

a script from



COLLECTIVE

"The Magi: Part Two"

By
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What	A 4-Part Advent Series. The Magi travel to Jerusalem seeking the Eternal King. Along the way, they discuss the prophecies, the character of the God they seek, and their gifts. Themes: Advent, Magi, Wise Men, Seeking Christ, Prophecy, Trust, Obedience
Who	Balthasar Gaspar Melchior Daniel
When	Biblical Times
Costumes	Period clothing
Props	"Camels" (see note in "How"), A pack with a couple of scrolls, Opt: water flasks
Why	Matthew 2:1-12, Daniel 7:13-14, Daniel 9:1-19
How	Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior are traveling on "camels" in the middle of the stage. These could be depicted simply by sitting on stools while holding imaginary reins and swaying back and forth, or you could get fancy: Camel puppets, cardboard cutouts, projected camels, if your screen is low enough. I think a blow-up camel riding costume is too silly for the vibe of this scene, though. When Daniel enters, he should come downstage of the Magi, so be sure to leave some room for him.
Time	15 minutes

Lights up.

Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior are traveling on "camels" in the middle of the stage.

Melchior: Whose idea was this again?

Balthasar: It will all be worth it. I have to keep reminding myself it will all be worth it when we find the Eternal King.

Gaspar: I think I'm getting sand sick.

Melchior: I can't smell anything but camel.

Balthasar: I think I can *taste* camel.

Gaspar: I need something to distract me. Tell us the stories from Daniel again.

Melchior: He's told them every day for weeks now. I know this God is capable of mighty works, of telling the future, and of rescuing his people from kings and lions. But there must be more. Tell me more about Daniel's God. Remind me why He is worth these saddle sores.

Balthasar: Alright. *(he pulls a scroll out of his camel-pack)* Let's see. After all those stories of God's rescue, Daniel is reading in the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah and discovers that Jerusalem must lie desolate for 70 years.

Gaspar: So Daniel is not the only scroll that has prophecies!

Balthasar: Not at all! I also have the scroll of Isaiah and it is full of prophecies as well. I have never encountered so many prophecies that came true in my life.

Melchior: I know we're not supposed to admit this, but often when I'm using the stars or the signs to divine the future, I just make up something that is likely to happen.

Gaspar: Same.

Balthasar: But these prophecies are different. They name names! Isaiah prophesied that a man named Cyrus would command that Jerusalem's temple would be rebuilt after their exile.

Melchior: Cyrus? As in Cyrus the Great?

Gaspar: Yes! And he did exactly that! He famously documented his Edict of Restoration, allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon and rebuild their temple. When did Isaiah write this Prophecy?

Balthasar: One hundred fifty years before Cyrus was even born!

Gaspar & Melchior: Whoa...

Melchior: Ok, but we know this God knows the future. What else do we know?

Balthasar: Ah yes, when Daniel discovered Jerusalem would lie desolate for 70 years, he prayed a beautiful prayer that reveals so much about his God's character. Listen:

Daniel, (from Part 1), enters SL, crosses to DSC, and kneels.

Daniel: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God!"

Melchior: That's how all prayers to all gods start.

Balthasar: Keep listening!

Daniel: *(looking to heaven)* "You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands."

Gaspar: Now, that is different. Not many gods keep their promises, and I've never heard of a god who gives unfailing love.

Daniel: *(pleading)* "But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands. We have refused to listen to the prophets who spoke in Your name to all of us."

Melchior: He sounds like a tyrant with lots of demands.

Gaspar: Unless his commands were for the good of his people. And he sent prophets to speak to them on his behalf.

Daniel: "Lord, you are in the right..."

Gaspar: See?!

Daniel: ...but as you see, our faces are covered with shame because of our disloyalty to you." *(he covers his head and bows to the ground, then sits up, reassuring himself)* But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.

Melchior: *(starting to be swayed)* Oh wow. Mercy and forgiveness in the face of rebellion? That is different than any god or king I know.

Daniel: *(rising and beginning to pace)* "So now the solemn curses and judgements written in the Law of Moses have been poured down on us because of our sin. *(conversing with God now)* You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned."

Gaspar: See! He warned them of the consequences of their sins and did exactly what he promised. That sounds like what a good father would do.

Melchior: Hm. I don't disagree.

Daniel: "Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing Your Truth. The Lord our God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him."

Gaspar: His mercy was available! And he gave them Truth! I have been searching my whole life for Truth! All they had to do was turn from their sins and obey him.

Melchior: *(thoughtfully)* Yes, He strikes me more and more like a God worth obeying.

Daniel: *(passionately - both reassuring himself and reminding God)* "O Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by rescuing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn your anger away from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. *(dropping to his knees again)* O my God, lean down and listen to me. *(pointing, still passionate)* See how your city – the city that bears your name – lies in ruins. *(calmly, still)* We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy. *(bows head, closes eyes, holds out open hands)*

O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! *(looks to heaven)*
For your own sake, do not delay. For your people and your city bear
your name." *(he rises and exits SL)*

Gaspar: *(repeating the beautiful words)* "Not because we deserve help, but
because of your mercy." Yes. This is a God that is worthy of our
worship.

Melchior: Indeed. I would like to worship a God like that.

Balthasar: Yes, this God seems to be a God of Peace, Restoration, and Mercy.
(after a pause) Can we stop and take a break for a moment? I'd like to
find my Isaiah scroll.

