

PERUSAL SCRIPT

Daniel

A Musical

by R. Rex Stephenson & C. Michael Perry



Salt Lake City

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DANIEL

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Cast of Characters : 9M, 4F + ensemble and children (some male roles can be played by females)

The THE FOUR (#2)

Daniel
Shadrack
Meshach
Abedego

King Nebuchadnezzar

Amytis

Aschpenaz, the Chamberlain

The THE FOUR (#1)

Johara
Verdah
Nellam
Kareema

Muhavie

Gospel Soloist (could be ABEDEGO)

Belshazzar (can be played by Neduchadnezzar)

Darius

Children (as servants, students, animals, lions)

Boy 1 (student)
Four Scawny Kids (students)
Babylon 1, 2, 3, 4 (students)
Lion

3 Mice

Giraffe

Servant Child

Ensemble (as soldiers (guards), Judeans, courtiers, citizens, attendants)

Soldier
Girls (4 or 5)
Professor
Big Lion

The following roles were played by women in the original cast: Abedego/Gospel Soloist, Aschpenaz, Muhavie, Darius.

DANIEL

ACT 1

MUSICAL #1 – OPENING

(City of Babylon, as the music segues cast members enter and some of the cast members are carrying signs ["Long Live King Neb," "Judah is ours!"])

COMPANY:

THE SACKING OF JERUSALEM IS WHAT WE'VE DONE;
WE'RE BRINGING ALL THE SPOILS BACK TO BABYLON.
SOME SAY WE DID JUDAH SUCH A GREAT, GREAT WRONG!
BUT IS IT OUR FAULT THAT OUR ARMIES ARE STRONGER?

CRASHED THE SACRED TEMPLE GATES
AND TOOK THE CUPS AND HOLY PLATES
AND BABYLON NOW CELEBRATES THE FALL!
LOOKING WEST AND LOOKING EAST
WE KILL A GREEK OR HANG A PRIEST.
WE'RE THE HOST! THE MOST! NOT LEAST OF ALL!

(Enter King Nebuchadnezzar and he is leading slaves, Daniel, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abed'ego, who wave at the audience.)

AND SINCE WE WON WE GET TO SING OUR JOYFUL SONG!
AS WE'RE THE VICTORS, YOU WILL NOTE, IT MIGHT TAKE LONG!
JERUSALEM WAS MIGHTY AND WE FOUGHT FOR YEARS.
AND NOW ALL OF JUDAH IS CAPTIVE IN TEARS!

CRASHED THE SACRED TEMPLE GATES
AND TOOK THE CUPS AND HOLY PLATES
AND BABYLON NOW CELEBRATES THE FALL!
LOOKING WEST AND LOOKING EAST
WE KILL A GREEK OR HANG A PRIEST.
WE'RE THE HOST! THE MOST! NOT LEAST OF ALL!

(Nebuchadnezzar comes forward.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

I'M NEBUCHADNEZZAR, I'M FULL OF GRACE
KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, YOU CAN EMBRACE
(Crowd mobs him)

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, SO, GIVE ME SPACE

(Crowd, guards)

CHORUS: *(Holding up a tablet with his face engraven on it)*

HE'S KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE

(Enter, Queen Amytis in bath tub)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

HERE'S MY QUEEN, AMYTIS,
A WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY BLISS
DON'T THINK ME SHY. I BEG YOUR PARDON --
FOR HER I BUILT A LITTLE HANGING GARDEN.

AMYTIS:

HE WAS GONE -- I RULED THE LAND.
EGYPT, AND SYRIA, AND PAKISTAN
FROM THIS TUB, I GAVE DICTATION
IT'S SUCH A STRAIN TO RUN A MIGHTY NATION.
WHAT'S A WOMAN TO DO
WHEN HER MAN'S GONE AWAY?
I JUST KEPT THE BALL ROLLING!
THAT WAY WHEN NEBBY RETURNED
NO ONE HAD TO GET BURNED
AND I'D GET SOME CONSOLING!

(Music vamps as he talks)

ASCHPENAZ: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me little pleasure to introduce-the THE FOUR

THE FOUR (THE ORIGINALS):

PERFORMING MAGIC IS OUR CRAZE
FOR THIS WE GET A LOT OF PRAISE
OUR SPELLS ARE THE RAGE
WE MAY SHOW OUR AGE
BUT NO ONE HERE IN BABYLON IS BETTER ON STAGE

(Short dance of magic spells gone wrong)

ASCHPENAZ: And now I present the boys from Judah -- our new royal captives.

(Daniel and Friends move forward and sing. Girls are all around, eyeing them and they are nervous)

SHADRACK, MESHACH, AND ABEDEGO:

SEIZED AND BOUND LIKE SLAVES

DANIEL:

WE'RE HEADED FOR OUR GRAVES.

SHADRACK, MESHACH, AND ABEDEGO:

THE LORD CHOOSES WHO HE SAVES!

ALL FOUR:

WHY FRET, WHY FUSS? IT'S HAZARDOUS!
REMEMBER WHEN WE DANCED WITH MEN?
THERE WERE NO GIRLS WITH TWIRLS AND PEARLS
IN ALL THOSE HEBREW RAVES

(Jewish sounding music causes a dance. At the end of the dance we vamp through dialogue. A SOLDIER and several more girls are wearing loads of jewelry and trinkets, pushing a cart load of gold plates and cups)

SOLDIER: Daniel, look at all this loot we brought from your temple.

ABEDEGO: Those are our most sacred treasures.

SOLDIER: So, what are you going to do about it?

DANIEL: Nothing. But I wouldn't eat off the golden plates nor drink from the golden cups. The Lord our God might take offense.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Sounds like good advice to me. Pack them away neatly.

(The group goes off disgruntled, escorted, under NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S direction, by other SOLDIERS)

CHORUS:

AND SINCE WE WON WE GET TO SING OUR JOYFUL SONG!
AS WE'RE THE VICTORS, YOU WILL NOTE, IT MIGHT TAKE LONG!
JERUSALEM WAS MIGHTY AND WE FOUGHT FOR YEARS.
AND NOW ALL OF JUDAH IS CAPTIVE IN TEARS!

WE CRASHED THE SACRED TEMPLE GATES
AND TOOK THE CUPS AND HOLY PLATES
AND BABYLON NOW CELEBRATES THE FALL!
LOOKING WEST AND LOOKING EAST
WE KILL A GREEK OR HANG A PRIEST.
WE'RE THE HOST! THE MOST! NOT LEAST,
WE'RE THE HOST! THE MOST! NOT LEAST,
WE'RE THE HOST! THE MOST! NOT LEAST OF ALL!

