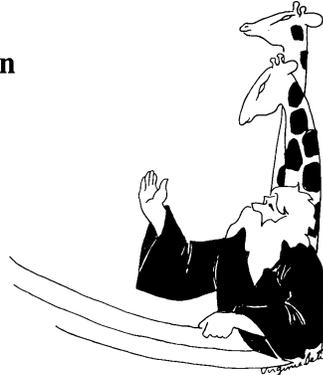


# And The Rains Came... and Came

by R. Rex Stephenson

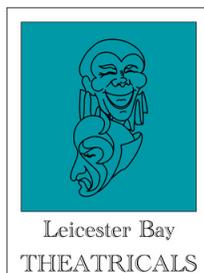


# AND THE RAINS CAME ... AND CAME

A Musical in Two Acts

Book and Lyrics by **R. Rex Stephenson**

Music by **Gary Evans**



Newport, Maine

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**And the Rains Came ... and Came** was first performed by the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre in July, 1999, under the direction of Joey Stanley with choreography by Pat K. Horne. The original cast was as follows:

<b>Mrs. Noah</b>	Joanna Chopski
<b>Noah</b>	Michael R. Trochim
<b>Mother Noah</b>	Nellie McCaslin
<b>Joseph, Noah's Stepfather</b>	Joe Ray
<b>Old Lady, Wife</b>	Beth Shively
<b>Woman, Couple, Man, Wife, Animal</b>	Keri McClain
<b>Salesman, Man, Umbrella Salesman</b>	Jeremiah Jenkins
<b>Salesman, Girl, Couple, Carpenter</b>	Alison Jo Mitchem
<b>Slave Merchant, Crowd, Wife</b>	Jody D. Brown
<b>Thief, Carpenter, Man, Woman</b>	Rebecca Morris
<b>Thief</b>	Christie Edwards
<b>Flower Seller, Woman, Worker</b>	Nikki Payne
<b>Couple, Girl Bear, Man, Worker</b>	Natasha Wooley
<b>God</b>	Thomas Townsend
<b>Ham</b>	Tony Pica
<b>Shern</b>	Troy McKee
<b>Japheth</b>	Jeremy High

**Guest Youth Performers (playing children, thieves, women, men, workers, camels, mice, hippos, and other assorted animals):** Taylor Allen, Zach Allen, Abigail Ardis, Avery Ardis, Adam Bennett, Sara Coley, John A. Dalton, Cassie Fasick, Joshua Hale, Paige Jones, Matthew Lamar, Tatum Newbill, Amelia Pagans., Katelyn Parker, Keegan Potter, Jessica Riddle, Scott Rowe, Max Schopp, Garrett Shively, Kristin Sicher, Jessica Stephenson, Juliet Stephenson, Morgan Taylor, Brooke Williams, and Kristin Williams

Special thanks to Nellie McCaslin for contributing material for the "Resource Guide."

## **Setting**

The stage is bare; a large painted drop of Mount Ararat looms in the background. Tables, benches, a stump, rocks, etc. are brought in when called for. Economy with scenery and set pieces allows the play to move swiftly from one scene to another. The ark is never actually seen.

## A Note from the Playwright

I wrote *And the Rains Came ... And Came* at a time when we were entering a new millennium. It seemed to me that the story that best typifies a new beginning is the account of the great flood as found in Genesis--a story filled with both good and evil, with trust and mistrust, with obedience and disobedience, and with believing and disbelieving.

All new beginnings by their very nature cause something to end. In Noah's case, all friends and family except his wife, his three sons and their wives were lost, So what would happen if a righteous man like Noah had to leave his mother behind? That is the story I wanted to dramatize.

I love seeing a variety of ages in the type of theatre some are now calling "family theatre." The original cast included five-year-olds (one was my daughter Juliet) and ranged in age up to the mid-80s. This variety, with children not only portraying the children at the time of the flood but also playing the small animals, added a dimension to the play that even I never imagined. Three five-year-olds portraying mice in their little mice suits create a moment in theatre one is not likely to forget. Almost as appealing were the 11-to-15-year-olds portraying giraffes, hippos and camels. (I tended to use adults as lions, tigers, and bears.)

I probably should say a bit about costumes. While the script mentions specific animals, I picked them because we already had those costumes, we could borrow them, or they were the ones the costumers wanted to create. The other costumes were fashioned in fairly simple broadcloth or burlap-looking materials that, while colorful, were exceptionally easy.

The sound and special effects for this play are very important. While we never actually made it rain, we did take excellent quality rain sounds from a commercial CD. The same was true of the wind and other sound effects called for in the script. The one exception was thunder; we created that by using kettle drums. The actor who played God also did all of the sound effects.

The lighting is fairly simple, but a couple of blue LIGHTS for the night scene will create a wonderful atmosphere.

So, as we are entering this new millennium, this time of a new beginning, it does seem like a good time for reflecting on probably the most famous of all people who started anew. Enjoy the show, populate it with young and old alike, and you will find it as rewarding as your audiences do.

**R. Rex Stephenson** earned his Bachelor's degree in middle and secondary education at Ball State University and, upon graduation, taught middle school and high school in Florida and Indiana. He received his M.A. from Indiana State University in theatre, and became drama professor at Ferrum College in Virginia. In 1984 he received his Ph.D. in educational theatre at New York University.

Stephenson has had many plays published, including *Alice in Wonderland*, *Visions*, *The Jack Tales*, *Treasure Island*, and *Galileo: Man of Science*. Also published by Leicester Bay Theatricals are *The Littlest Shepherd*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Adventures of Huck Finn* and *Daniel*. Stephenson has been a winner in two major playwriting contests, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education in 1995 for his historical play *Too Free for Me*, and the National Archives playwriting contest for his drama about Reconstruction, *Charity for All*. In 1996 he received the Jean Ritchie Fellowship to research and write plays on John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church. He was awarded the 1997 East Central Theatre Conference's Award for Theatrical Excellence and received the Sarah Spencer Child Drama Award in 2007. Stephenson lives in Ferrum, Virginia and has three daughters: Janice, Jessica, and Juliet.

