



Written by
Cora Alley

“An Audience With Jehovah”

Scripture: Selections from Job 38 and Job 42

Dramatic Category: Monologue in a skit (*This is also a "Skermion" and a "Dream Skit."*)

Topic: Our complaints are silenced before the majesty of God.

Performance Time: 10 minutes

Number of Players: 5 people (3 women, 2 men)

Objective:

After the complaints of three “good people,” we hear the same response that Job received and come to realize that before God’s majesty all of our human woes fade away.

Synopsis:

This series of three monologues re-examines the complaints of Job and draws a modern-day parallel to the anguish of good people. One loses a job, one is heartbroken by a wayward child, and one is plagued by a fearful disease. God's answer remains the same as it was when He met Job in the whirlwind, "Where were you when I hung the stars?" Our smallness in contrast the God's greatness dictates our only response to our suffering. We echo Job as we too must declare, "Though He slay me, yet will I serve Him."

Cast:

Female narrator

Voice of Jehovah: male voice, very deep and powerful!

Andi: A woman with a disease

Mike: A man who lost his job

Donna: A woman who is having trouble with her teen-aged son.

LIGHTING NOTES AND SPECIAL EFFECTS:

1. Set three spots: stage right, center, left.
2. Create a slide show of nature scenes, displaying the grander of God while the voice over of Job is being read. Play it after the three monologues, while the characters are frozen, in dim light.
3. If the slide show is not possible, a voice alone also creates the effect.
4. At the end of the skit, the pastor walks among the players and comments on their circumstances and their attitudes as the lights come on in each pool.

Pastor: *Make opening comments about the suffering of the righteous.
Introduce that this was the plight of job. Transition into the fact that many righteous
in the family of God suffer greatly.*

BLACK OUT STAGE: SPOT UP DOWN LEFT

Andi: *(Spot on her alone. The rest of the stage is black.)*
Oh God, it's me again.
Are you even listening?
I've asked you so many times to heal me,
But I still have this awful disease.
You call yourself the great physician, the divine healer,
Why can't you just make a simple little house call?
Maybe you're too busy with more important things
like world hunger or nuclear war.
What did I do to deserve this?
I've done my best...well, most of the time.
Oh God, are you listening to me?
I don't understand why you are so distant
now when I need you the most!
I guess I'll just fold up and die,
Is that what I'm supposed to do?
Why don't you take this away from me?
Maybe you can't, or you just won't, I don't know.
I'm so tired.
I'm so alone.
I'm so confused. *(Freeze)*

DOWN LEFT SPOT OFF CENTER SPOT UP

Mike: *(Spot on him alone. The rest of the stage is black.)*
Oh God, this can't be happening! It just can't!
I've worked at this place for ten years,

How could I get laid off!
How am I supposed to pay my house payment?
Who is supposed to put food on the table?
What do I tell my kids when they need money,
And they need money all the time. It's ridiculous!
I'm the provider in this family, and now I'm nothing.
I'm just trashed like an old shoe.
I don't deserve this.
I've never done anything to you.
How could you let this happen?
What are people going to think of me?
They'll think I'm a loser, that's what they'll think.
A man can't live without respect.
If I don't have my dignity, I don't have anything.
Come on, you made me this way....in your image, remember?
You have dignity, you're a provider, you need respect.
Well then, how can you deny me the very thing you need.
How could you let this happen? (*Freeze*)

CENTER SPOT OFF DOWN RIGHT SPOT ON

Donna: (*Spot on her alone. The rest of the stage is black.*)
You don't know what this is like do you, God?
Your son turned out just fine.
Oh, he had his moments,
hiding from his parents in the temple
and turning over some tables in church,
but all in all, I'm sure you were proud of Him.
Why can't I be proud of my Jeffrey?
Why is he always in trouble? Why is he so angry?
What can I do to fix my family?
It seems like every morning brings a new battle.
We don't even talk anymore.
I've worked so hard to keep my family together.
Can't you work at this, too!
Everything I've ever done has been for Jeffrey.
What did I do to deserve this awful sense of failure.
Sometimes I wish I could see into the future,
just so I know he'll be all right.
But I can't see that far.
Maybe you can't either, or maybe you don't deal with
people one on one after all.
Maybe that's just wishful thinking. (*Freeze*)

DOWN RIGHT SPOT OFF VIDEO ON OR VOICE-OVER IS HEARD IN THE DARKNESS

NOTE: The players who delivered the monologues remain frozen in “tableau” during the reading of Job 38.

Option #1:

Voice-over of the reading of Job 38 with each light pool coming back on for 1/3 of the reading.

Option #2:

Play a video of creation shots during the reading of Job 38. The video follows this suggested format:

Narrator: Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind in Job, Chapter 38, saying:
(*Video: Clouds of smoke*)

Jehovah: "Who is this that darkens counsel
By words without knowledge.

(*Video: earth & its beauty*)

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

(*Video: Stars & the heavens by night.*)

Where were you when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

(*Video: Ocean crashing*)

Or who enclosed the sea with doors,
When bursting forth, it went out from the womb.
I made a cloud its garment, and I placed boundaries on it,
and I said, "Thus far you shall come, but no farther;
And here shall your proud waves stop.

(*Video: A sunrise*)

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning,
and caused the dawn to know its place
That it might take hold of the ends of the earth?
You know? For you were born then,
And the number of your days is great!

(*Video: A snowfall*)

Have you entered the storehouses of the snow?
Has the rain a father?
Or who has begotten the drops of dew?
From whose womb has come the ice?

(Video: Clouds & Storms & Lightning)

Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
So that an abundance of water may cover you?
Can you send forth lightnings,
that they may say to you, "Here we are?"

(Video: Black Stallion)

Do you give the horse his might?
Do you clothe his neck with a mane?
Do you make him leap like a locust?
His majestic snorting is terrible.
He paws the valley, and rejoices in his strength.
With shaking rage he races over the ground;

(Video: Return to opening smoke)

Will the faultfinder contend with the almighty?
Let him who rebukes God, answer.

VIDEO OFF DOWN LEFT SPOT ON

Narrator: The book of Job, chapter 42 records Job's answered the Lord:

*(Light comes up on Woman #1 who is reaching out to God,
then kneels at the end)*

"Behold I am insignificant; what can I reply to you.
I know you can do all things;
no plan of yours can be thwarted.

DOWN LEFT SPOT OFF CENTER SPOT ON

(Man #2 reaches out to God, then kneels at the end)

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand.
Things too wonderful for me to know.

CENTER SPOT OFF DOWN RIGHT SPOT ON

(Woman #2: reaches out to God, then kneels at the end)

My ears had heard of you,
but now my eyes have seen you,
Therefore, I repent in dust and ashes.

STAGE BLACK

SERMON LIGHTING OPTION:

Light the monologue pools again as the pastor walks into each one.

Sermon:

The Pastor approaches each character and comments on their attitudes and the plight of each one who cried out to God. The characters remain frozen and do not respond to the pastor as he gives his sermon. He may have them exit on his cue when he is finished talking about them.

Ending Music Option: "It is Well With My Soul"