(At end of song, all exit. Strike and set up throne room scene. Shadrack, Meshach, Abedego, NebUCHADNEZZAR, Aschpenaz and Daniel are in this scene along with a couple of guards, and children.)

ASCHPENAZ: *(Announces)* Welcome to the court of King Nebuchadnezzar. Conqueror of Judah.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: And...?

ASCHPENAZ: And lest I forget, ruler of the crescent of civilization, Babylon and ancient Mesopotamia?

(Looks at the king.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: What about ruler of all the known world?

ASCHPENAZ: Yes. And ruler of all the known world. The King who someday will conquer Persia, lead camel caravans to India, wherever that is, and sail away to...

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Enough. Enough already. You may be wondering why I have brought you here. I mean, not why I have brought you here, to the palace, but here to Babylon. You probably thought, to be slaves. Hmm? Hmm?

DANIEL: The thought had crossed our mind, your majesty.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Well you're wrong. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong.

(Looks at Aschpenaz.)

ASCHPENAZ: Yes, you're wrong.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I am going to train you. Well, not me personally of course, you will be immersed in the language of Babylon, in the customs of Babylon for three years. You will be treated as royalty, to absorb our way of life. You will eat what I eat, sleep where . . .well not where I sleep, but in a nice place. You may ask, why am I doing this? Why is King Nebuchanezzar being so generous?*(Pause)*

ASCHPENAZ: *(To Daniel)* He wants you to ask.

DANIEL: Oh, I thought it was rhetorical. King, we were wondering...

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: Yes, why?

DANIEL: Why are you are being so generous?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Because you are youths without blemish. Handsome, well reasonably so, endowed with knowledge and I hope competent to serve in my palace. Pretty nice, huh, for people from a conquered land?

DANIEL: Yes, most generous.

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: Yes, generous. Generous.

(NEBUCHADNEZZAR turns to ASCHPENAZ.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: What are their names?

ASCHPENAZ: This one is Daniel and this one is Hananiah, this one is Mishael, and finally we have Azariah. They are all from the tribe of Judah.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Your names all sound kind of Jewish, to me. No offense.

DANIEL: None taken.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Let me give you some new names, I love to name things. For example, do you know who first called a camel, a camel? I did. Because you know, it looked like a camel.

DANIEL: With all do respect your majesty....

ASCHPENAZ: I wouldn't go there, Daniel. Yes, your majesty we all agree, your naming a camel a camel was a work of pure genius.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I always thought so. So anyway,

(pointing to Daniel)

you look like a Belteshaz'zar and you, Hananiah is it? You look like a Shadrack, and Mishael you look like a Meshach.

(To Aschpenaz)

I am doing good, right?

ASCHPENAZ: Yes, your majesty.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Now, Azariah. Hmmm, let me see. How about Nebo?

(To Aschpenaz)

What do you think?

ASCHPENAZ: Excellent name, truly inspired.

DANIEL: There is already a city named Nebo.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Good point, Daniel. Shadrack, Meshach, and uh, oh I just can't think of anything. That is so unlike me.

ASCHPENAZ: Maybe you should sleep on it. Get abed and uh...go.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, Abed' ego. Great names. Shadrack, Meshach, and my personal favorite, Abedego. See you boys from Judah in three years.

(Throne is struck. Blackboard is set up. On blackboard is "Babylon University and Technical Institute.")

MUSICAL #2 -- A ROYAL EDUCATION

PROFESSOR: *(in cap and gown)*

LET US BEGIN

YOUR ROYAL EDUCATION!

WE WILL BEGIN

WITH READING, WRITING, HISTORY;

ALL FORMS OF EDIFICATION

SCHOOLED YOU'LL BE

AND ATTENTION YOU'LL PAY

FOR LESSONS ARE HELD

EACH AND EVERY DAY

(Music underscores this)

This has all been decreed by King Nebuchadnezzar the second. Now hit the clay tablets boys from Judah

(There is a little dance here where they study and recite. A patter would work. Talk the following to music.)

PROFESSOR: History!

DANIEL:

BABYLON'S THE CAPITAL OF MESOPOTAMIA.

WITH RULERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM MEGA MEGALOMANIA.

PROFESSOR: Geography

SHADRACK:

BABYLON SITS BY THE EUPHRATES RIVER

WHICH IS COLD AND SHALLOW AND WILL MAKE YOU SHIVER.

PROFESSOR: Ancient history

MESHACH:

DON'T BE FOOLED BY ASSYRIANS AND HITTITES

THEIR BARK MAY BE SILLY BUT THE DOG SURE BITES!

THEY ONCE RULED THE LAND OF THE FERTILE CRESCENT. . .
WHICH IS A PLACE, NOT A WRENCH.

PROFESSOR: More geography

ABEDEGO:

BABYLON IS PRETTY, AND A PRETTY ANCIENT CITY.
IN ACRES THERE'S PRECISELY TWENTY-FIVE-O-NINE!
WHICH MAKES IT VERY EASY TO FIND.

(DANCE)

PROFESSOR: More ancient history

(Music stops and starts)

DANIEL:

LONG AGO, IN BABYLON, THE TOWER OF BABEL
WAS BUILT BY SOME MEN AND THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE ABLE
BUT THEY TRIED TO REACH THE HEAVENS, THIS GROUP OF RABBLE
BUT THEIR BUBBLE BURST AND BABEL BECAME JUST BABBLE!

PROFESSOR: Was that located here?

DANIEL: It was never finished. You can read about it in Genesis 10 and 11. The ruins are located at the corner of Babel and Nebo.

PROFESSOR: Remember, I'm the teacher.

SCHOOLED YOU'LL BE
AND ATTENTION YOU'LL PAY
FOR LESSONS ARE HELD
EACH AND EVERY DAY

(At the end of the song, the Fabulous Four enter)

ASCHPENAZ: It's time in your royal education for you to learn fortune telling, magic, astrology, and sorcery.
May I present the Fabulous Four?

NELLAM: I see the future.

KAREEMA: I read the signs in the heavens

JOHARA: *(Doing something magical)* I create magic.

VERDAH: I use supernatural powers over others.

KAREEMA: Put your trust in our knowledge and you will be the master of all you see.

