

PERUSAL SCRIPT



Let There Be Love

**A Musical
Book and Lyrics by Thom Duncan
Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry**



ZION THEATRICALS

Newport, Maine

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LET THERE BE LOVE

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SONG TITLES IN **LET THERE BE LOVE**

ACT ONE

Scene 1

- #1--TOGETHER IN HEAVEN -- Congregation
- #2--LET THERE BE LOVE -- Joseph & Emma
- #3--KINGDOM OF THE SUN -- Angel

Scene 2

- #4--YOU GOTTA GO -- Ryder & Mob

Scene 3

- #5--LIMBER -- Joseph & Hyrum

Scene 4

Scene 5

- #6--GOD, IS IT YOU? / MARVELOUS WORK -- Joseph
- #7-- FIND A REASON -- Joseph & Emma
- #8--LOVE GONE -- Emma

ACT TWO

Scene 1

- #9--ALL THE TIME -- Angel
- #10--A WEDDING -- Emma & Joseph
- #11--IF ONLY-- Abigail
- #12--NOT JUST A MAN -- Hyrum and Others
- #13--YOU GOTTA GO (reprise) -- Mob
- #14--LET THERE BE LOVE (rep) (A reprise “Will Always Be Love”) -- Joseph
- #15--FINALE: LIKE A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER -- Emma, Joseph and others

LET THERE BE LOVE

Character List (11M 2TeenB, 5W + ensemble of 12-16)

JOSEPH SMITH, age 14

PASTOR

JOSEPH SMITH, age 25-37

ANGEL

HOCKER, a mobber

DOC, a mobber

RYDER SIMONDS, mob leader

JACOB

HEBER

ISAIAH

HYRUM

ROBERT FOSTER

CALEB FOSTER, his son (about 12)

EMMA HALE SMITH

ABIGAIL FOSTER

MARTHA

LUCY

MARY

WOMAN

YOUNG GIRL

Congregation, Mobbers, Bretheren, Sisters, Children

ACT I

Scene 1

Joseph's Dream

Joseph's house In Nauvoo, June 1844

Darkness. Silence. Then there is whiteness in the middle of the black. The face of a MAN becomes slowly discernible: eyes looking forward. From nowhere in particular and very faintly, there is the sound of singing. It becomes louder as the MAN's body is revealed. The MAN is JOSEPH SMITH. He stands straight and tall. A pause. He turns his head. Lights up on CONGREGATION.

PASTOR

(sings)

GOSPEL SAYS IT DOESN'T MATTER!

Congregation

YEAH! YEAH!

PASTOR

WHAT YOU DO OR WHAT YOU'RE AFTER!

Congregation

A-MEN!

PASTOR

'CAUSE WHEN THE TIME IS COME FOR JUDGMENT!

Congregation

PRAISE THE LORD!

PASTOR

HE'S GONNA SAVE YOU ANYWAY!

A WOMAN

NOW AIN'T THAT A COMFORTIN' FEELIN' TO KNOW

WE ALL GONNA BE TOGETHER IN HEAVEN?

Congregation

NOW AIN'T THAT A COMFORTIN' FEELIN',
NOW AIN'T THAT A COMFORTIN' FEELIN' TO KNOW,
NOW AIN'T THAT A COMFORTIN' FEELIN' TO KNOW
WE ALL GONNA BE TOGETHER IN HEAVEN?

JOSEPH shakes his head and turns away as the LIGHTS COME UP on ABIGAIL FOSTER at another part of the stage. MUSIC continues under.

ABIGAIL

Brother JOSEPH! Brother Joseph! Are you home?

ABIGAIL freezes. CONGREGATION moves into another position. JOSEPH moves toward them.

PASTOR

The Bible, upon careful examination, will quite readily reveal that we are all damned to eternal torment in Hell. Regardless of what we do! God, by his grace, and by his grace alone, will save a few of our worthless souls, but the vast majority of mankind will suffer the torments of that blackest of all beings, Satan, even the Devil!

YOUNG GIRL cries out in fear. All freeze. EMMA enters, crosses to ABIGAIL.

ABIGAIL

Hello? Is anybody there?

Emma

Sister Abigail --

ABIGAIL

Sister Emma, is your husband to home?

Emma

Why, yes --

ABIGAIL

I'm sorry for comin' this late at night, but I have to see him right away!

Emma

Is there anything I can do to help?

ABIGAIL

There's somethin' I just gotta tell him!