# And The Rains Came... And Came

## ACT I

*As the LIGHTS fade up on Mt. Ararat and the music begins, the stage swells with singers and dancers. These are the children and adults who will populate the play, and they joyously sing about the wickedness that surrounds and engulfs their community. While the dance can be simple, it needs to be filled with spunk and energy.*

### MUSICAL #1 -- EAST OF EDEN

#### ENSEMBLE:

THE SONS OF ADAM ARE WE,  
THE DAUGHTERS OF EVE WE BE,  
WE ARE JUST LIKE CAIN, NOT A BIT LIKE ABEL  
IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME,  
IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME

*(Music underscores pantomime.)*

*(A rickety OLD LADY enters right, carrying a bag and walking with a cane. She crosses to center stage. Three CHILDREN enter left. They point to the OLD LADY, then two of the CHILDREN sneak around behind the OLD LADY. The other CHILD approaches the OLD LADY in front and pantomimes pleasant conversation and hands her a flower. Meanwhile, the other two CHILDREN sneak up behind her. One of the CHILDREN gets behind her on his knees. After the OLD LADY takes the flower, that CHILD pushes her over. The remaining CHILD catches her; the CHILDREN steal the OLD LADY's bag and her cane. A PERSON comes out of the chorus to help the OLD LADY off. CHILDREN exit laughing.)*

THE LORD OUR GOD WE DO TAUNT,  
HIS CHURCHES WE DO NOT HAUNT,  
FOR RELIGION HAS NO PLACE,  
IN A WORLD THAT ISN'T CHASTE,  
IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME, IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME...  
EAST OF EDEN FOR ME!

*(Music underscores scene.)*

*(A small CHILD [a boy] enters, wearing a very beautiful shirt. The three evil CHILDREN from the previous scene enter and admire the beautiful shirt. While one BOY gets the CHILD's attention, the other rips the shirt off the CHILD's back. The CHILD who lost his shirt runs screaming left stage, until he finds a Biblical POLICEMAN. The CHILD points to other CHILDREN who stole his shirt. The POLICEMAN blows his whistle and takes the shirt from the three evil CHILDREN and runs off stage with it. All four CHILDREN cry and exit.)*

## 1

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THE SONS OF ADAM ARE WE,  
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FOR RELIGION HAS NO PLACE, IN A WORLD THAT ISN'T CHASTE,  
IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME,  
IT'S EAST OF EDEN FOR ME...  
EAST OF EDEN FOR ME!

*(LIGHTS up stage right on a bench and several tables. A rug helps define the area. MRS. NOAH is discovered sweeping.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Noah, Noah Noah, come here this minute. You have to take out the trash.

*(She takes a few steps.)*

Noah, I mean NOW!

*(NOAH enters.)*

**NOAH:** I am sorry, dear, I was working on grafting grapes, I think there is an awful lot of money to be made in vineyards.

**MRS. NOAH:** Take out the trash and stop all this foolishness about grapes. It will be five years before they will produce any revenue. And besides, what do you know about making wine?

**NOAH:** We have to be patient, but I think there is real money to be made in it.

**MRS. NOAH:** The only thing you know about growing grapes and making wine is that you would like to drink it. Now come on and help me tidy up the house. Your mother is bringing your new stepfather over. She will come in the house and check my dusting.

**NOAH:** Now dear, Mother is not like that.

**MRS. NOAH:** She is, she is, she is!

*(Crossing down right while taking her frustrations out on the broom.)*

Take out the trash, and when you finish that, mop the floor,

**NOAH:** I need to work on my vineyard.

**MRS. NOAH:** Noah. Yes Noah, come give me a little kiss...

*(He does so as she puts the apron on him.)*

and wear this apron. I don't want you to get your clothes all dirty. Now be a sweetie and take out the trash.

**NOAH:** I guess I can work on my vineyard after I take out the trash.

**MRS. NOAH:** And mop the floor.

**NOAH:** Yes dear.

*(He exits.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** *(She walks to front of stage, leaning on broom.)* Mothers-in-law -- their sons can do no wrong. Little Noah, the perfect child. Well, he is far from being the perfect husband. She accused me of being nagging and bossy. Me?

*(Enter NOAH with bucket and mop; MRS. NOAH crosses over to him.)*

And when you finish the mopping, dust. It is time for my bath.

*(She exits.)*

**NOAH:** Yes, dear.

**MOTHER N:** *(Off stage)* Noah, Noah are you home? I've brought your new stepfather.

**NOAH:** Oh, no, I've got to get rid of all this cleaning stuff.

*(He puts most of it under benches.)*

Yes, Mother, I am coming.

*(He runs to stage left to pantomime opening the door for MOTHER NOAH.)*

Hurry up with your bath, dear. Mother is here!

**MRS. NOAH:** *(From offstage)* You entertain her, Noah. After all, I have to be gorgeous for your mother. I hope you have the house clean. You hear? CLEAN!

**NOAH:** Yes, dear. Very clean.

*(He has crossed to door and accidentally carried the broom and can't figure out where to put broom, so he hides it in his garment so the top appears above his head like some kind of ancient headdress; he opens door.)*

Come in Mother. Come in, new stepfather.

*(MOTHER NOAH and Stepfather JOSEPH enter. He has a cane.)*

**MOTHER N:** It's so good to see you

*(She hugs NOAH.)*

And this is your new stepfather, and my new husband. Shake hands

*(To JOSEPH)*

with my pride and joy, my only son, Noah.

*(She hugs NOAH again; then notices the broom.)*

Noah, there is something growing out of your back.

**NOAH:** Uh, Uh, I hurt my back working in the vineyard. It's just a brace.

*(He ditches the broom.)*

**MOTHER N:** It's that wife of yours; she makes you work so hard. Where is she?

**NOAH:** She is taking a bath, Mother.

**MOTHER N:** In the middle of the day?

*(She takes JOSEPH by arm and they cross.)*

That's the way she is. While my boy Noah works hard all day, she lounges in the bath. What is this world coming to? Tsk Tsk Tsk.

**JOSEPH:** Now dearest, it is a very warm day. Maybe she just wanted to freshen herself up for guests.

**MOTHER N:** Nonsense. She is nothing but a...

*(MRS. NOAH enters with towel around her head, in a bathrobe.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Mother Noah, good to see you.

**MOTHER N:** Uh, uh, thank you.

**MRS. NOAH:** I will be dressed and out in just a second.

*(She exits.)*

**MOTHER N:** Take your time, dear, take your time. Joseph, my white duster cloth.

*(JOSEPH pulls out white dusting cloth and white gloves.)*

**JOSEPH:** My dear, you are not really going to give her house the white glove check?

*(Mother is putting on glove.)*

**NOAH:** Oh, yes, she is.

*(Mother crosses over and pinches his cheek.)*

**MOTHER N:** One has to make sure that one's only and most precious son is being taken care of correctly. It is a tradition. My mother-in-law did it to me. Her mother-in-law did it to her, etcetera. Now move out of the way.