DANIEL: We put our trust in the Lord our God.

JOHARA: We have gods too. But I know a curse that you can use on anybody you don't like and it will make his foot, fall off. Can your God do that?

DANIEL: He could, I don't think he'd want to.

SHADRACK: But the Lord our God parted the Red Sea.

MESHACH: And made manna drop from heaven.

ABEDEGO: And gave us the Ten Commandments.

NELLAM: Well, food from heaven is no big deal. We eat birds all the time. Now parting the Red Sea, that is a pretty nifty trick.

ABEDEGO: Then there were the locusts and let's not to forget Jericho.

MESHACH: *(Singing)* And the walls came tumbling down.

(Aschpenaz enters.)

ASCHPENAZ: Maybe the boys have had enough study for the day. We'll pick up this magic and fortune telling another time.

DANIEL: *(Exiting.)* By the way, could we talk about the food here? Sometime? *(Exit Daniel, Shadrack, Meshach, Abedego and Aschpenaz.)*

NELLAM: I find this Lord God of Judah, worrisome.

JOHARA: I agree. People who don't put their trust in fortune telling and wizardry can never be counted on to do the right thing.

VERDAH: I think we need to keep a close eye on these young men.

NELLAM: If their god's magic is stronger than ours we could be displaced.

JOHARA: Turned out pasture on social security.

KAREEMA: I agree. It could be very dangerous if King Nebuchadnezzar put too much stock in these foreigners.

NELLAM: Then we are in agreement?

JOHARA, VERDAH, KAREEMA: Yes. Yes. Yes.

KAREEMA: How do you suppose you would go about making the Red Sea part? You know that would be a pretty darn good trick.

(Lights fade. The THE FOUR exit. Daniel and group come up to a table)

ASCHPENAZ: *(announcing)* Bring forth food for Daniel, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abedego. This is the same food served at the King's table. Hop to it boys.

(Children bring in platters and he announces what they are. They stay back, just out of the way)

First we have a camel stew, named by none other than King Nebuchadnezzar himself. Now a pig, succulent and cooked to perfection. An octopus, garnered from the Mediterranean. And finally, one of his majesty's favorite dishes, stuffed owl, sautéed in red wine sauce, covered with dates and topped with bat gravy. Fit for a king, right?

DANIEL: We have a problem.

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: A very big problem.

ASCHPENAZ: A problem? Might I taste a bit of your owl, with bat gravy?

DANIEL: Knock yourself out. You see, Aschpenaz, we cannot eat any of this. It's against Jewish dietary laws.

SHADRACK: Deuteronomy 14 verse 3.

MESHACH: Do not eat anything that the Lord has declared

ABEDEGO: Unclean.

ASCHPENAZ: What can be unclean about an owl covered with bat gravy?

DANIEL: I don't know; it's the law.

ASCHPENAZ: Wait, wait, here comes the wine. *(Children enter carrying wine.)* Knock back a couple bottles of this and you won't care what the law is.

DANIEL: Sorry, can't do that either.

ASCHPENAZ: So your religion will not allow you to eat pork or owls or camels? And you are not allowed to drink strong spirits?

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: That's right, that is the law.

ASCHPENAZ: You ever think about changing religions? I worship Bao, he doesn't much care.

(Whispering)

As a matter of fact, I don't even think he exists.

DANIEL: If you would just give us vegetables and water, we would be fine.

ASCHPENAZ: No, no, no. You want me to get my head cut off? You see every other week, King Nebuchadnezzar wants to look at you and all the other interns in the palace. And if you were just drinking water and eating vegetables you would waste away to nothing and I would be blamed for not feeding you correctly.

DANIEL: This is a problem. Let us try to solve it this way. Feed us nothing but water and vegetables for ten days and at the end of that time if we don't look healthier than all the rest of the interns, then we will eat your food.

ASCHPENAZ: But you will waste away to nothing in ten days. How could you possibly survive?

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: The Lord our God will take care of us.

ASCHPENAZ: All right, *(To Servants)* take all of this away. Bring them dates and boiled carrots and cabbage and water, uh, from the artesian spring. Ten days, right?

MUSICAL # 3 -- THEY EAT

SERVANT CHILDREN:

WE SERVE THEM OWLS
WHICH EVERYBODY KNOWS
ARE GOOD FOR YOUR BOWELS
AND PUTS HAIR IN YOUR NOSE!
BUT ITS CARROTS THEY EAT
AND LETTUCE, A TREAT!
THEY SCORN ALL OUR TASTY MEAT!

(Lights fade; up on inspection time at the palace)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: All right, inspection time. Let's see who is healthy and not.

(To Aschpenaz)

How are our young Jewish friends doing with a diet of Kings?

ASCHPENAZ: You will be surprised your majesty, you will be surprised.

(Shadrack, Meshach, Abed' ego and Daniel enter.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: They look quite fit. Abed' ego, I love that name, do you like what you are being fed?

ABEDEGO: Yes, your majesty, we adore it.

SHADRACK, MESHACH: It's very tasty.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I bet they don't serve anything like this in Judah

DANIEL: They serve nothing like what you eat sir, in our homeland.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Bring out the other interns. I trust they will be as healthy and well fed as the boys here from Judah.

(Enter four scrawny kids.)

ASCHPENAZ: Here they are your majesty, maybe not quite as healthy as Daniel and his friends.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Haven't you been eating the royal food? What did you have for breakfast?

BOY 1: Fried buzzard. Vulture steaks and bat gravy.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Well, that's what I had.

(To Aschpenaz)

How do you account for these boys from Judah looking so healthy and these others looking so sickly?

ASCHPENAZ: They say sir, and not that I put any store by this, but it has something to do with their Lord thy God.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: The Lord your God. Somebody around the court has told me something about this.

DANIEL: If we trust in the Lord, miracles can happen.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Oh. Like making the Red Sea part. Now I remember, my advisors were telling me about this Lord your God thing.

MESHACH: You should sir, put your faith...

ABEDEGO: In the Lord our God.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, yes. All of you are dismissed. Now tonight for dinner, we are having dates, stuffed with hornets. I want all of you boys to eat your fill. We need you to look like the boys from Judah.

(All others exit)

Advisors I know you are lurking around here somewhere.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Advisors, I know you are here.

(In the background are 4 self-standing palm trees. The palm trees turn around revealing JOHARA, NELLAM, VERDA, and KAREEMA)

Palm trees, that's a new one.

