

“Minor Prophet Monologues: Jonah”

by
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What This monologue takes place at the moment at the end of Jonah 1:3, when Jonah has gone into the boat and the winds are starting to pick up. The sense of dread hits Jonah as he realizes that bad things happen when he runs from God.

Themes: Obedience, God’s Call, Running Away, Consequences

Who Jonah

When Biblical times, 8th century BC

**Wear
(Props)** Traveling clothes- modern day clothes or Bible costumes
SFX: Sea-going sounds. Waves, boat creaking, seagulls
Wooden bench

Why Jonah 1

How We had a good sound effect of the ship creaking and the wind blowing. We lit the walls blue and the effect was very convincing. Underplay the lines to add to the drama. The moment Jonah realizes that bad things are coming for his disobedience is the dramatic moment here.

Time Approximately 2 minutes

*A wooden bench sits center stage. **Jonah** enters and unsteadily makes his way to the bench.*

Jonah: *(softly)* Excuse me. Pardon me. Sorry...

To audience as if they are another passenger.

Excuse me, is anyone sitting here? Do you mind if I—

He lurches as if tossed by the boat and lands awkwardly on the seat.

I guess this is me.

He settles in.

Ugh. Whew. I do NOT like sea travel. Not really my kind of thing. But you gotta do what you gotta do, I guess, right? What takes you to Tarshish, friend?

He listens

A girl! Well, good for you. Sounds like a...happy time... Me? Well, it's a bit of a story, actually.

Beat

No, you're right we have plenty of time. Well, my name's Jonah...I'm a sort of a prophet, I guess you could say.

Beat

A prophet. Yes. I am the mouthpiece for the Lord Jehovah. Yes, that's right.

Beat

Oh, it's a tough gig to get. Let me tell you—

He laughs with a hint of dread.

So, one day the word of the Lord came to me. He said "Arise!" I was napping. Anyway, he says "Arise! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." As a prophet the proper response is "I am the Lord's servant. I will do as you instruct." That's what I should have said. What I actually said was

Over the top incredulous.

"WHAT!?!?! Ninevah!? Are you serious? Ninevah."

Do you know much about Ninevah? Wicked people. The worst. They deserve God's wrath. Believe me. If I'd have gone, they would have a chance to repent and then He would just forgive them. And that's just not fair, is it? So, I booked this ship to Tarshish. Ninevah is that way, so I'm headed that way.

Points in opposite direction.

Look. When I agreed to be God's prophet, I thought I'd be talking to God's people...talking to people that already agreed with me. Easy stuff. You know...like a pastor. Not like a *(gulp)* missionary.

He listens.

No, no, no...I wouldn't say I'm running from Jehovah. Not exactly. More like, giving Him time to reconsider.

The boat lurches again.

Whoa. The wind is picking up again. Ooooooh, I do not like sea travel. It's getting worse, isn't it? It's getting worse...

Deep in remorseful thought.

Oh, I do not like sea travel.

Slow fade to black.