Gaspar: Yes, please! I need to stretch!

Melchior: Gladly. *(as he dismounts)* Although, once I'm off, it will be difficult to
convince myself to get back on.

They all "stop" and dismount.

Balthasar: *(rummaging through his pack for another scroll)* The scroll of the
prophet Isaiah gives many warnings for what would happen if God's
people continued to disobey him and worship other gods.

Melchior: *(stretching his back)* What's wrong with worshiping other gods? How
else are we to cover all our bases?

Gaspar: Well, think about it. If this God really is the one, true God, the Creator
of all things like he claims, wouldn't it be an insult to him to worship
anything less? Remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the
fire and Daniel in the lion's den. Their God rescued them *because* they
refused to worship any other god or person but him.

Balthasar: A person cannot have peace when they are constantly trying to serve
this god and that god and appease all of them and keep them fed and
happy. Daniel's God can provide far more than any other god you
could worship and so He is worthy of all the praise. *(he starts reading
the scroll to himself as Melchior & Gaspar talk)*

Melchior: Hm. I'll have to think about that before I give up worshiping the gods of my youth.

They've finished stretching by now.

Gaspar: Why? Have you found peace in those gods? Do they provide you the answers and forgiveness that this God does?

Melchior: *(pauses to think)* Peace? Well, I am content with these gods because they are associated with my childhood.

Gaspar: But do they give you *peace*?

Melchior: I don't know! What do you mean by peace?

Gaspar: A feeling of quiet rest in your soul, even when everything is chaotic around you. Ever since we decided to embark on this journey, I have had a peace that I've never felt before. It did not make sense to pack up and travel for months on a hunch that our interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures would be right! But my heart has felt *peace* about the decision. I know it is what we should do. *We must* go to worship this king!

Melchior: I would like to experience peace like that. I must admit, I never have. I've been happy. I've been content. But this peace in the midst of chaos – knowing for certain that I'm where I'm supposed to be – that I have not felt.

Balthasar: *(with urgency)* Gaspar! Melchior! Listen to this!

Melchior: What is it?

Balthasar: I knew the scroll of Isaiah said something about Daniel's God being a God of peace, restoration, and mercy, so I was trying to find the section that talks about the restoration of Jerusalem. And I think I found it, but listen to how it starts! *(he reads)* "Arise, Jerusalem, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

Gaspar: Is this the light that we are following to Jerusalem?!

Balthasar: *(still reading)* "For behold, darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance."

Melchior: It's true!

Balthasar: "Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from afar and your little daughters will be carried on the hip. Your eyes will shine and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands."

Gaspar: We're not the only ones! Surely there will be a river of people flowing into Jerusalem to celebrate the Light that has risen!

Melchior: The Eternal King!

Balthasar: Listen! "Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshiping the Lord."

Gaspar &

Melchior: Whaaaaa?!?!

Melchior: What did you bring as a gift for the king?

Gaspar: Gold! What did *you* bring?

Melchior: Frankincense!

Gaspar & Melchior *are freaking out, clasping each other by the arms and dancing around.*

Balthasar *is smiling but not joining in.*

Gaspar: We're in the Scriptures!

Melchior: We're fulfilling a prophecy!

Gaspar: We're not crazy for making this trip!

Their dance comes to a stop, but they're still laughing and gleeful.

Melchior: Well, maybe a little bit crazy. *(turning to **Balthasar**)* Balthasar, what did you bring?

Balthasar: *(surprisingly serious)* Myrrh.

Gaspar: What?! Burial spices?!

Melchior: Why would you bring burial spices to someone who has been born an Eternal King?!

Balthasar: I... I don't know. I read something disturbing in Daniel before we left and I didn't know what to make of it, so I decided to bring him myrrh.

Melchior: *(growing serious)* What did you read?

Balthasar: It said, "After this, the Anointed One will be killed and will have nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple."

Melchior: *(completely deflated)* Why didn't you tell us this before?! He can't be an Eternal King if he's going to die! We've got it all wrong!

Gaspar: *(almost accusatorily)* I thought you said he would bring an Eternal Kingdom of peace and restoration. Now you say Jerusalem and God's temple will be destroyed!

Balthasar: I know... I don't know what it means. And I'm sorry I didn't tell you. But I'm *sure* there will be an Eternal Kingdom of peace and restoration. It's all over the Hebrew Scriptures. I just don't understand the full picture yet.

Gaspar: *(accepting it)* And so you set out on a thousand-mile journey to worship an Eternal King bearing burial spices.

Balthasar: Yes. *(he perks up a bit)* But, if this Anointed One is not destined to die, I find that myrrh has many other very practical uses. I use it to clean my teeth, kick a cold, and treat wounds. The aroma is very calming. It's a great stress reliever.

Melchior: Oh yes, I use it to treat my aching joints when it rains.

Gaspar: Really! I didn't know you could do that. It works on joint pain? Do you have extra? I could use some before I get back on my camel.

Balthasar: Get your own myrrh! I'm giving mine to an Eternal King who may be destined to die.

They lead their camels off SL as they banter.

Gaspar: "Get your own myrrh," he says. As if I'm going to go to the funeral market to buy myself a jar of burial spices.

Melchior: Oh come on, no one would bat an eye. You're old enough to be crawling into your death bed any day now.

Gaspar: Very funny.

Lights down as they exit. End scene.