NELLAM: We have Kareema to thank for that.

(Everyone applauds, KAREEMA bows)

KAREEMA: How about I make a donkey disappear.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Nah, I'm well aware of your abilities. But for the record, you know that I was the first one that named the donkey!

ASCHPENAZ: Yes, your majesty, we are all aware.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, the donkey used to be called an Aflyganist.

NELLAM: All of neo-Babylon is aware of your abilities to name, your majesty.

JOHARA: But what we wish to talk with you about...

VERDAH: Are these boys from Judah?

(Amytis enters)

AMYTIS: Holding court without me?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: You were still in the bathtub.

AMYTIS: So we are talking about the boys from Judah. They look healthy enough. How are they doing with their studies?

KAREEMA: That's what we wanted to talk with you about.

JOHARA, NELLAM, VERDAH: Yes, their lessons.

AMYTIS: I take it from the tone of your voice that there is a problem.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Dear, remember, I'm in charge now.

AMYTIS: So sorry, old habits die hard.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I take it from the tone of your voice that there is a problem

VERDAH: They do not want to study our arts.

JOHARA: They want nothing to do with astrology, fortune telling, magic, or wizardry.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Really? How will they be able to tell the future? Interpret dreams?

KAREEMA: Or make elephants disappear?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Did I tell you that I named the ...

AMYTIS: Yes, we know dear, but, maybe they don't need the "black arts"

JOHARA, NELLAM, VERDAH, KAREEMA: "The black arts"!?

NELLAM: Bite your tongue!

KAREEMA: What would our god Marduk think if he heard someone from the royal household call the divine powers he has given us

JOHARA, NELLAM, VERDAH: The black arts!! (*Shudder and look up*)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Dear, you must take it back. You must say

“Spit, spat, hop, drop

With this whack I take it back”

Well, do it!!

(Amytis reluctantly does actions)

EVERYONE (*chants*)

Spit, spat, hop, drop

with this whack I take it back.

NELLAM: Let's hope that satisfies, god Marduk.

(VERDAH, JOHARA, KAREEMA Move away and look up)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Royal advisors what are you looking for?

JOHARA: Lightning from the heavens to strike her dead.*(Pause)*

AMYTIS: You think I'm safe now?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Maybe she should do it again?

AMYTIS: Not on your life!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Let's get back to the business at hand. The boys from Judah...

VERDAH: ...As we said. They are not attending to their studies.

JOHARA: Whenever we hold class, they make some excuse to be away.

AMYTIS: How unlike students. What's the world coming to, missing class!

KAREEMA: We feel it is a matter that must be dealt with seriously.

NELLAM: We need a royal proclamation. Either they come to class or they end up in the fiery furnace.

AMYTIS: So much for modern education.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: "Spare the rod and spoil the child." As a matter of fact, I think that Daniel told me that. He has a lot of pithy sayings.

KAREEMA: So, can we have a royal proclamation?

VERDAH: Skip class once more and into the fiery furnace.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Well, I guess we could do that

AMYTIS: Dear, before we make a royal proclamation, maybe you could just have a little chat with Daniel. Sort of father to son

KAREEMA: We warn against that.

VERDAH: Yes. Should Kneb be known as a "softie".

NELLAM: True. Who then would follow any a royal decree?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Decisions, decisions. That's why I like running the army. People say, "What should we do today?." I say, "Let's go out and kill somebody." It's so simple.

AMYTIS: Why don't you sleep on it? Make a decision tomorrow.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I've made a decision. I shall sleep on it. Come, wife, let's stroll through your hanging gardens.

(NEBUCHADNEZZAR and AMYTIS exit)

KAREEMA: These boys from Judah are not to be trusted.

VERDAH: I think we need a plan and a good one at that.

JOHARA: Yes, either they go back to Jerusalem or--

NELLAM: We figure out a way to make Nebuchadnezzar kill them and make appear to be his idea. Agreed?

(All put hands together like basketball players)

"Go team"

BLACKOUT

(Blue lights come up; stage is filled with people with torches. It is obviously night.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Daniel, Meshach, Shadrack, and . . . Abedego I love that name. Wife, did I tell you that I...

AMYTIS: Yes, dear, you thought of Abedego.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I called you here because my royal advisors are telling me that you're skipping your class. So, I thought. . .

AMYTIS: Ahem, "you thought"?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: We thought. . .

AMYTIS: We thought. . .?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: All right! She thought that we should invite all of Babylon to come and take the astrology class with you. I myself could learn a few things about the stars. So, royal advisors, proceed!

NELLAM: First let us thank King Nebuchanezzar. . .

VERDAH: And his wife, queen Amytis. . .

JOHARA: For their forethought.

KAREEMA: In allowing us to share some of the secrets of the universe. First for a definition. Boys, you'll want to get this in your notes;

(A kid passes out stone tablets and chisels)

Astrology is the art and science of foretelling the future based upon the placement of the stars and moon around the earth.

VERDAH: Primary to our study is this diagram of the universe.

(Shows diagram)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I can't see it. Can you see it?

DANIEL: Your majesty, I can't see it.

JOHARA: Light, light, give us light.

(Some people with torches come over)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: That's some better. Can you see it Daniel?

JOHARA: Bring the light closer!

AMYTIS: If you do that you'll set your diagram on fire!

KAREEMA: All right, all right. We will just tell you about the universe

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: No audiovisuals? Oh, I hate that.

KAREEMA: What's on the chart is a drawing of how the sun and all the stars revolve around the earth.

VERDAH: And, because the sun revolves around the earth.

DANIEL: How do you know that? What if the earth revolved around the sun?

NELLAM: There's got to be one in every classroom.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Daniel, Pay attention and don't ask stupid questions.

AMYTIS: I'm not sure that's a stupid question

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Good point. So explain it to us wizard.

KAREEMA: All right. Basic science. First, the world is flat. If you go all the way west, you come to Egypt. If you go past Egypt, you fall off the map. Verdah...

VERDAH: And if you go all the way east, you end up in present day Afghanistan and then you fall off. Nellie...

NELLAM: North you get to the Mediterranean; south you go to India. . .we think

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Now, that makes sense. Do you think that makes sense Daniel?

DANIEL: Who am I to argue with science? But, where does the sun go? And, how does it know to come up?

VERDAH: Finally a good question

KAREEMA: Because its morning! The sun comes up when it knows it's morning and then it hides so it can be night.

DANIEL: And then the moon knows to come up!