**NOAH:** I know you only do this out of concern for me, but I am almost 600 years old.

**MOTHER N:** Four hundred, six hundred, eight hundred--you will always be my baby.

*(She turns and starts towards the table to inspect. NOAH hides the fact that he is dusting in front of her.)*

**NOAH:** So Mother,

*(He is leaning on the table.)*

have you and, and... uh.

**MOTHER N:** Joseph.

**NOAH:** Have you and Joseph found a place to live?

**MOTHER N:** Now move.

*(NOAH walks backward, cleaning the bench first.)*

I have to give it the white glove test. But to answer your question, no.

**JOSEPH:** Right now we are living in a hotel. Did your mother tell you we went to Babylon for our honeymoon?

**MOTHER N:** It is clean! I feel so bad about being so accusatory.

*(She takes off glove.)*

**NOAH:** *(He is talking to Joseph.)* Oh, did you?

**JOSEPH:** Yes, we visited the famous hanging gardens. Isn't that the sixth wonder of the world, dear?

**MOTHER N:** Fifth, dear.

**JOSEPH:** And naturally we went to the camel auction. They have more to choose from there. New, used, and reconditioned. Some camels now have warranties for up to 50,000 miles.

**MOTHER N:** Your new stepfather is a camel dealer.

*(MRS. NOAH enters.)*

Daughter Sarai!

**MRS. NOAH:** Mother Noah.

*(Four kisses, very fake)*

**JOSEPH:** My, isn't this cozy?

**NOAH:** For now.

*(Knock from off stage; SALESMAN I enters on crutches: he is dressed very poorly.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Noah, it's the door.

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*(Knock. NOAH, unwilling to leave MRS. NOAH and MOTHER N alone together, doesn't move.)*

**MOTHER N:** Noah, the door.

*(Knock)*

**JOSEPH:** Would you like me to get the door?

*(Knock)*

**MRS. NOAH:** No, Noah will get the door.

*(NOAH starts towards door.)*

**MOTHER N:** Joseph can get the door.

*(NOAH stops.)*

*(Knock)*

**MRS. NOAH:** *(Through her teeth)* But I want Noah to get the door.

*(NOAH starts towards door again.)*

**MOTHER N:** But dear daughter-in-law Sarai, Joseph offered to get the door.

*(JOSEPH goes towards door.)*

*(Knock)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Stay where you are, Joseph. Noah is going to get the door.

*(NOAH crosses to door.)*

**SALESMAN:** *(He enters.)* I represent the Lake Shore Retirement Community. You are Mr. Noah, correct?

**NOAH:** Yes, but I don't think I would be...

**SALESMAN:** If I might just hobble inside. Oh, sir I have had a terrible life. I lost my eye over a dispute with a terrible wicked man about money. My legs were broken while leading an expedition up Mount Ararat. Vandals stripped me of all my money and clothing. Only by the grace of God did I survive. Now I am crippled, blind, and shekeless.

**NOAH:** That's awful. Let me give you a few shekels.

**SALESMAN:** No, I am too proud to beg. But my boss tells me if I can sell one Lake Shore lot, that he will give me a full time job, buy me a decent suit of clothing, and help me to feed my twelve hungry children.

**NOAH:** But I am not ready to retire.

**SALESMAN:** I understand that you are a man of middle age. I take you to be about 500 years old.

**NOAH:** Five hundred ninety-nine. I'll have a birthday soon. I can never remember the date.

**SALESMAN:** Well, let me say you don't look it. I would have staked my life on the fact that you weren't a day over 500.

**NOAH:** Thank you.

**SALESMAN:** Nevertheless, it is never too early to start planning for retirement. I have lake frontage on the Dead Sea. The weather is great, excellent swimming, and you will never have to buy salt again.

**NOAH:** I don't know.

**SALESMAN:** Picture this. There is Noah with a long, gray beard some 975 years old, out in his sailboat with his children, his grandchildren, his great-great grandchildren, and his great-great great grandchildren. Living the kind of life that only retirement on a lake can provide.

**NOAH:** Well

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**SALESMAN:** And besides, if you don't buy it, who will feed my twelve children? How will I get my operation? It's only 2000 shekels.

**NOAH:** All right, give me the rock to chisel. You are a tragic fellow.

**MRS. NOAH:** *(She crosses to him.)* Noah, you are not buying anything. Who wants to live on the Dead Sea? I am sorry for your condition young man, but we are not interested.

*(MRS. NOAH pushes him offstage and shuts door.)*

I can't believe you, Noah. You were going to squander 2000 shekels

*(Salesman 1 crosses to Salesman 2; they are far down right. These lines need to come very fast as we are really hearing two conversations at once.)*

**SALESMAN 2:** How did you do? Did he fall for it?

**NOAH:** He was so pitiful, so poor.

**SALESMAN:** He felt sorry for me; he was willing to buy it.

**MRS. NOAH:** You are so gullible, so...

**SALESMAN:** He is so naive.

**MRS. NOAH:** So stupid ...

**SALESMAN:** So dumb ...

**SALESMAN 2:** Then why didn't you make the sale?

**MRS. NOAH:** If it hadn't been for me, your lovely wife...

**SALESMAN:** That battle-ax wife of his foiled it all.

**MOTHER N:** Stop this, both of you.

**SALESMAN 2:** No use crying over spilled goat's milk.

**JOSEPH:** Yes. He didn't actually do anything; he didn't actually buy it. I think it is just that Noah is too good.

**SALESMAN:** Can I get out of this outfit

*(Takes off eye-patch, drops crutch)*

before we try to find another good man to buy salt water?

**MRS. NOAH:** Oh, yes, he is good.

**SALESMAN 2:** I don't know if there are any more good men.

**MOTHER N:** No, there are not many like Noah.

**MRS. NOAH:** That's for sure.

**MUSICAL #2 -- EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU**

*(A variety of SINGERS, young and old, enter and stand around NOAH and his family.)*

**CHORUS:**

EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU...  
YOU ARE TOO... GOOD TO BE TRUE.  
THEY SHOULD BUILD A MARBLE STATUE ...  
IN HONOR OF YOUR GREAT VIRTUE!

**MOTHER N:**

NOAH WAS A CHILD, JUST A HUNDRED YEARS OLD;  
HE SET OUT TO SEA JUST TO FIND GIFTS FOR ME.