Emma

He fell asleep in the study. I'll get him.

They freeze. CONGREGATION repositions itself, JOSEPH once again moving toward them.

PASTOR

Now, concerning the salvation of the human family, I have this to say --

He laughs. CONGREGATION joins him, laughing swells to a crescendo, then out abruptly, simultaneously with MUSIC.

Emma

Joseph?

CONGREGATION laughs again, but this time there is no sound. They converge on JOSEPH, he moving into them, trying to touch them -- slow motion. CONGREGATION begins to move off in slow motion, still laughing silently. JOSEPH grabs at them; they're gone.

Emma (CONT'D)

Sister Abigail is here to see you.

We are now in Joseph's house. Silence. JOSEPH goes to EMMA.

Joseph

I must have fallen asleep. I had the strangest dream --

Emma

Abigail Foster is here. She seems very upset.

Joseph

(Pulling himself together.)

All right. I'll see to her.

He and EMMA move to ABIGAIL's area. Upon seeing JOSEPH, ABIGAIL moves to him quickly.

ABIGAIL

Brother Joseph, I'm sorry --

Joseph

That's quite all right.

ABIGAIL

I wouldn't have thought of comin' and disturbin' you like this, it bein' so late and all --

Joseph

Don't you worry about that. Just sit down and tell me what's on your mind.

ABIGAIL

(pause)

It's about Robert...

Joseph

Drinking again?

ABIGAIL

(Bursts into tears)

Brother JOSEPH, it was so horrible!

Joseph

Now try and gain control of your self.

ABIGAIL

I didn't mean to -- carry on like this.

Joseph

Calm yourself. Can you do that for me?

ABIGAIL

I'll try.

Joseph

There we go.

ABIGAIL

Robert -- went out drinking, with some of the other men. I didn't try to stop him; I've tried before. He came home in the middle of the night, just makin' a terrible racket -- knocking things over, breaking things, usin' the foulest language I ever heard and sayin' that ... that ...

Joseph

What was he saying?

ABIGAIL

That -- that "him and the boys were "goin' to get that Joe Smith!" That's what he said --those were his words.

A pause. EMMA has moved away, her back to JOSEPH and Abigail.

Abigail (CONT'D)

I wanted you to know, Brother Joseph. Did I do the right thing, comin' here as soon as I found out? Did I do what I was supposed to do?

This news affects him also. His answer is only to assure Abigail, while his mind is obviously considering her rather abrupt revelation.

Joseph

You -- did exactly what I would have wanted you to do.

ABIGAIL

(To EMMA, or more to herself?)

I know he's older, Robert. And I don't mind that he already had a son when I married him... I can learn to love little Caleb as if he were my own. *(Pause)* But I hope he's not doing this because of me, because of something I don't know how to give him. *(She collects herself, stands.)* There, I feel better. I know Robert drinks a bit, but those things he said -- that wasn't his idea. He was just -- well, you know how it is. A man gets

together with his friends, he does what they do, says what they say.

Joseph

Thanks you for coming to tell me. And don't worry, I'll take care of everything.

Pause. He looks at EMMA, finds her back to him.

Joseph (CONT'D)

Emma. Would you show Sister Abigail to the door?

AbIGAIL

(To EMMA as they move off)

He's really -- I mean, deep down inside he's a good man. But when he drinks...

And they're gone. Final chord of MUSIC IN. JOSEPH alone. Silence, EMMA enters. Pause.

Emma

JOSEPH --

Joseph

They were drunk, EMMA. When men are drunk, they say things they don't mean.

Emma

I'm not so sure.

Joseph

It was just talk.

Emma

Was it just talk that drove us out of Kirtland?

Joseph

It's not the same. Here, we've finally found a place where we can settle down, take time to let the grass grow under our feet.

Emma

JOSEPH, I've seen that it's always like this. We come to a place -- there's peace and prosperity for awhile ... then the persecution starts again.

Joseph

That's the price you have to pay for believing the truth. People hear the truth, they don't understand it because it isn't like what they're used to hearing, they fight against it. But soon, we'll be through with all of it. We'll be able to live the way God wants us to.

Emma

Is this really where the Lord wants us to be? Because if it is, I know he won't let those horrible things keep happening to us. (A pause) He won't, will he?

Joseph

No, EMMA. He won't.

Emma

I believe that. If you tell me, I'll believe it. JOSEPH, what's the matter?

Joseph

Everything's going to be just as we've always wanted it.

Emma

Yes... of course it will.