KAREEMA: He's got it right.

(Everybody cheers.)

DANIEL: Small question. How do the sun and moon know things?

(Advisors all look at each other.)

NELLAM: Well,

SHADRACK: You don't mean that. . .

MESHACH: the sun and moon and stars. . .

ABEDEGO: all think?

JOHARA: The answer to that is...

(looks at VERDAH)

VERDAH: The answer to that is...

(looks at KAREEMA)

KAREEMA: The answer to that. . . will be covered in tomorrow's lesson. And now to move on.

NELLIE, VERDAH, JOHARA: Yes. To move on.

KAREEMA: Now Daniel, do you see that star up there to the north?

DANIEL: The North Star

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Wrong, that's King Nebuchadnezzar's star. I named it.

KAREEMA: Now by aligning that star with that star, and that star, and that star, and that star and using the new yet invented science of geometry we can plot.

(starts drawing on her board)

the future.

(Everyone applauds. We hear "Hurray for science" from crowd)

NELLAM: And that is lesson one in understanding our modern world here in the crescent of civilization as revealed through art and science. Do you have it?

VERDAH: Are there any questions?

DANIEL: Can we recap what we have learned today?

AMYTIS: I told you these boys are bright

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, I sure wouldn't want to try to do it.

MUSICAL #4 -- NOMENCLATURE

DANIEL, MESHACH, SHADRACK, AND ABEDEGO:

THE ART FORM OF ASTROLOGY.
IS QUITE UNLIKE PHILOSOPHY.
MORE METAPHYSICAL THAN NATURE;
IS THAT THE PROPER NOMENCLATURE?

THE FOUR: Yes, yes quite astute

CROWD:

THE WORLD IS FLAT.
WE'RE SURE OF THAT.
AND THE SUN KNOWS
WHEN TO SHOW, WHEN TO GO.

THE ART FORM OF ASTROLOGY
IS QUITE UNLIKE PHILOSOPHY
MORE METAPHYSICAL THAN NATURE
SO THAT IS THE PROPER NOMENCLATURE!

(Everything strikes. Game show is set up. If possible, in the back is a banner that reads: "Risk, Hazard, and Jeopardy." Shadrack, Meshach, Abedego, and Daniel are at a table stage right. Babylonian 1, 2, 3, and MUHAUVIE are at a table stage left. Amytis is on a throne. We hear something that sounds like the Jeopardy theme from TV.)

ASCHPENAZ: Welcome to Risk, Hazard, and Jeopardy. The game show where the boys from Judah test their knowledge against our home team the boys from Babylon.

(Cheers)

AMYTIS: *(Stand)* Just as a bit of explanation. Three years ago my husband required all eight of our challengers to be schooled in everything that would make them excellent royal advisors. The time has come for all of them to prove their knowledge.

(Sit)

ASCHPENAZ: And now without further ado, I present the host of Risk, Hazard, and Jeopardy, King Nebuchadnezzar, himself.

(General applause. NEBUCHADNEZZAR enters running, carrying note cards)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Thank you. Thank you. Let me review how our game is played. I will give you the question and you will provide the answers. Each question is worth x number of points which will be written in Arabic numerals by our scorekeepers the Fabulous Four.

(More cheering)

Contestants, are we ready? For 10 Arabic numeral points, why did I, King Nebuchadnezzar, create the seventh wonder of the ancient world, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?

DANIEL: *(Hits his buzzer)* Because Queen Amytis missed the rolling hills of her native land, Median.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Correct for 10 points.

(People cheer, THE FOUR marks up 10)

And now for a geography question. For 20 Arabic numeral points. If one were to cross the Mediterranean Sea, where would they end up?

(ABEDEGO hits his buzzer):

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Abedego, I love that name, what is the answer?

ABEDEGO: Well, depending on where you left from, you would end up in present day France, Italy, or Greece.

KAREEMA: Wrong!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Boys from Babylon, do you have an answer?

BABYLON 1: You would fall off the map.

THE FOUR: Correct!

(Mark up 20 points)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: And now a question dealing with the royal family. Who was my father? I'll give you a little hint; I am Nebuchadnezzar the second.

BABYLON 2: *(Rings buzzer)* Nabucco, the third.

KAREEMA: *(Meekly)* Wrong.

NELLAM: Terribly wrong.

MESHACH: Nebuchadnezzar, the first!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Correct for 10 Arabic numeral points. And now for a question of astrology. To give credit, this question was composed by the Fabulous Four.

(Mild applause)

When the sun goes down, where does it go?

MUHAUVIE: *(Hits his buzzer)* It goes to sleep!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Correct for 10 Arabic numeral points. Now the final Risk, Hazard, and Jeopardy question, and remember you can risk any number of points you have. Score keepers, what are our totals:

KAREEMA: The boys from Judah have a measly 10 and our boys from Babylon have 30 points. . Which means if they don't wager anything, they win. Right Verdah?

VERDAH: Yes, they should not wager anything.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: The question is, and I give credit to Queen Amytis for thinking of this, if I was to build a palace that was 1012 cubits long, 412 cubits wide, how many square cubits of living space would I have.

(Tick, tock noise while contestants write.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: First we'll go to the challengers from Babylon. The Home Team! You risked all your points? What is your answer?

BABYLON BOYS: The answer, your majesty, is unknowable.

(THE FOUR cheer)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Wrong! Boys from Judah, how much did you wager? All of your points?

SHADRACK: Four hundred. . .

MESHACH: Sixteen thousand. . .

ABEDEGO: Nine hundred . . .

DANIEL: Forty-four square cubits!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR and **AMYTIS:** You win.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Our new champions and our new, most prominent royal advisors are the boys from Judah.

AMYTIS: *(Stands)* Give me a J

CROWD: J

AMYTIS: Give me a U

CROWD: U

AMYTIS: Give me a D

CROWD: D

AMYTIS: Give me an A

CROWD: A

AMYTIS: Give me an H

CROWD: H, Judah

(Confetti guns go off amid great cheering. Everyone exits but the fab 4 and boy #1. THE FOUR cross center.)

KAREEMA: Tough loss Muhauvie.

MUHAUVIE: I think they cheated.

NELLAM: The answers were sealed. The questions were authenticated by Prize Waterhouse Incorporated.

MUHAUVIE: It was the Lord their God who helped them.

JOHARA: Interesting point. I think you may be on to something.

VERDAH: Never the less, we all are in agreement that Neo-Babylon would be much better off without the boys from Judah.

