

a script from



COLLECTIVE

"The Magi: Part Four"

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What	A 4-Part Advent series. The Magi have arrived at the home of Joseph and Mary and discuss their dream before they return home. Themes: Advent, Magi, Wise Men, Seeking Christ, Prophecy, Trust, Obedience
Who	Balthasar Gaspar Melchior Mary Joseph
When	Biblical Times
Costumes	Period clothing
Props	3 Bedrolls Pack with some scrolls Tray with wooden cups Simple chair for Mary
Why	Matthew 2:1-12, Matthew 1:18-24, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 59:20, Isaiah 60:1-2
How	This set should be very simple
Time	10 minutes

Lights up. The Magi are lying on bedrolls on the floor. Balthasar is tossing, turning, and mumbling in his sleep. He suddenly sits up and gasps...

Balthasar: Magi!

Gaspar: *(sits up quickly, startled)* What is it? What's going on?

Melchior: *(waking up more calmly)* My friend, why are you so sweaty? What's wrong?

Balthasar: It's... nothing. I just had a dream.

Melchior: I *feel* like I'm in a dream right now! I cannot believe we found the house of the Eternal King!

Gaspar: Yes, it certainly seems a dream that we are here and the child - and his parents - are so...

Balthasar: Ordinary?

Melchior: Unassuming?

Gaspar: Yes! I never imagined I would sleep on a floor, let alone the floor of the Eternal King.

Joseph: Good morning, new friends. How did you sleep?

Balthasar: Ah! Joseph, good morning, I'm glad you're here.

Gaspar: *(stretching the crick out of his neck)* Although I'm not accustomed to sleeping on the floor, spending the evening in the presence of the young Eternal King was worth it.

Melchior: *(chuckling at a memory)* What a delightful little boy!

Mary: *(entering with a tray of mugs)* Here is some ginger tea that should help with the aches.

Balthasar: *(taking his mug from the tray and having a sip)* Ah, thank you Mary. And where is the little king?

Mary: He's still sleeping. He had such a late and exciting night with you last night.

Gaspar: It was exciting for all of us! What a miracle that we made it here and got to meet him.

Melchior: Yes! So often I wondered if we had gotten it all wrong. But here you are! And here he is! Herod seemed so doubtful. He'll be amazed that we found you.

Balthasar: Um, about that...

Joseph: What is it?

Balthasar: My dream. Just before you came in, I had a dream. It was... well, what I would describe as the voice of God told me not to return to Herod.

Gaspar: Why?

Balthasar: I don't know. That was the entire dream. It was just a... breathtaking... voice that said not to return to Herod.

Melchior: There were no other details?!

Balthasar: No! I'm telling you, all it said was...

Gaspar &

Melchior: *(joining in)* Not to return to Herod.

Gaspar: Ok, ok. There were no other details.

Mary is giving **Joseph** a look like this is a familiar story. He chimes in.

Joseph: Yes, I know well that dreams from the Lord can be short on details.

Balthasar: You have also had a dream from the Lord?

Joseph: Yes, when Mary found out she was pregnant, and I knew the child was not mine, I had planned to divorce her quietly the next day, but that night I had a dream. *(He counts to 5 on his fingers as he says this.)* An angel told me (1) not to be afraid to take Mary as my wife, for the (2) child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And that she would (3) have a son and I was to (4) name him Jesus, for he will (5) save his people from their sins.

Gaspar: You're right, that is not a lot of information.

Balthasar: But it was *enough*.

Joseph: Yes, it was enough. And he gave me the strength to obey him that day and the next and the next. And I trust that he will continue to give me enough to obey him tomorrow.

Balthasar: My friends, we must return home by a different route. We must not go back through Jerusalem and attract the attention of Herod.

Gaspar: But...! *(he's having an internal struggle)* Yes, I *do* agree we must obey the voice of God, but this does not make sense! How will the nation know of the coming of the Messiah if you keep it secret from the king himself? The religious leaders and scribes all live in Jerusalem. They are surely eager to worship Jesus. He is the One they have been waiting for their whole lives! If we could recognize it from just two scrolls of Hebrew Scripture, surely they will figure it out soon, if they haven't already. Why shouldn't we go confirm it with the learned men in the temple?

Mary: We have learned that God often uses unexpected ways and unexpected people to accomplish his work. I still can't comprehend why he chose me... but here I am.

Joseph: Yes, this pregnancy was not how I imagined the Messiah to show up on the scene.

Mary: *(giggling and looking to Joseph)* And remember the shepherds?

Joseph: Now that was a unique bunch. They were about the last people I expected to see that night.

Mary: We had arrived in Bethlehem *as* I was going into labor

Joseph: We couldn't find a place to stay even though we knew people in town...

Mary: It was a whole thing, and we ended up in the stable with the animals.

Gaspar: Oh dear!

Melchior: That doesn't sound very... clean.

- Joseph:** *(sarcastically)* Oh, but the innkeeper's son had just changed the hay that morning, so it was fine.
- Mary:** Anyway, *finally*, Jesus was born, and I wrapped him in swaddling cloths and had just laid him in the manger – because there was nowhere else to put him - so I could close my eyes for a minute when I heard a shepherd say, "A baby in a manger, what a classic shepherd's trick! My siblings and I all slept in a manger at some point or another!"
- Joseph:** And then there were a bunch of shepherds trying to crowd into the stable with us.
- Mary:** What a story they had!
- Joseph:** *(laughing with the memory)* Nope, I did not expect the angel armies of heaven singing to a band of smelly shepherds who then left their sheep to find us to be part of my son's birth story.
- Mary:** *(still laughing)* Or that *they* would be the ones to spread the story of his birth.
- Joseph:** And even you all! No disrespect, but I certainly didn't expect astrologers and magicians from the foreign country that once exiled our people to be among the first to worship and acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.
- Balthasar:** Nor I, for that matter. Although, I don't know if you should call us astrologers and magicians anymore. After this journey and meeting your son... I am a changed man.
- Melchior:** And I as well.
- Gaspar:** Same.
- Mary:** We have all been changed. That is what happens when you say "yes" to God's work.
- Gaspar:** But what an adventure it has been!
- All:** *(laughing with him)* Yes! What an adventure! No kidding! *(etc)*
- Melchior:** And now the journey and adventure must continue.