Joseph

And as soon as I get a few things straightened away in the Council, I'll come and spend more time with you.

Emma

You'll do nothing of the sort. I don't want you sacrificing your civic duties on my account. You're the mayor of this city.

Joseph

I'll appoint someone else to take my place.

Emma

I know you have the Church to run, the town to run, and I know it takes a great deal of your time. But I don't mind. Really I don't.

Joseph

Emma ...

Emma

You have that distant look you so often get -- when you seem to be looking at something in the room, but seeing so much more.

Joseph

I was looking at my wife ... and seeing a queen.

MUSIC IN.

Joseph (CONT'D)

What? Are you crying?

*This as she bows her head.
Suddenly, she embraces him.*

Emma

It's so difficult, being the wife of a prophet.

Joseph

Why should it be?

Emma

You've heard what they say about you, haven't you? "Joseph Smith has done more for the Kingdom of God on Earth than any other man who lived on it, save Jesus Christ. That puts me in a rather exalted position, don't you think?"

Joseph

In my eyes, you can't be exalted enough.

Emma

You do love me, don't you?

Joseph

Emma, of these two things I'm certain: that God lives, because I have seen him; and that my love for you is as boundless as his glory.

Emma

We'll always be together, won't we, Joseph?

Joseph

What might ever separate us?

Emma

Death.

Joseph

But not for long. Because Emma you must remember that, whatever Man can do, he can't alter the decrees of the Almighty. And God has said, "Let there be love."

(sings)

LET THERE BE LIGHT --
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
AND THE NIGHT WAS NO MORE.

LET THERE BE LAND!
AND, AS HE SPOKE,
EARTH AND SAND MADE THE SHORE!

LET THE GROUND BRING UP GRASS!
LET THE SKY ARCH ABOVE!
LET THERE BE LOVE!

Emma

LET THERE BE MAN.
OUT OF THE DUST,
THIS COMMAND CAME TO BE.

LET THERE BE LIFE!
AND FROM HIS RIB,
THIS MAN'S WIFE CAME TO BE!

LET THEIR LOVE BE AS PURE
AS THE DOWN OF A DOVE.
LET THERE BE LOVE.

TOGETHER
Whatever ELSE THERE MAY BE,

Joseph

LET THERE BE LOVE!

Emma

LET ME SEE LOVE--

TOGETHER
EVERYWHERE THAT I MAY LOOK.

Joseph

LET THERE BE LOVE.

Emma

HOW CAN YOU SEE LOVE?

Joseph

IF YOU GAZE INTO MY EYES.
THERE 'LL YOU SEE LOVE!

Emma

I SEE ME, LOVE!

DANCE SEQUENCE with JOSEPH and EMMA. This establishes the deep abiding love shared by them and the dance is beautiful, flowing, elegant.

TOGETHER

WHATEVER ELSE THEY MAY BE,
LET THERE BE LOVE.
LET ME SEE LOVE

EVERYWHERE THAT I MAY LOOK,

Joseph

LET THERE BE LOVE.

Emma

HOW CAN YOU SEE LOVE?

TOGETHER

IF YOU GAZE INTO MY EYES,
THERE YOU 'LL SEE LOVE.
I SEE ME, LOVE.

IF SOME WILL BE
WHO 'D LIKE US NOT
TO BE FREE, THEY CAN WAIT.
NO NEED TO FEAR
WHAT THEY MAY DO.
WE HAVE HERE SOMETHING GREAT!

Joseph

LET THE WORLD KEEP ITS HATE!

Emma

FOR THERE WILL ALWAYS BE LOVE!

TOGETHER

LET THERE BE LOVE!

MUSIC OUT as JOSEPH and EMMA come together.

Emma

It's late. Shall we?

Joseph

I'll be in after awhile.

EMMA leaves. A pause. JOSEPH looks up.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I had to say that, Lord. Emma mustn't know.

Picks up Bible, opens it to previously marked passage.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

"For where there is a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator." I know your ways too well, Lord, to suppose that was just a coincidence. There I sat, reading that passage, remembering back to Palmyra --how it all began -- and then Sister Abigail at the door with her message of drunken mean and vows to "get me." Help me have the strength to withstand the knowledge of this, my newest duty. It's quite a shock to realize that a work loved so long will soon end for me. Fourteen years, Lord! Fourteen years! You can't live with something that long and be expected to give it up easily. But, if it's your will, if this is the way it has to be -- then I'll do it. Only grant me this one request: Don't let Emma know. She's suffered so, sacrificed so; she's been through so much. She's been with me the longest, Lord, except for you. She's stayed by me when lesser tribulations would have cooled another woman's love. Whatever your plan for me, spare her.

