...mmm he's quite an handsome fellow... well for a slave that is.

LIGHTS FADE.

LIGHTS UP.

Potiphar's wife is laying in a bed on stage. Joseph enters the stage. He bring in food to her. He is about to leave when.

POT. WIFE: Come here slave boy.

Joseph hesitates.

POT. WIFE: I order you to come here right now.

Joseph walks over to her.

POT. WIFE: Sit with me.

JOSEPH: I don't think that's a good idea.

POT. WIFE: Are you challenging me boy.

JOSEPH: No maam.

POT. WIFE: Well sit then.

JOSEPH: I can't. It wouldn't be right. You are the masters wife... and I'm not supposed to come near you .

POT.WIFE: What Potiphar doesn't know wouldn't hurt him now come and lay with me...(she grabs him)

JOSEPH: No I can't do this. This is wrong. I would be sinning against God.

He breaks free of her grip and runs of stage. However, he has left is robe behind.
Potiphar's wife is furious.

POT. WIFE: How dear him.....I'll teach him not walk away from me... I have his robe...hmmm.

Suddenly she screams. Potiphar runs on stage.

POTIPHAR: What is it my dear.

POT.WIFE: (Crying she answers)That slave boy that you brought into the house...that Joseph boy. He came into my room and attacked me. So I screamed and he ran away.. leaving his robe behind.

POTIPHAR: Joseph....are you sure.

POT.WIFE: You think I'd lie about something like this.

POTIPHAR: How could he... after everything that I have done for him. I'll have him arrested at once or my name isn't Potiphar.

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Joseph is thrown in prison. Stage opens with Joseph sitting on the stage floor with his hands at his jaws.

JOSEPH: Why me God... What's gonna happen to me now.

LIGHTS FADE.

LIGHTS UP.

Joseph is still imprisoned. However, he has grown favour with the guards.

GUARD #1: Joseph come here.

He walks over to the guards.

GUARD #2: Since you've been here we haven't had any trouble with the prisoners. Here take these. I'm putting you in charge of all the prisoners. You are to make sure that they do their work.

GUARD #1: Joseph you are different from all the others. There's just something about you.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP

The Pharaoh is pacing back and forth. His wife sits nearby and a guard is standing at the door.

WIFE: Another bad dream?

PHAROAH: No its the same one.

WIFE: What does it mean?

PHAROAH: If I knew I wouldn't be here pacing back and forth on the stage.

He beckons to the guard.

PHAROAH: Guard Fetch me the Chief Butler, I need some wine.

Guard leaves the stage and returns with the chief butler. While the Pharaoh continues to speak.

WIFE: Can no one interpret your dreams... what about your interpreters.

PHAROAH: All my interpreters are dead. They couldn't interpret the dreams so I had them shot...I mean killed.

WIFE: So what are you gonna do.

PHAROAH: That's what I'm trying to figure out.

Pause.

CHIEF BUTLER: Sir...if I may.

PHAROAH: Speak.

CHIEF BUTLER: There may be someone who could help. He's one of the prisoners. The chief baker and I were in prison about two years ago and I remember a young Canaanite slave. He was a servant to the captain of the guards. One night the chief baker and I had a dream and the Canaanite slave interpreted it and it came true just as he had interpreted it.

PHAROAH: Bring him to me at once...

The CHIEF BUTLER exits.

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP

Joseph is standing before the Pharaoh.

PHAROAH: What's your name slave?

JOSEPH: Joseph.

PHAROAH: What's your charge.

GUARD: Rape. It's said that he raped Potiphar's wife.

PHAROAH: Joseph! I am told that you are an interpreter of dreams?

JOSEPH: Not I sir. But God in me.

PHAROAH: You interpreted two dreams while in prison...both of them came true? Is that correct?

JOSEPH: Yes, Sir.

PHAROAH: I have two dreams for you to interpret. And for your sake I hope you can interpret them.

JOSEPH: Tell me the dream.

PHAROAH: I was standing at the bank of the river when I saw seven fat cows and seven skinny cows come out of the river. And then the seven skinny cows ate the seven fat cows. Likewise I had another dream but this time there were seven fat wheats and seven skinny wheats. The seven skinny wheats ate the seven fat wheats.

Pause.

PHAROAH: So what do these two dream mean?

JOSEPH: God showed me that there will be seven years of plenty in this land to be followed by seven years of famine.

PHAROAH: Uhm, that actually makes sense. So what should I do?

JOSEPH: You should choose a man who is wise and discreet and put him in charge of the country. He is to collect one fifth from every harvest during the seven years of plenty and store it in the city....so we can be prepared for the seven years of famine.

PHAROAH: Then, I place you in charge of that preparation.

JOSEPH: I am merely a prisoner.

PHAROAH: As of right now you are second only to me. I now appoint you governor of all Egypt.

Joseph is close to tears.

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

Joseph and Pharaoh are on stage. Joseph no longer looks like a slave he is well dressed.

PHAROAH: Joseph, it has come to pass just as you had said. The time of famine is finally here.

JOSEPH: Not as I predicted but as God revealed.

LIGHTS OUT

END OF SCENE

SCENE 7

LIGHTS UP

Josephs brothers have come to Egypt. They are greeted by The Governor Joseph
And an interpreter.

Of course, they do not recognize Joseph who speaks to them in Egyptian.

JOSEPH: **Ching chang cho walla bang bang.**

INTEPRETER: The Governor asked who are you and where you are from.

SIMEON: Sir, we are from the house of Jacob, we have come from Canaan to buy food.

