

a script from



COLLECTIVE

"The Magi: Part Three"

By
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What	A 4-Part Advent Series. The Magi meet Herod in his palace as they search for the Eternal King. Themes: Advent, Magi, Wise Men, Herod, Seeking Christ, Prophecy,
Who	Balthasar Gaspar Melchior Guard/Joses Herod
When	Biblical Times
Costumes	Period clothing
Props	Gifts (of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh) Optional throne for Herod
Why	Matthew 2:1-12, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 59:20, Isaiah 60:1-2
How	You can make the palace set as elaborate or as simple as you would like
Time	8-10 minutes

Lights up. Traveling to the stage with their gifts in hand are **Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar**.
(either down the aisle or slowly to SC, from SR)

Melchior: Are you sure we're in the right place? I don't see any other caravans coming to worship the King.

Balthasar: Remember, the Isaiah scroll says, "Arise, *Jerusalem*, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." This is the city of God. His temple is here. We *must* be in the right place.

Melchior: Then where are the throngs of worshipers and the caravans of camels we expected?

Gaspar: We have been traveling for months. Perhaps they came at the birth of the King and have headed home already.

Balthasar: Yes, that must be it. Well, here we are at the palace of the King.
(almost giddy with excitement) Are you ready, friends?

Gaspar: Melchior, may I borrow some of your frankincense? I washed at the inn, but I think I still smell like camel.

Melchior: Back off the frankincense! It's a gift.

Balthasar: You smell fine. Now no shenanigans. We're about to meet the Eternal King!

He raises his hand and pounds on the "door."

Guard: What is it? The King must not be disturbed.

Balthasar: (overflowing with joy, like a grandpa looking for his first grandson at the hospital) Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him.

Guard: (spluttering) Newborn? King? What? (he takes a good look at them) I see you are men of some means. I don't... know... *exactly* who you are looking for but... come in. I'm sure King Herod will want to see you.

Guard exits USL while the **Magi** look at each other confused. After a beat, **Herod** enters USL and crosses to meet the **Magi** DSC.

Herod: Ah! Distinguished gentlemen! I can see that you are not from around here, but you are welcome to our beautiful city. We have so much to offer men of your means. How can I help you?

Gaspar: *(a little weirded out by **Herod**, but working to recover gracefully and bowing)* Your Majesty. Your city is indeed beautiful, despite its occupation by the Romans...

Herod: *(dismissively)* Yes, yes, the Romans. We have come to a suitable arrangement with them. *(a little too cheerfully)* They let me have my throne and I let them have theirs.

Gaspar: *(with an awkward smile)* Indeed. And that's what we've come to talk with you about. You see...

Balthasar: *(bursting in. He's been biting his tongue this whole time)* Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him.

Herod: *(he laughs)* A newborn king?! Heaven help us! My wife is past childbearing age and the sons I *have* are all clamoring to kill me to take my throne. *(creepily, to himself)* But I've taken care of most of them.

Balthasar: *(not really processing what **Herod** said)* But we're certain a new King of the Jews has been born!

Gaspar: An Eternal King!

Melchior: Yes, we saw his star rising. The prophecies and signs all align.

Herod: *(beginning to look uncomfortable)* An Eternal King of the Jews, heh? And you say this is a fulfillment of prophecies?

Balthasar: Yes! I only have the scrolls of your prophets Daniel and Isaiah, but both prophesy the coming of an Eternal King who brings peace and restoration to Jerusalem.

Herod: Well! I have brought peace and restoration to Jerusalem! Don't you see this beautiful palace I've built? And I built Jerusalem's first theatre and amphitheater. And I completely restored the temple! Our city shines like it hasn't in ages. We are totally at peace!

Melchior: *(uncomfortably)* All due respect, Your Honor, but your city is occupied by Romans.

Herod: *(exploding)* But it is a peaceful occupation that I NEGOTIATED WITH ROME! *(remembering himself, becoming unnaturally polite)* Have you considered that I may be the Eternal King?

*The **Magi** all look at each other, then all speak at once.*

Balthasar: No.

Melchior: Not a chance.

Gaspar: We don't think so, Your Majesty.