MUHAUVIE: I'd drink to that.

NELLAM: Do you want me to conjure something?

KAREEMA: We don't have time for that, but what we do have time for, is enlisting your support, to rid our country of these Jewish boys.

MUHAUVIE: How can I help?

VERDAH: Then you're with us?

MUHAUVIE: Babylon should be run by Babylonians.

BLACKOUT

(Palace -- Nebuchadnezzar, Aschpenaz, a couple of royal attendants, no furniture; night. King is pacing with all the others (not queen) pacing behind them. Some carrying torches. King muttering to self. AMYTIS enters, a couple of people following with torches.)

AMYTIS: Dear, why are you not in bed?

ASCHPENAZ: That's what I've been asking him. Why aren't you in bed?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: It's because of this dream. I've had the same dream seven nights in a row.

AMYTIS: Really, poor dear, no wonder you can't sleep.

ASCHPENAZ: I've been trying to tell him to call in the Fabulous Four. Why have sorcerers, wizards, and fortune tellers if you are not going to have them interpret your dreams.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: All right. I can't stand this any longer. I have got to get some sleep. Bring the Fabulous Four to me.

(Aschpenaz and a guard exit)

AMYTIS: Dear, it has occurred to me that if the Fabulous Four are really as good as they say they are, then I would ask them to tell you what you dreamed and then interpret it.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: How would they know what I dreamed?

AMYTIS: Aren't they wizards and magicians? Isn't this the kind of stuff they are supposed to know?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Good point. Very good point.

ASCHPENAZ: Here, they are your majesty.

(The Fabulous Four have on night gowns, night caps, and are very sleepy.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Fabulous Four, I am worried about a dream I've had for seven nights in a row. Tell me what it means.

KAREEMA: May your majesty live forever. Tell us your dream. .

OTHER THREE: And we will explain it to you.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: No, you must tell me the dream and then tell me what it means. Correct, wife?

AMYTIS: Yes, because if you are truly sorcerers, you should know the dream.

KAREEMA: There is no one on the face of the earth who can do that, your majesty.

JOHARA: Maybe our god, Marduk, could do it.

NELLAM AND VERDAH: But not us.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: You are all frauds. I'm going to have every one of you killed.

(To Aschpenaz)

Chisel this out on a clay tablet. All royal advisors who practice magic are to be executed. Signed King Nebuchadnezzar the second.

VERDAH: Surely you mean to exclude us? The fab 4.

NELLAM: Yes, We who have always loved you, as we have loved our positions in this kingdom.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Execute them all.

AMYTIS: Maybe before you do that husband, maybe you should ask the boys from Judah.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Why should I ask them?

AMYTIS: Not only are they the best and brightest in the land, but remember the Lord their God parted the Red Sea.

(Hoping to save their own lives.)

KAREEMA: And made manna fall from the sky.

JOHARA: And made the wall come tumbling down.

NELLAM: And appeared once as a burning bush.

THE FOUR: Spare us and turn to the boys from Judah.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: All right. Bring them here.

AMYTIS: I took the liberty, your majesty, of already sending for them. Daniel and friends enter please.

(They enter)

JOHARA: He wants you to interpret a dream.

NELLAM: but the catch is..

VERDAH: He won't tell you the dream!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Can you do it, Daniel?

DANIEL: We will have to pray about it.

(Daniel and friends move down stage right. A pool of light comes up on them as they pray.)

God, wise and powerful, who controls the times and the season, who makes and unmakes kings

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: Give us wisdom and understanding. Reveal things that are deep and secret.

DANIEL: The only one who knows what is hidden in darkness

THE FOUR: We praise and honor you, the Lord our God.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: What are they doing?

AMYTIS: They are praying, your majesty. I think they are asking their God to reveal your dream.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Let's move along, I'm getting sleepy now. Daniel, can you do it?

(Daniel and group cross back.)

DANIEL: Yes, your majesty, I can. There is no wizard, fortune teller, or astrologer who can tell you your dream, but there is a God in Heaven who reveals all mysteries. Your dream is a dream of the future

ABEDEGO: Now we will reveal this mystery, but it is not because we are wiser than anyone else, but because the Lord our God spoke to us.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Go on, go on.

DANIEL: You were standing before a giant statue. Its head was made of gold.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: That's right, that's right. And his chest and arms?

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: Was made of silver.

DANIEL: Its hips of bronze, its legs of iron, and its feet made of both iron and clay.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, yes and tell me what happened next!

DANIEL: A great stone struck the feet of the statue and crushed it and left everything as dust.

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO: Then the stone that crushed the statue grew into a mountain

DANIEL: That covered the whole world.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: That is right. That is exactly right! Wife, I knew these boys from Judah could interpret this dream!

THE FOUR: They haven't interpreted anything, yet!

DANIEL: And now for the interpretation.

MUSICAL #5 -- THE DREAM

DANIEL:

THE LORD OUR GOD HAS HELD YOU IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS HANDS.
AND HE ALONE HAS FASHIONED YOU A KING IN ALL THE LANDS.
HE SENDS US DREAMS AND VISIONS AND HE SEARCHES EV'RY HEART.
HIS PLAN HAS ROOM FOR EACH TO PLAY A PART.
AS FOR YOUR DREAM, YOU ARE THE TOP, THE HEAD OF GOLD.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

ONLY A DREAM? DON'T STOP! I'M BLEST TO BE SO BOLD

DANIEL:

ANOTHER WILL COME TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.
THE CHEST MADE OF SILVER FILLS YOUR SPACE.
THIS GLORIOUS KINGDOM, SOON IT WILL ERASE.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: These are empires that will follow mine?

DANIEL: Yes.

THE REST OF YOUR DREAM, THE BELLY AND THE THIGHS OF BRASS
CONQUER THE SILVER KINGDOM AS IF IT WERE GLASS!
IRON AND CLAY THEN VANQUISH ALL!
BUT, MIXED AS IT IS, IT TOO, WILL FALL!
GOD WILL BE THERE TO BUILD HIS CAPITAL!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Each Kingdom, poorer than mine, conquers and falls?