**CHORUS:**

EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU...  
YOU ARE TOO... GOOD TO BE TRUE.  
THEY SHOULD BUILD A MARBLE STATUE ...  
IN HONOR OF YOUR GREAT VIRTUE!

**MRS. NOAH:**

OH, MAN OF HONOR I SURELY DID WED;  
"I'LL LOVE ONLY THEE" WERE THE WORDS THAT HE SAID.

**CHORUS:**

EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU...  
YOU ARE TOO... GOOD TO BE TRUE.  
THEY SHOULD BUILD A MARBLE STATUE ...  
IN HONOR OF YOUR GREAT VIRTUE!

**NOAH:**

OH, SOME COINS AND SILVER I GLADLY DID LEND;  
I LOST ALL MY MONEY AND LOST MY BEST FRIEND.

**CHORUS:**

EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOU...  
YOU ARE TOO... GOOD TO BE TRUE.  
THEY SHOULD BUILD A MARBLE STATUE ...  
IN HONOR OF YOUR GREAT VIRTUE!

*(SINGERS exit.)*

**MOTHER N:** I raised him right.

**JOSEPH:** I am off to the camel auction. Would you like to come along, Noah?

**NOAH:** I don't know, I should be working in my vineyard.

**MOTHER N:** Yes, Noah, it would be wonderful if you two could be friends. And I will stay here and help Sarai.

**MRS. NOAH:** Go, Noah, go. Your mother and I have things to do.

**NOAH:** I really don't feel like a camel auction today.

**MRS. NOAH:** *(She goes over and kisses him.)* The walk will do you good.

**NOAH:** All right.

*(NOAH and JOSEPH exit.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Don't give any money to begging children, don't buy any grapes, don't spend a shekel on anything, and don't be gone long.

**MUSICAL #2a -- SCENE CHANGE (Everyone Takes Advantage of You)**

*(LIGHTS fade; house struck. A rock is placed center. LIGHTS up on NOAH and JOSEPH walking.)*

**JOSEPH:** Noah, it is a wicked, wicked country, You are too trusting.

**NOAH:** But God wants us to love one another.

**JOSEPH:** Maybe it's because I am a businessman, but one has to be very practical these days. One must assume that nearly everyone is evil.

*(Enter SLAVE MERCHANT with four CHILDREN in line; they are tied together.)*

**MERCHANT:** Could I interest you gentlemen in these strong orphans?

**NOAH:** Why are they all tied together?

**MERCHANT:** *(With pride)* They are all my slaves. They belong to me. You can have this boy here for twenty shekels. He is very strong and will serve you well.

**ORPHAN BOY:** Have pity on me, sir: he stole me from my family.

**MERCHANT:** They are liars, every one of them.

**JOSEPH:** They look like they are starving.

*(To the CHILDREN)*

Does this man feed you?

**ORPHAN 2:** A bit of milk and cheese is all we get.

**MERCHANT:** They lie. Children are so wicked.

**NOAH:** How much for all four?

**MERCHANT:** All four?

*(He is excited.)*

Sixty shekels for the four of them. They will all make very good servants.

**NOAH:** I only have forty shekels; I will give you forty for the lot.

**MERCHANT:** Fifty and not a shekel less.

**NOAH:** Stepfather, could you lend me ten shekels?

**JOSEPH:** Noah, what do you need with four slave children?

**NOAH:** Please, just lend me the money.

*(JOSEPH gives NOAH the money, and NOAH gives it to the merchant.)*

**MERCHANT:** Oh, you've made a good deal, but let me warn you; this one can be bad. Just beat him. Children are so wicked.

*(NOAH starts taking off their ropes as the SLAVE MERCHANT exits.)*

**NOAH:** Children, I am setting you free. Now get out of here quickly before someone else tries to enslave you.

**ORPHANS:** *(As they run out.)* Thank you, kind sirs!

**JOSEPH:** I don't think Mrs. Noah is going to like that.

**NOAH:** It's only money. We have to learn to treat each other better. We are making a sham of the world the Lord created.

*(Enter THIEVES 1 & 2)*

**THIEF 1:** Give me your money, or I will run you right through.

*(He holds up a knife.)*

**THIEF 2:** And you, too! Oh, you are Joseph, the camel merchant. You must be a rich man.

**NOAH:** You won't believe this, but I just spent all of my money on slaves.

**JOSEPH:** And I just loaned him all my money to buy the slaves.

**THIEF 1:** So where are the slaves? We will steal them.

**NOAH:** I set them free.

**THIEVES:** You set them free!

**JOSEPH:** Yes, he set them free.

**THIEF 2:** There is something unnatural about this man.

**THIEF 1:** Yes, he is strange.

**NOAH:** No, I just felt sorry for the poor children. Don't you feel sorry for those who are unfortunate?

*(THIEVES back up.)*

**THIEF 1:** Feel sorry?

**THIEF 2:** For the unfortunate?

**THIEF 1:** This man must be cursed.

**THIEF 2:** He is not right in the head. He sets slaves free and helps the unfortunate?

**THIEF 1:** Quick, let's run. He may be dangerous.

*(THIEVES exit. Little GIRL enters; she runs crying to NOAH.)*

**GIRL:** Sir, kind sirs--or at least I pray that you be kind--that man over there has stolen my dog.

*(Enter MAN, BOY and a CHILD in a dog costume.)*

His name is Petie, and he says he is going to take him home and eat him.

**NOAH:** Sir, this young girl claims that you have stolen her dog.

*(He crosses to him.)*

**MAN:** Nonsense. I bought the dog. We are all tired of eating fish at our house. I thought we would eat dog.

**NOAH:** But he is so little.

**MAN:** I have a small family.

**NOAH:** If the dog is yours, then pray tell, what is his name?

**MAN:** The dog's name is ... son, what is the dog's name?

**BOY:** Gee, Dad, I don't know the dog's name.

**JOSEPH:** If you don't know the dog's name, then I assume this little girl is telling the truth.

**MAN:** The dog's name is uh...Seth.

**NOAH:** I have an idea.

**JOSEPH:** I think, Noah, that I have a better idea. Noah, take the dog and place it here.

*(NOAH picks up dog and places it between the GIRL and the MAN.)*

**NOAH:** Very good idea, dear stepfather. The young lady will stand over there, and you, sir, will stay where you are. Both of you call the dog at the same time, and we will see that who the dog comes to is the rightful owner.

*(NOAH unleashes dog, and PETIE goes to little GIRL.)*

I think, sir, she is the rightful owner of the dog.