Gaspar: Ah yes, the camels... again.

Balthasar: Oh, the camels. *(sarcastically)* I can hardly wait.

Melchior: But this time we will have purpose!

Balthasar: What do you mean? We had a purpose on the way here: to find the Eternal King.

Melchior: Yes, but then we only had *hope* that we would find him. We could only *hope* that there would be a kingdom of peace and restoration with an eternal king. But now we have *found* him. We *know* that what the Scriptures foretold is true.

Balthasar: We also know that there is much that we *don't* know.

Gaspar: And much that we think we know but don't understand because it doesn't make sense.

Melchior: But one thing is sure, and it is all that matters: The virgin has given birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means "God with us."

Balthasar: The Redeemer has come to Israel to buy back those who repent of their sins.

Gaspar: The Light of Zion has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Balthasar: Jesus. The Lord Saves.

There is a reverent silence for a moment while they all imagine what is to come.

Mary breaks it by asking,

Mary: Balthasar, there is one more unexpected thing I was hoping you could explain before you go.

Balthasar: What is it?

Mary: Well, your gifts to my son were so generous... we cannot thank you enough. The gold will make such a difference. We didn't even have enough money to get back home to Nazareth. And frankincense is such a kingly gift! I have heard of it before, but have never seen or smelled it, let alone owned some before. But... why myrrh? Why did you bring my son - who you say will be an eternal king - a burial spice?

Balthasar: Oh, my dear lady. *(He kneels and takes her hands and she sits)* I... *(he looks away, wrestling with what he should tell her and can't bring himself to give her bad news)* I find that myrrh has many other very practical uses, besides being a burial spice. I use it to clean my teeth, kick a cold, and treat wounds. The aroma is very calming. It's a great stress reliever.

Mary: *(she can sense he's holding back but doesn't press him. Instead, she smiles and gives a small laugh)* I can't imagine using such a precious gift to clean my teeth, but I'm sure we will find a special use for it. Thank you, Balthasar. *(Balthasar bows his head in acknowledgement)*

Melchior: Thank you, Mary! Thank you for your obedience to God and your hospitality to us. I will never forget this.

Joseph: Nor will we. Thank you all for seeking Truth until you found it, even though the journey was so long.

Mary: And thank you for the gifts!

Balthasar: You're welcome. Now we must be off. Don't wake your son, but tell him we love him.

Mary: I will. Goodbye!

Joseph: Blessings on your journey! Goodbye!

*They all hug (opt: kiss cheeks) and **Mary & Joseph** exit backstage as the **Magi** step forward to the front edge of the stage to delineate leaving the house.*

Melchior: You are holding something back. Why didn't you tell her about what you read in the Daniel scroll?

Balthasar: How could I? She has experienced so much already! Her faith has been tested so many times. She's been asked to believe so many things that are so hard to understand. I could not lay this on her as well.

Gaspar: But the Daniel scroll said so clearly that the Anointed One would be killed. It is the reason you brought the myrrh!

Balthasar: But it's not just that he will be killed! Listen to what I read in the Isaiah scroll last night. *(he rummages for his scroll in his bag)* Here it is. *(he reads)* "He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. *(Gaspar reacts)* He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on *him* the sins of us all." *(he looks up)* There's more, but I can hardly keep reading. It says that he dies and his life is cut short. He's buried like a criminal and put in a rich man's grave. *(Melchior turns away and sinks down, dismayed)*

Gaspar: Yes, I can see why you would not tell that to a new mother.

Melchior: That beautiful, innocent child - buried like a criminal? On our behalf?

Balthasar: But wait! Listen! There's hope! It says, *(he reads again)* But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for the rebels. *(he stops reading from the scroll and looks at the other two)*

Melchior: I don't understand. How can the Lord's good plan be to crush the Eternal King and cause him grief? Why must he expose himself to death?

Balthasar: I don't know. A God who sends an Eternal King to be beaten so we – the rebels – could be made whole. A Righteous Servant who exposes himself to death so that many can be counted righteous. A babe born of no man who will bear our sins. I cannot make sense of it and yet...

Gaspar: And yet...

Melchior: I suppose we must decide. Will we worship this God whom we have traveled so far to discover, or will we go back to our old life?

Gaspar: And if we worship Him, will we obey Him even when it makes no sense or will we go back and tell Herod and the rest of the leaders in Jerusalem?

Melchior: Well I, for one, plan to spend the rest of my life pursuing this God and telling others all about Him. (*Balthasar & Gaspar look at him, curious*) But not Herod or the rest of the leaders in Jerusalem. What's the point of worshiping a God you don't intend to obey?!

Gaspar: I'm coming with you. I wouldn't be a wise man if I thought I could completely understand a God worthy of my worship.

Balthasar: I couldn't have said it better! Shall we?

Melchior: Let's go!

*The **Magi** exit out the auditorium. As they leave, they should stop and tell people:*

"Have you heard? The Eternal King has arrived!"

"The Messiah has been born!"

"You must drop everything and go find him! He will change you!" etc.

Lights down.