DANIEL: *(Nodding)*

SO, ONLY GOD'S KINGDOM WILL ENDURE;
WHILE ALL OF THE OTHERS, NOT SO PURE,
WILL SHATTER AND BREAK AND MELT AWAY IN FIRE.
A STONE THAT IS CUT FROM THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS, BY GOD,
WILL ROLL CROSS THE EARTH AND COVER ALL THE LANDS.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: & DANIEL:

A STONE THAT IS CUT FROM THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS!
YES, GOD WILL COVER ALL THE LANDS.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Daniel, your God is the greatest of all gods, the Lord over all Kings, the only God able to read men's hearts and minds.

AMYTIS: Now can we all go back to bed.

(All exit except the Fabulous Four.)

KAREEMA: This is not good. The boys from Judah and this God of theirs have the king in the palm of their hands.

NELLAM: We must do something. .

JOHARA: devious. . .

VERDAH: and quickly.

KAREEMA: I have a plan. It involves not only the boys from Judah, but the queen.

(Lights fade. Lights up on throne. As pushing throne on with NEBUCHADNEZZAR in it, AMYTIS following)

AMYTIS: What do you mean, I have to go to Jerusalem.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: It's a great place to shop. There are some real craftsmen in Judah.

AMYTIS: If I wanted to go shopping, I'd go down to the bazaar.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: The problem is, that, you see in Jerusalem . . . well the people there in Jerusalem, can I just say, it's a great place to shop.

AMYTIS: I want you to explain to me why I have to go to Jerusalem.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: *(To Aschpenaz)* Explain to her what I mean.

ASCHPENAZ: There's been a great deal of dissent in Jerusalem and the Fabulous Four thought

AMYTIS: Who?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Well, I thought, with the help of the Fabulous Four

ASCHPENAZ: That you and Daniel, with your renown powers of organization could bring that province back into line again, have them pay their taxes on time, and think of themselves as happy productive citizens under the thumb of King Nebuchadnezzar the second.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: It's a royal decree. Show her the clay tablets.

(Aschpenaz shows tablets.)

Missy, missy; kissy, kissy.

(Amytis kisses king on cheek.)

And bring me back something nice.

(Lights fade, AMYTIS exits; lights back up)

So how long has the queen been gone?

ASCHPENAZ: Six weeks, sir.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: It's kind of lonely here without her.

(Fabulous Four enter.)

THE FOUR: So, how is our majesty today?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Pretty lonesome. Would you say despondent even?

ASCHPENAZ: I'd say you are despondent, sir.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: When can the queen come back?

NELLAM: There's still a problem in Jerusalem. Maybe a month, maybe more.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: In that amount of time, I could drift into depression. Don't you think?

ASCHPENAZ: You have all the signs, sir. Anxiety, restlessness, tension, sleepless nights. I wish I could prescribe something for you.

KAREEMA: You don't need to prescribe something for him. We have the answer. What you need to do is to build a golden statue-ninety feet tall.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Of who?

VERDAH: Of you naturally.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Oh, I like that.

JOHARA: And we'll put it in the center of Babylon.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Of me! Ninety feet tall

VERDAH: There's more. It will be constructed on pillars

KAREEMA: 20 feet tall, so that you, your majesty, can stand underneath it and watch folks adore you. And every so often music will play.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Music?

VERDAH: We'll get a band. And when the music starts, all the people will have to bow down

NELLAM: and worship the gold statue of King Nebuchadnezzar.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Hey, I like that! What if they don't? You know the ratings in the last polls showed me with under a 30% approval rate.

KAREEMA: If they don't bow immediately, right on cue, they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. That should get their attention.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I like that!

JOHARA: So how's your depression now?

(NEBUCHADNEZZAR has a big smile as the lights fade. Throne is pushed to back. The pillars are set side by side. When the lights come up, NEBUCHADNEZZAR is on throne. The THE FOUR to the left. There are a couple of guards to the right along with Aschpenaz. Rest of cast is milling out in front.)

ASCHPENAZ: *(On light)* Ladies and gentlemen, this is the official dedication of the King Nebuchadnezzar's statue. When you hear the sound of music, bow down and worship this golden statue. Anyone fails to do so, will quickly be thrown into a fiery furnace.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: *(To THE FOUR)* Are we ready?

THE FOUR: Whenever.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Then, cue the band.

(We hear music. Everyone bows except Shadrack, Meshach, and Abedego.)

KAREEMA: Your majesty everyone showed great respect except the boys from Judah.

VERDAH: Yes. Shadrack, Meshach, & Abedego did not even nod their heads.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I didn't see it I bowed myself. Cue the music again.

(Everyone bows except Shadrack, Meshach, and Abedego)

KAREEMA: See you majesty, they didn't bow.

VERDAH: It is into the fiery furnace for them.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Let's not be hasty, Daniel explained that to me. It has something to do with no graven images. If the queen were here, she could explain it better than I.

JOHARA, VERDAH, NELLAM: But, it was a royal decree!

KAREEMA: It was designed, your majesty, to cure your depression.

(Music again. Everyone bows. NEBUCHADNEZZAR also bows.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Say again, I missed what you were saying. The music . . .

KAREEMA: The only way to cure your depression is for everyone to bow down,

NELLAM: Not just the Babylonians, but also the Assyrians and the Hittites, and the Hebrews.

VERDAH: They all have to show proper respect. *(Music cue again)*

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Stop the music. I can't concentrate. So I have to throw Shadrack, and Meshach, and, my favorite, Abednego into a blazing furnace?

NELLAM: You should be mad. . .

VERDAH: Darn mad. . .

JOHARA: That they won't help in curing your depression.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Boys from Judah come up here. Boys, you gotta bow down. If you don't, it is into the furnace. Do you think your God can save you?

SHADRACK: The Lord God, whom we serve, is able to save us from your furnace.

MESHACH: If that is His will. He will.

ABEDEGO: But even if He doesn't, we will not worship your statue.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Let me cue the music again. . . It doesn't have to be a big bow. Just lean over like you are tying your shoes, or something. The Fabulous Four have got me here in a real bind.

ABEDEGO: "Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals." Exodus 25.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: You are making me angry.

ASCHPENAZ: He's getting red in the face. Bend over boys; bow down.

MESHACH, SHADRACK, ABEDEGO: Sorry, we can't do that.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: *(Shouts)* Bring on the blazing furnace! I want it seven times hotter than it has ever been and then throw these boys in.

(Children carrying some kind of flame make a circle. They are joined by some of the adults.)

MUSICAL # 6 -- INTO THE FIRE!

(Each group continues while the next group adds on to the chant)

CHILDREN:

FIRE --- FIRE ----FIRE --- FIRE

PERSPIRE -- PYRE! PYRE! PYRE!