**MAN:** Give me that dog.

*(MAN goes toward NOAH with a knife. JOSEPH hits knife with cane and knocks it out of MAN's hand. MAN falls and NOAH picks up the knife.)*

**NOAH:** Now leave, and trouble this young girl no more.

*(MAN and BOY exit.)*

**GIRL:** Thank you, kind sirs. Thank you.

*(GIRL and PETIE exit in opposite direction.)*

**JOSEPH:** It's a wicked, wicked world.

**NOAH:** And it gets wickeder every day.

**JOSEPH:** We best be on our way.

*(He looks at the sun.)*

The camel auction ends in about an hour.

**NOAH:** You go on. Maybe some other time. My heart is not in it now.

**JOSEPH:** I understand. But be home in an hour. All right?

**NOAH:** Yes.

**JOSEPH:** Promise.

**NOAH:** Yes.

*(NOAH is left alone and sits on rock. A FLOWER VENDOR enters, carrying a big potted plant.)*

**VENDOR:** Sir, do I have a deal for you.

**NOAH:** What?

**VENDOR:** I have a deal for you. Aren't you Noah, the righteous man?

**NOAH:** I don't know about my being righteous, but my wife thinks I am good to a fault.

**VENDOR:** This flower will make an excellent gift for your wife. For only ten shekels I will sell it to you. Show your wife how much you appreciate her.

**NOAH:** It is a beautiful flower, and my wife would love it, but I have no money. Thank you anyway.

**VENDOR:** Five shekels is my final offer.

**NOAH:** I don't even have one shekel. I gave all my money to free little children, so now I can't purchase this flower for my lovely wife.

**VENDOR:** I tell you what, I am going to give you this flower!

*(VENDOR hands NOAH the flower.)*

**NOAH:** I couldn't. It's too valuable a flower.

*(NOAH hands flower back to the VENDOR.)*

**VENDOR:** It's yours

*(VENDOR hands flower back to NOAH and runs six steps away.)*

Stay where you are; don't come any closer.

**NOAH:** Thank you, I guess.

**VENDOR:** So, you accept the gift? It's yours now.

*(NOAH nods yes.)*

That flower is bewitched, it is enchanted. I have tried to sell it to people, but it wouldn't leave my hand. I took it to other places, but it brought me here. I want no more of it. Give it away, sell it, throw it away, but let me warn you, Noah, there is something unnatural about that flower.

*(VENDOR exits.)*

**NOAH:** Oh, so you're a dangerous flower. Sit with me here, while I try to figure out what is wrong with trying to be good. There is no one in this world that seems to be righteous. Even according to that lady, flower, you are wicked. Let me tell you, flower, I am having a miserable day. My wife yells at me, my mother treats me like I am still ten years old. My three sons seldom come to see me. Pretty darn pitiful, isn't it flower?

**GOD:** *(Off stage, amplified)* Noah, I have been thinking. I agree with you. This world is corrupt.

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**NOAH:** (*NOAH stands up.*) Is someone talking to me? Is someone talking to me? I swear I heard someone talking to me.

(*NOAH walks around.*)

You heard it, didn't you flower?

**GOD:** I was talking to you, Noah. God.

**NOAH:** God? Uh, who?

**GOD:** You know, God, the Ancient of Days, Lord of Hosts, Almighty God.

**NOAH:** Oh, my gooodness.

(*NOAH looks up.*)

**GOD:** I am not up there.

(*NOAH looks down.*)

I am definitely not down there.

**NOAH:** I understand that. You are sort of everywhere and nowhere.

**GOD:** That is good, Noah, I like that, but you are wrong. I am right beside you.

(*NOAH looks.*)

Here. The flower, Noah.

**NOAH:** God is a flower?

(*NOAH jumps up.*)

**GOD:** I am anything I want to be. I can take the form of a chair, a rock, an old man, a baby. I am God, Noah.

**NOAH:** (*He falls to his knees.*) Oh my. God, I am so sorry. Please forgive me; I should have shown you more respect.

(*TWO COUPLES come walking by.*)

I love the Lord and I try to be righteous.

(*COUPLE 1 stops and looks at him.*)

I am talking to God. Kneel down and worship Him! Now!

**COUPLE 1:** It's a flower. It's not a very good flower, but it's a flower.

**NOAH:** You better kneel down, or you are going to get struck by lightning. Now, kneel down and worship our Lord.

**GOD:** Noah, my heart grieves because of the wickedness of man.

**NOAH:** Kneel down, worship him. Didn't you hear what he said? We are grieving God.

**GOD:** Noah, they can't hear me. Only you can hear me.

**NOAH:** Right. They think I am down here on my knees talking to a flower pot, don't they?

**COUPLE 2:** (*Returning*) Aren't you Noah?

**COUPLE 1:** Noah, the righteous man. I think you have gone crazy. Let's get out of here.

(*BOTH COUPLES exit laughing at him.*)

**COUPLE 2:** Does the flower answer you back, Noah?

**GOD:** Noah, I am going to destroy man. The man that I created from Adam and the rib of his that I used to create Eve. Hence all these people have sprung, and everyone except you and your kindred are wicked.

**NOAH:** Lord, I wouldn't say that. That's pretty...

**GOD:** (*Sternly*) Wicked, Noah.

**NOAH:** Well, yeah. I guess I would have to agree with you.

**GOD:** And so will I destroy the beast, and the creeping things and the birds in the air and especially man. For I am sorry I made them.

**NOAH:** Lord,

*(NOAH rises and takes a couple of steps away.)*

that's pretty scary.

**GOD:** Take me to your house, Noah, and there I will tell you what we are going to do.

**NOAH:** Good, and yes, Lord, we better hurry, 'cause I am already late and that upsets her ... Mrs. Noah. Plus, my mother is there and that always makes her tense. And she is a little high strung, so if she should say some things I wouldn't, uh, want you to think she is wicked ... high strung. Let's go. My house isn't really fancy; of course, you know that. I've got a nice sunny spot, and if you want a drink or anything. On the other hand, you could just make it rain. I am babbling, aren't I? I am just so happy. You really think I am a righteous man?

*(NOAH picks up flower and runs through house talking to himself: stage goes black to setup for surprise birthday party: balloons and signs, etc. The ensemble of men, women and children are hidden.)*

**NOAH:** *(Entering)* God, I don't know where everybody is.

*(LIGHTS up and everyone yells "surprise," "Happy Birthday" etc.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** *(She crosses to him.)* We fooled you, You had no idea.

**MOTHER N:** Yes Noah, you can count on your mother to do everything right.

*(She kisses him.)*

My boy.