Balthasar: We're certain that a new, Eternal King has just been born.

Herod: Well, that's... interesting. If it isn't me, then who could it be?

Gaspar: We were hoping *you* would be able to tell us that, Your Majesty.

Herod: *(pondering)* An Eternal King of the Jews? *(it dawns on him)* Oh!

Balthasar: What is it, Sire?

Herod: Well... I have heard that a Messiah has been promised in the Scriptures.

Melchior: A Messiah? Is that different than a king?

Herod: How should I know? I have scholars to tell me things like that. Aren't you wise men?

Gaspar: Well, yes, actually...

Balthasar: *(it dawns on him, too)* Of course! The Eternal King, the Anointed One, the Son of Man, they're all titles for the same person, the long-awaited Messiah – the Savior of the Jews. *(he turns to **Gaspar & Melchior**)* In the Isaiah scroll, right before the passage we discussed on the way here, it says "The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins." A Messiah is not just a king, but someone who delivers or saves his people from someone or something.

Melchior: Perhaps this Messiah will deliver Jerusalem from the Romans!

Gaspar: Remember the feet of the statue?! He is the Rock!

Herod: What feet? What statue? What rock? Rome has given me full authority to rule in Jerusalem. Let's not upset any pomegranate carts here.

Balthasar: *(growing impatient)* What else do you know about this Messiah?

Herod: I don't know anything! I told you; I have scholars for that.

Gaspar: Well, what do your scholars know? Where can we find him? We *must* go to worship him.

Herod: *(this really gets his goat. He glares at them for a moment then says, with eerie calmness)* Let me go consult with the leading priests and scribes and see what they have to say. *(he turns on his heel and marches out)*

Melchior: That guy gives me the creeps.

Balthasar: I don't understand! Herod is King of the Jews. How does he not know about the birth of his own Messiah.

Gaspar: It sounded to me like he wanted to be his own Messiah.

Melchior: Did he insinuate that he murdered his own sons?

Balthasar: This doesn't make sense. Where are the crowds? The rejoicing? The worshipers? How is it possible that no one in Jerusalem knows that their Messiah has arrived?

Gaspar: Perhaps no one was looking for him.

Balthasar: But why? Isaiah says when this Savior comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness and sorrow and mourning will disappear. Who would not want that? Who would not eagerly look and pray for that promise to be fulfilled?

Melchior: *(sarcastically)* But this is a beautiful city. Didn't you hear, Herod just built a new theatre, amphitheater, and temple. Who cares about the blind, deaf, and lame?! *(imitating Herod)* This city has plenty to offer men of means.

Herod and Joses enter just as he is finishing this sentence. **Herod** doesn't catch that he's being ridiculed.

Herod: It does indeed! I'd love to have you be my guests at the theatre tonight.

Gaspar: *(trying to be polite)* We really couldn't.

Melchior: *(speaking at the same time as Gaspar)* We must continue our journey...

Balthasar: *(jumping in)* What did you find out about the Messiah?

Herod: Ah yes, the Messiah. I've consulted Joses, here, who is our leading expert on the Law and the Prophets. Tell them where the Messiah is to be born, Joses.

Joses: In Bethlehem in Judea. For the prophet Micah says, "And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Herod: *(smirking)* There you have it: your Eternal King will be born in Bethlehem. *(he snickers)* I guess I don't have anything to worry about after all.

Balthasar: What do you mean you don't have anything to worry about?

Herod: *(backtracking)* Oh, I mean... I don't have to worry about making a long journey to find this new king. Bethlehem is only a long day's journey from Jerusalem. Here's what you must do. Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him too!

Balthasar: Thank you, Your Majesty!

Gaspar: We will, Your Majesty.

Herod: *(exiting SL with **Joses**)* Don't delay once you've found him! I cannot wait to meet this new king!

Melchior: *(after **Herod & Joses** are gone)* So...Bethlehem.

Balthasar: One more long day's journey until we meet the King.

Gaspar: The Messiah.

Melchior: Our Savior.

Gaspar: I didn't think I could be so excited about getting back on that camel but...

Balthasar: *(with great enthusiasm)* Let's GO!

They all hitch up their robes and hustle out the way they came in.