The interpretor relays the answer.

JOSEPH: **Walla walla bang bang.**

INTERPRETER: The governor says you are spies and have come to find out about our
country's weakness.

BROTHER: No sir! We come as slaves to buy food. We are brothers and honest people.
There were twelve of us at one time but one is dead...and the youngest brother is at
home with our father.

The interpreter relays the response.

JOSEPH: **Ching chang to backcuva.**

INTERPRETER: The governor wishes to test you. He will give you the grain to take back to
your families but one of you must stay here and he will not be released until you bring
your younger brother back.

JOSEPH: **Bum Rang Miknakka.**

INTERPRETER: You right there. You will stay.

SIMEON: Me..why.... I will stay.

The guards seize Simeon and take him offstage.

BROTHER: This is what we get for killing our brother. Rueben warned us...but we
wouldn't listen. It's you Levi that they should have taken and not Simeon.

LEVI: So now its my fault.

BROTHER: You were the one who wanted him dead.

Joseph can bear it no longer....he exits crying.

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP

Back home.

The brothers take the grain from their stack. They realize too that their money is still there.

BROTHER: Hey, my money is still here.

OTHER BROTHER: Mine too.

YET ANOTHER BROTHER: Now we're in trouble. The Egyptians will say we stole it.

Jacob enters.

JACOB: What's going on?

LEVI: We have food...but our money was returned and we had to leave Simeon behind.

JACOB: Why?

LEVI: They said we were spies and unless we brought Benjamin back with us...they will not let Simeon go.

JACOB: I can't send Benjamin...I have already lost Joseph...Now Simeon....I can't loose Benjamin.

LEVI: We can't go back without Benjamin Father...do you want us to suffer.

JACOB: I am the one who is suffering! Do you want me to loose all my sons?

LEVI: So what do we do when the grain runs out?

Pause.

Longer pause.

JACOB: All right. But when you return take some of the best spices of the land as a gift to the governor...and take twice as much money. May God have mercy on me and allow the Governor to send me back my sons.

Jacob painfully exits.

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP

The brothers have returned with Benjamin.

JOSEPH: *Who stolla ma Honda.*

INTERPRETER: The governor wishes that you have a feast with him at noon.

BROTHER: We?

INTERPRETER: Yes.

Pause. The brothers look at each other they are confused.

Joseph exits as he's unable to hold back his tears.

BROTHER: Sir, we came to buy food before and our money was returned..so we brought it back with more money to buy more food.

INTERPRETER: Your God must have returned your money. I received your payment in full.

BROTHER: But how??

Simeon enters.

INTERPRETER: Your brother.

BROTHERS: Simeon.

Joseph returns.

JOSEPH: *Shella warra tarra se cum stash ya soh.0*

INTERPRETER: The governor ask about your father. Is he still alive.

LEVI: Yes Your excellency, your humble servant our father is still alive and well.

Joseph rest his hands on Benjamin.

JOSEPH: me glad fi see you bwoy.

INTERPRETER: The governor says 'God bless you son.'

Joseph exits again...too emotional to be in the presence of his brothers.

INTERPRETER: Come...we go to the dining hall.

They exit as

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

The brothers are on their way home when they are intercepted by Egyptian Guards.

GUARD: Why have you repaid evil for good.

LEVI: What are you taking about. We returned the money.

GUARD: One of you stole my masters silver cup.

LEVI: Sir, if any of us has that cup kill him. The rest of us will become your slaves.

GUARD 1: Only the one with the cup will become our slave.

The other guard finds the silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

GUARD 2: I got the culprit right here.

BENJAMIN: This is a mistake.

GUARD 1: Young man, you will have to come with us.

They seize Benjamin as

LIGHTS FADE

LIGHTS UP

The brothers are once again before Joseph.

LEVI: Sir, what can we say to clear ourselves? God has exposed our guilt.

BROTHER: All of us are now your slaves...not just Benjamin.

JOSEPH: **Unu mad like shad.**

INTERPRETER: The governor does not wish for all of you to become his slaves...just the one who took the cup.

LEVI: The governor has no choice. We cannot go back without our brother.

Joseph is unable to bear it any longer.

JOSEPH: **Leff me wid dem people yah boss.**

The interpreter nods and exits.

JOSEPH: My brothers.

SIMEON: He speaks English... a mean Hebrew.

JOSEPH: I am your brother Joseph.

LEVI: What? How can this be.

JOSEPH: I am the brother you sold, but it was Gods plan all along to send me before you.

SIMEON: It is you.

JOSEPH: Is it true that my father is still alive (he sobs)

LEVI: Yes.

JOSEPH: Then you must go to him. Tell him his son is still alive and you must bring him and the entire family here.

At this point everyone is overjoyed that Joseph is really still alive.

They exit excitedly.

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP

Joseph goes to speak with the Pharaoh.

PHAROAH: Let your family come Joseph...and tell them not to be afraid to leave their possessions behind. I will give them the best of the land. They can settle in the land of Goshen.

JOSEPH: Thank you your Excellency.

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP

Joseph is SR and Jacob is stage left.

They move quickly to each other and hugs for what seem to be a lifetime.

JACOB: I can't believe you are alive.

JOSEPH: It's so good to see you father. Come meet your grandsons Manasseh and Ephriam.

JACOB: You have made me so proud my son. Now I can die a happy man. Promise me that when God leads you to the land he promised to our ancestors, you will take my body with you.

JOSEPH: I promise.

JACOB: To God be the glory great things he has done.

LIGHTS OUT

END OF PLAY.