**MRS. NOAH:** It was my idea, "dear" mother-in-law.

**NOAH:** God, they are having a surprise party for me.

**MOTHER N:** Don't swear, Noah.

**NOAH:** Mother, you don't understand who I have brought home with me.

**HAM:** Father,

*(To NOAH)*

I bet you didn't even remember

**SHEM and JAPHETH:** That you are 600 today.

**NOAH:** No I didn't. God, I would like you to meet my three sons: Ham, Shem and Japheth.

**MOTHER N:** Noah, if you don't stop using the Lord's name in vain, I am going to take a switch to you. I don't care if you are 600.

**JOSEPH:** It's time for the song .

*(Birthday GUESTS group themselves around NOAH; CHILDREN do a simple circle dance.)*

### **MUSICAL #3 -- Noah's Turned 600**

#### **CHORUS:**

OH, AGE IS JUST A STATE OF MIND -- OH, YEAH!

IT DOESN'T STOP YOU... FROM BEIN' KIND -- OH, NO!

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NOR FISHIN' WITH A POLE AND LINE -- RELAX!  
IT'S JUST A TINY LITTLE -- STATE OF MIND.

**SOLO:**

NOAH'S TURNED 600  
A RIPE OLD AGE TO BE;  
NOAH, TELL US PLEASE:  
CAN YOUR EYES STILL SEE?

**NOAH:**

I SEE BETTER NOW THAN WHEN I WAS 93!!

**CHORUS:**

OH, AGE IS JUST A STATE OF MIND -- OH, YEAH!  
IT DOESN'T STOP YOU... FROM BEIN' KIND -- OH, NO!  
NOR FISHIN' WITH A POLE AND LINE -- RELAX!  
IT'S JUST A TINY LITTLE -- STATE OF MIND.

**NOAH:** That's wonderful, I really appreciate this, but I have someone I want all of you to meet. Not really a person but...

*(He is building up to say God.)*

**MRS. NOAH:** Later dear. Later. Now you must open your presents.

**MOTHER N:** Open mine first. It will be your favorite.

*(To the crowd.)*

A mother knows. Joseph dear, take Ham with you and bring in all of Noah's gifts.

*(JOSEPH and HAM exit.)*

**NOAH:** But mother dear, there is someone here you really must meet.

**MRS. NOAH:** Noah, will be you be quiet and set down that stupid plant. We are going to open your gifts.

*(JOSEPH and HAM enter.)*

**JOSEPH:** Dear, dear wife, I think I have some rather unfortunate news for you.

**MRS. NOAH:** Dear father-in-law, Ham, where are the gifts?

**JOSEPH:** Shall you tell her, or shall I?

**HAM:** I don't really want to tell her.

**JOSEPH:** I am so new in the family, I would rather it be you.

**HAM:** But I think because you are new it would be much easier, coming from you.

**MRS. NOAH:** Will you both shut up and tell me what it is that you both don't want to tell me.

**JOSEPH & HAM:** Someone stole all of the birthday presents.

**JAPHETH:** Who could have done a thing like that?

*(The GUESTS improvise "Who?" "Stole them?" "You can't trust anyone today!" etc.)*

**NOAH:** That's right, the world is evil. The world is wicked. God and I were just talking about that. He is very upset.

**MRS. NOAH:** You were talking to God? Now Noah, I know you are disappointed about not getting your birthday gifts.

**JOSEPH:** Oh yes, you would've loved what your mother and I got you. A brand new camel, with a leather saddle. Could do 0 to 30 in less than 126 granules of sand through the hourglass.

**NOAH:** Listen to me. Listen. I not only talked to God, I brought God with me.

**HAM:** You brought God with you? Father?

**NOAH:** I did, and he is right here.

*(Everyone and everything stops and they look at NOAH and the flower.)*

**WOMAN:** Noah, that is a flower.

**MAN:** It's a geranium, if I am correct.

**NOAH:** Yes, it is, but it is also God, Jehovah, Almighty God. And I will tell you what the Lord and I have been talking about. You are all evil. I hate to say it, but you are all wicked. I never realized until God brought it up, but you are.

**MRS. NOAH:** Noah, these are all of your friends. Our friends.

**MOTHER N:** Many of these people, Noah, are members of my garden club. People that I love and respect. People that elected me president of the Hebrew Sand and Flower Association. They are my friends.

**NOAH:** I don't care. I will tell the truth. You,

*(He points to one.)*

cheat on your taxes. And you

*(Points to another)*

lie. Some of you are mean to your children. And I have looked the other way, when I have seen things being stolen.

**WOMAN:** If that is the way you feel about us, Noah, I think we should all go home.

**MAN:** Yes, he is ungrateful. And trying to tell us the flower is God.

**NOAH:** I am telling you this for your own good. You must repent, become righteous. Your behavior has grieved our Lord's heart. He is ready to destroy mankind.

**WOMAN 2:** You are crazy, Noah.

**MAN 2:** Noah talks to God.

*(The GUESTS laugh.)*

**WOMAN:** Mrs. Noah, don't ever invite us to one of your parties again.

**NOAH:** Tell them, Lord, tell them. Come on, God, one word from you and they would mend their ways.

**MAN 2:** Noah, your geranium did not talk to us. Maybe if I pluck off this little bloom.

**NOAH:** Don't touch that! He might smite you. Come on God, just one little word and I know they would all mend their ways.

**GOD:** But if I threaten them, scare them into mending their ways, it probably wouldn't last a year.

**NOAH:** Ha! Did you hear? Did you hear what God said? He is going to scare you into mending your ways.

**GOD:** Listen to what I say, Noah.

**NOAH:** Oh. Yes. Anyway, now that you have heard God...

**MAN 3:** Heard what?

**GOD:** Remember Noah, only you can hear me.

**NOAH:** Maybe, God, if you just twinkle the leaf of a flower a little bit.

**GOD:** I am not a flower anymore, Noah.

**NOAH:** All right friends, God just told me that he is not the flower anymore.

**GOD:** I'm the rug.

**NOAH:** *(He jumps off rug.)* Oh goodness, off the rug! Off, off!  
*(He pushes the CROWD off the rug.)*

God has taken the form of a rug!

**WOMAN 2:** Mrs. Noah, what is he talking about?

**MAN 1:** What is wrong with your son?

**NOAH:** Lord, you don't have to talk to them. But a little sign.  
*(He kneels and holds part of the rug.)*

Roll yourself up. Please, just fly around a little bit.