FIRE --- FIRE ----FIRE --- FIRE

PERSPIRE -- PYRE! PYRE! PYRE!

CROWD:

HOT --- HOT --- HOT!

HOT --- HOT --- HOT!

THE FOUR:

ROASTING, TOASTING, TOASTING, ROASTING!

ALL:

THIS HEAT IS HARD TO BEAT!

THE FURNACE IS BLAZING, SCORCHING, BURNING

LEAVING EVERYONE JUST YEARNING!

WE DON'T KNOW QUITE WHERE TO BEGIN!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

JUST OPEN THE DOOR AND THROW THEM IN!

(They do.)

THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP THE SIZZLE!

AS THIS TORTURE IS NEW.

DON'T WANNA SEE OUR PLANS ALL FIZZLE:

TO COOK THREE PRISONERS IN A BARBEQUE

CROWD:

THE FURNACE IS BLAZING, SCORCHING, BURNING

LEAVING EVERYONE JUST YEARNING!

WE DIDN'T KNOW QUITE HOW TO BEGIN!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

SO, WE OPENED THE DOOR AND THREW THEM IN!

SHADRACK:

IT'S HOT ENOUGH IN HERE TO SWEAT.

MESHACH:

BUT OUR FEET AREN'T BURNING YET

ABEDEGO:

WE'LL TRY NOT TO FRET! WE'LL NEVER FORGET!

ALL:

WE TRUST IN YOU, JUST IN YOU, WITH NO REGRET

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

WHY ARE THEY STILL THERE?

I FIND THIS MOST UNFAIR!

THE FOUR:

IT MAKES US SO MAD, SO MAD WE COULD SWEAR!

CHILDREN:

A FIRE SO HOT, WHO CAN BEAR IT!

(Music changes a little)

SHADRACK, MESHACH:

TO OUR LORD WE OFFER PRAYER

ABEDEGO:

HE'S NUMBERED EVERY HAIR;

SO WHAT HAVE WE TO FEAR?

(ANGEL appears in fire)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR:

WHO'S THE OTHER IN THE FIRE?

CROWD:

CAN IT BE A HEAVENLY CHOIR?!

SHADRACK, MESHACH, ABEDEGO:

NOW WE HAVE AN ANGEL NEAR

WHO FROM OUR LORD, A REWARD, BRINGS US GOOD CHEER

(Nebuchadnezzar opens the door. The furnace disappears.)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Shadrack, Meshach, and Abed ego, come out. This is the miracle of all miracles.

ABEDEGO: It was hot your majesty, but we did not burn.

ASHPENAZ: Their hair is not singed; their clothes are not burned! Explain this to me.

MESCHACK: We put our trust in the Lord our God.

SHADRACK: And He, by His will, saved us from the fire.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: They were saved by an angel. I saw him. An angel from the God of Shadrack, Meshach, and Abedego! And now I command it that the God of Judah is the supreme God, for there is no other god who can rescue like this.

(Enter Amytis and Daniel)

AMYTIS: What's been happening here?

DANIEL: Are you all right? We heard you were thrown into a blazing furnace!

AMYTIS: Nebby, tell me that isn't true.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Seemed like a good idea at the time. It was the Fabulous Four that talked me into it.

AMYTIS: Let's go into the palace. I'll speak to you alone.

(AMYTIS and NEBUCHADNEZZAR start off. AMYTIS turns to ASHPENAZ)

I want that stupid statue torn down.

(Back to NEBUCHADNEZZAR)

Right!?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Yes, dear. It didn't look much like me anyway.

DANIEL (TO SHADRACK, MESHACK, ABEDEGO) I'm so glad you are safe.

ABEDEGO: It was all a matter of faith.

(Everyone except THE FOUR exit. THE FOUR move forward)

JOHARA: Those boys from Judah are going to be our downfall.

VERDAH: We need a new plan to deal with them.

KAREEMA: I think we need new blood. Someone younger to help us.

NELLAM: Someone dastardly.

MUHAUVIE: Someone like me?

KAREEMA: Yes. Let's take this intermission to plan it out.

MUSICAL #7 -- PLOTTING

(The THE FOUR become like a back up group for Muhauvie.)

MUHAUVIE:

WHAT WE NEED...

THE FOUR:

YES, WHAT WE NEED?

MUHAUVIE:

A SIMPLE DEED.

THE FOUR:

A SIMPLE DEED?

MUHAUVIE:

EFFECTIVE YET UNNOTICED...CATCH MY DRIFT?

THE FOUR:

HIS DRIFT? HIS DRIFT? HIS DRIFT?

(The Light seems to dawn but then is extinguished in the faces of the THE FOUR)

MUHAUVIE:

TO SUCCEED.

THE FOUR:

TO SUCCEED?

MUHAUVIE:

IT'S GUARANTEED!

THE FOUR:

YES, GUARANTEED.

MUHAUVIE:

SOMETHING THAT WILL CAUSE A TOTAL RIFT!

BUT WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

THE FOUR:

YES, WHAT SHOULD IT BE?!?

MUHAUVIE:

WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

A POTION, TALISMAN OR SPELL!

TO SET A PLOT YOU'VE GOT TO JUST REBEL!

IF THE POT IS HOT YOU'VE GOT TO BREW IT WELL.

THE FOUR:

SO WELL, SO WELL, SO WELL, SO WELL!

MUHAUVIE:

TO CHARM A KING IT TAKES A LITTLE ZING!

A GOLDEN RING WITH A SIMPLE, SECRET STING!

A TINY THING THAT WILL MAKE HIM WANT TO SING...

THE FOUR:

...AND SING, AND SING, AND SING, AND SING, AND SING!

MUHAUVIE:

WHEN YOU'RE IN FORM!

THE FOUR:

IT'S NOT AMUSING!

MUHAUVIE:

JUST BREWING A STORM

THE FOUR:

I THINK WE'RE LOSING!

MUHAUVIE:

IT WON'T TAKE A LOT;

TAKE A SHOT;

IT'S NOT HARD TO PLOT!

THE FOUR:

PLOT, PLOT, PLOT!

ALL

TRAITORS BETRAY YOU WITH A KISS!

AND SNAKES WILL JUST GIVE A LITTLE HISS!

BUT PARDON US, IT'S TIME TO INTERMISS!

DON'T MISS, DON'T MISS, DON'T MISS, DON'T MISS ACT TWO!

END ACT ONE