**SHEM:** Father. Please.

**WOMAN 3:** So Noah, this is God.  
*(She steps on rug.)*

Let me dance on the head of God.

*(Crowd laughs as she does a silly dance on the rug; then all exit laughing. Only Noah's family is left as LIGHTS fade. Noah is still holding part of rug on his lap.)*

**NOAH:** Lord, I am not doing very well. Maybe you should have picked someone else. I feel like I have failed everyone. My mother, my wife, and now I'm failing my God.

### **MUSICAL #3a -- SCENE CHANGE (Noah Turned 600)**

*(LIGHTS fade to black. All scenery for birthday party is struck. There are two palm trees on stage right and left. Noah is seated on the rock, rug on one side and plant on the other. LIGHTS come up.)*

**NOAH:** Lord, I don't know what to do. Are you the flower or are you the rug?  
*(He crosses to a tree.)*

Could you be the palm tree?  
*(MOTHER NOAH enters.)*

**MOTHER N:** Noah, what are you doing?

**NOAH:** I am trying to find God.

**MOTHER N:** Aren't we all?

**NOAH:** No, Mother. God talked to me, He really talked to me. And He is going to destroy the world because we are so evil.

**MOTHER N:** I can surely see why God feels that way.

**NOAH:** Do you believe He talked to me, Mother?

**MOTHER N:** Noah, you are the best man I know. Even if you weren't my son I would say that. I have never known you to lie, to cheat or to steal. Even 590 years ago when you were but ten years old, you always told me the truth. So if you say God spoke to you, I have to believe it.  
*(NOAH hugs her.)*

**NOAH:** Thank you, Mother. Thank you.

**MOTHER N:** However, now you must come home, Noah. You've been out here for three days and three nights.

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**NOAH:** No, mother. This is where I first talked to God, and this is where he will find me.

**MOTHER N:** I was afraid you would feel this way, so I brought you a basket of food. Good-bye, my child.

*(Exit MOTHER NOAH. God enters disguised as a LEPER with slightly altered voice. He wears so many rags we do not see his face or get a clear idea of his shape.)*

**GOD:** Have you food to share for a hungry leper?

**NOAH:** A leper?

*(He takes a few steps back.)*

**GOD:** Please do not be afraid. I only ask to share your food.

**NOAH:** Aw, what the heck. Come sit by me and let us eat.

**GOD:** Are you not afraid of my disease?

**NOAH:** Listen, of all the things that have happened to me in the last four days, leprosy is the least of my concerns.

**GOD:** Might we spread out this rug and eat on it?

**NOAH:** NO. That might be God. Here, have some grapes. I grew them myself.

**GOD:** I picked correctly. You are a righteous man. I knew it.

*(We recognize God's voice.)*

I knew it!

**NOAH:** God?

*(NOAH falls down to worship, but then becomes slightly annoyed.)*

You are enjoying this, aren't you, God? There has to be a bit of levity even in the face of impending doom. God, I didn't know what to do. Everyone laughs at me; no one pays attention to me. I tried to warn them, and they think I am crazy.

**GOD:** True. Very sad. That is why I will destroy almost every living thing on earth. This is what I want you to do.

*(He crosses down center)*

Make an ark of gopher wood. The length will be 300 cubits and its height 30 cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and make it with three decks; include a window and a door.

**NOAH:** *(He follows.)* Why am I building an ark?

**GOD:** Noah, you do have a fault. You don't always listen. You are building an ark because I am going to bring forth a flood of waters. And everything that is on the earth shall die, but I will make a covenant with you. You shall come into the ark and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives and you shall bring two of every sort of animal, creeping things and birds, and you shall keep them alive.

**NOAH:** Shouldn't we give the people just one more chance?

**GOD:** You are building a ship. In seven days, it will begin to rain and it will rain for forty days and for forty nights. You'd better start building.

**NOAH:** But Lord, I know nothing about boat building. I grow grapes.

**GOD:** Ship, Noah. Ship. In seven days, it will begin to rain and it will rain for forty days and forty nights.

*(BLACKOUT; Noah and "Leper" exit; light up on Ensemble. They carry the tools to build an Ark and pantomime working while singing.)*

**MUSICAL #4 -- WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK**

**WORKERS:**

WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK FOR THE LORD OUR GOD!  
WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK FOR THE LORD OUR GOD!  
USING HAMMERS TO HAMMER AND SAWS TO SAW;  
IN ANOTHER FOUR DAYS WE MUST FINISH IT ALL

**SOLO:**

GOPHER WOOD WE MUST FIND, PLUS TWO OF EVERY KIND,  
FOR WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK FOR THE LORD...

**SOLO:**

NOW CUBITS WE MUST MEASURE, IT IS OUR LORD'S PLEASURE,  
FOR WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK FOR THE LORD...

**NOAH:**

ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, YOUR FAITH YOU MUST FIND  
FOR IT'S ALL FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

**ALL:** FOR WE ARE BUILDING AN ARK FOR THE LORD.

*(Ham enters with giraffes.)*

**HAM:** Okay, father, where do you want me to put them?

**JOSEPH:** *(Entering)* Now how many cubits high was the ship to be?

**SHEM:** *(Entering)* Father, we have used up about all the gopher wood we can find.

**NOAH:** One at a time. One at a time.

**MRS. NOAH:** *(Entering)* You are really doing this, Noah. You are going to build an ark?

**NOAH:** Yes wife. God commanded it.

**MRS. NOAH:** But Noah, there is no rain.

**NOAH:** As I said before, the Lord said in seven days the rain would start and it has been three. We have to get this ark under roof before the rain starts.

**MRS. NOAH:** You know nothing about a boat. How do you even know if it will float?

**NOAH:** It is going to be a ship, dear. And I mentioned that fact to the Lord.

*(PEOPLE are everywhere with wood, tools, etc: they work in background and pay little attention to what is going on.)*

**JOSEPH:** How many cubits high was it?

**JAPHETH:** We are all out of pitch, Father.

**SHEM:** Where do we get more gopher wood?

**HAM:** Where do you want them?

**NOAH:** Stop, everybody.

*(ALL freeze: complete silence)*

First, put the giraffes in the backyard; second, make it 30 cubits high; and Shem, if you walk directly west I am sure God will direct you to where you can find more gopher wood. Trust in God.

*(NOAH calms down.)*

We must all have faith.

*(SHEM and some of the WORKERS exit.)*

**MOTHER N:** *(She enters with one or two hippos.)* These just came to my back door. I thought probably they belonged here.

**NOAH:** Put them over there by the rose bushes. No, no, that is pretty close to the lions. Maybe you better put them in the backyard too. Everyone back to work.

*(Rest of WORKERS exit: NOAH says to a WORKER as he exits)*

That doesn't go there.

**MRS. NOAH:** Everyone is laughing at your son. The whole known world believes he is an idiot.

**MOTHER N:** Yes, I know.

**MRS. NOAH:** If you talk to him, maybe you could get him to stop. He loves you so.

**MOTHER N:** I think about that all the time. It doesn't seem reasonable, "this flood." Yet, he is so sincere and he is such a good man.

**MRS. NOAH:** But the Lord our God has not talked to anyone since Adam and Eve. And look at the logic of it: if it rains for forty days and forty nights, water would cover the entire world. It would be as high as Mount Ararat.

**MOTHER N:** No, there isn't any logic in it.

*(MOTHER N moves down center.)*

It is as Noah said ... "faith."

**MRS. NOAH:** You are just as bad as he is.

*(MRS N follows MOTHER N.)*

When we are destitute because we have spent all the money we have hiring workers to build this silly ark, and when the whole world believes that Noah and my sons are the looniest people in the world, then I, mother of three boys, wife to your son, I will die of shame.

*(MRS N exits; HAM enters with a BEAR.)*

**HAM:** Grandmother, do you know where Father is?

**MOTHER N:** No dear.

**HAM:** Well, I got a bear, but I only got one bear.

**MOTHER N:** Male or female, dear?

**HAM:** I've been afraid to look.

**MOTHER N:** *(She crosses to BEAR.)* Are you a boy or a girl? Answer me now. A boy?

*(BEAR shakes her head 'no.')*

Then you are a girl.

*(BEAR makes noise and shakes head yes.)*

Now Ham, you'd better go out and find a male bear.

**HAM:** Right. Grandmother, where will I find a boy bear? And what if he doesn't tell me he is a boy?

**MOTHER N:** Ham, you've got to have...

*(She stops and thinks.)*

"faith." Yes, like your father says, it is all a matter of faith.

*(NOAH enters.)*

**NOAH:** Two. We've got to have two.

**HAM:** I know father. I know.

*(HAM and BEAR exit.)*

**MOTHER N:** Noah, I'll fix everybody some lemonade to drink. They are all working very hard.

**NOAH:** I am just afraid I won't get it done on time. I don't even have the roof done, Mother. Let me tell you, I didn't realize what a big job this was at first. I mean, this thing is going to be 450 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 75 feet tall.

**MOTHER N:** Yes, that is big, gigantic.

*(A scream is heard from off stage left, and a big crash. Members of the ENSEMBLE come in carrying two WORKERS, one limping and the other holding his arm.)*

**JAPHETH:** Father, the scaffolding broke and these two people were injured.

**NOAH:** Oh, no, These are our only two real carpenters.

*(NOAH hugs an injured WORKER, who screams.)*

When do you think you will be well?

**WORKERS:** We quit.

*(They run off as best they can.)*

**NOAH:** Back to work. Japheth, get all these folks back to work.

**JAPHETH:** We can't, Father. We have no more gopher wood. Couldn't we use some other kind of wood? There are a lot of other trees around.

**NOAH:** No! The Lord was very specific: gopher wood. Everybody go home. Let's hope Ham finds some gopher wood soon.

*(The stage clears; NOAH is looking around.)*

God, I need to talk to you. Now you have already been the flower so I don't think you would be that again. You have already been the rug, so you would not be that either.

*(He goes to front of stage. and looks into the audience)*

Bird, bird, could you be God? Hmm. Nope, not him.

**WOMAN:** *(Enters screaming)* Mice! Mice!

*(She exits and two little MICE enter.)*

**NOAH:** Little mice, you are not taking the form of God, are you? Little mice?

*(NOAH now assumes God has taken the form of MICE.)*

Lord, I don't know what to do You've got to help me. There are holes so big in this ship you could put your finger through them; it will surely sink.

**GOD:** Did I forget to mention the pitch? You need to cover it inside and outside with pitch.

**NOAH:** Yes, you are God. Now God--

*(WOMAN enters with broom.)*

**WOMAN:** Scat, you mice!

*(SHE chases off the MICE.)*

**NOAH:** Wait little mouse, come back. God, I need to know more.

*(He stops the WOMAN.)*

Madam, you are striking the Lord our God.

**GOD:** I'm not the mice.

*(WOMAN looks at NOAH like he is crazy and backs offstage.)*

**NOAH:** Yeah, I knew that. You are this... No, no, of course not. You're not the flower. You're not the rug. You're not the mice, uh. You're the sky? The earth?

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**GOD:** That's right Noah, I am all those things, but right now I am in the form of the flower.

**NOAH:** You know, I had a sneaky suspicion, the littlest suspicion that it might be the flower.

**GOD:** Is that all, Noah?

**NOAH:** No, no. Wait. Let me get my to-do list. Listen, Lord, I have been chiseling questions for you. Now don't go away. First, I don't have enough time to build this ark.

**GOD:** You're going to make it.

**NOAH:** And it starts raining in three days. We haven't nearly rounded up all the animals and Lord, the snakes. The snakes, they are a real problem. You get them and then they just slither away. And I'll tell you another thing about the snakes; I had two mice and then they ate one. I know you haven't had such a good relationship yourself with snakes.

**GOD:** Noah, did I forget to mention the food?

**NOAH:** What food?

**GOD:** You know, Noah, you have to feed all the animals, and your family for some time.

**NOAH:** But Lord, I can't get it all done now. And that would be a lot of food and a lot of different kinds of food. Time to gather it. It cannot be done, it cannot be done.

**GOD:** Did you happen to overhear your mother talking to Ham? That's when she said we needed "faith."

**NOAH:** All right, Lord, I got it, faith. Oh, one other thing Lord. This is probably another one of those oversights, but when you were telling me those that I could bring into the ark, you neglected to mention my mother and stepfather. Lord, come on now. Don't go away on me. What about my mother? Lord, this isn't fair. Answer me, Lord.

*(LIGHTS begin to fade slowly on NOAH.)*

What about my mother?

**MUSICAL # 5 -- TAG**

**GOD:**

ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, YOUR FAITH YOU MUST FIND

*(NOAH looks to heaven as the LIGHTS and MUSIC slowly fade.)*

**NOAH:** Please!

**End of Act 1**

**Act 2 contains 15 pages which also includes a Resource Guide.**