ANGEL ENTERS.

ANGEL

Fourteen years, you say? That is quite a while. Quite a while indeed. You know, it hardly seems that long; the time's gone by so fast. Joseph, I wouldn't want you to worry --

Joseph

Then it's true? I am going to have to die for the Church?

ANGEL

Yes.

Joseph

When?

ANGEL

Well, I'm not at liberty to say. Besides, you really don't want to know, do you?

Joseph

No. No, I don't. And Emma. What about Emma?

ANGEL

She'll be spared.

Joseph

That's the most important thing.

ANGEL

(*pause*) You really love her, don't you?

Joseph

Always and ever.

ANGEL

Then she's a very lucky woman. Of course, you're a very lucky man.

Joseph

Well, what do I do now? I feel as if -- as if I should live my life differently or something.

ANGEL

I've got a good suggestion. Why don't you just go on the way you were before?

Joseph

Yes ??? I suppose that's the only way. Death -- it was always so far away before. Now -- it's different, actually knowing ...

ANGEL

You know, when you get right down to it, there's really no reason to be apprehensive about death. You, above all people, should know that. You've talked with so many who've passed that way.

Joseph

What'll happen to the Church? To all I've worked for, I've struggled for --

ANGEL

There's no reason to be apprehensive about that, either. God" s waited so long to have his Church restored, he'll watch over it; he'll take care of it.

Joseph

But, the people--

ANGEL

The Lord will provide for them.

Joseph

But they're so new in the Gospel; they don't know one hundredth of what I know!

ANGEL

What makes you think they need to know what you do?

JOSEPH

I can't go yet ... There are so many wrongs to be righted --

Angel

Joseph. Listen to me.

MUSIC IN.

Angel (CONT'D)

IF YOU'RE CALLED TO PERSECUTION,
KNOW THIS, IT HAS TO BE.
TO ENDURE THIS TRIBULATION,
ACCEPT IT HAPPILY.

FOR THE GREAT PLAN
IS THAT MAN
BE TESTED EQUALLY --
HE HAS TO TASTE THE BITTERNESS AND STRIFE
TO PRIZE THE SWEETEST THINGS IN LIFE.

ENDURE, JOSEPH, ENDURE!
KEEP YOUR FAITH IN GOD STRONG AND SURE
KNOWING THIS ADVERSITY
WILL SOON BECOME SERENITY
WHEN YOUR GLORY SHALL BE WON!

IF YOU ENDURE THIS TRIBULATION
IT WILL BRING YOU EXALTATION
IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SUN!

IF HELL'S JAWS SHOULD OPEN WIDE,
REMEMBER: SOON YOU'LL SEE,
IF DEMONS PULL YOU DOWN INSIDE,
WHY ALL THIS HAD TO BE.
FOR THE GREAT PLAN
IS THAT MAN BE TESTED EQUALLY --
HE HAS TO TASTE OF BITTERNESS AND STRIFE
TO PRIZE THE SWEETEST THINGS IN LIFE!

ENDURE, JOSEPH, ENDURE!
KEEP YOUR FAITH IN GOD STRONG AND SURE!
KNOWING THIS ADVERSITY
WILL BECOME SERENITY
WHEN YOUR GLORY SHALL BE WON!
IF YOU ENDURE THIS TRIBULATION,
IT WILL BRING YOU EXALTATION,
IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SUN!

*LIGHTS down on ANGEL, but they
stay on JOSEPH, who freezes.*

Scene TWO

mob's lair

*(LIGHTS UP as MOB ENTERS and MUSIC
segues into next movement.)*

HOCKER

Now maybe we can get something done.

DOC

(Indicating FOSTER, who stands to the side with a bottle in his hand.)

The only reason he comes with us is so he can get drunk.

RYDER

Sure he drinks too much, but he'll be all right.

Doc

(not convinced)

Sure he will, Simonds. Sure he will.

HoCKER

I ain't so sure. The more Foster drinks, the looser his tongue gets. The way he babbles up a blue streak, Ol' Joe prob'ly knows by now what we're up to.

RYDER

So what? That won't stop us! And quit worrying about Foster. We've got more important things to think about.

MUSIC IN.

(sings)

OL' JOE.
YOU GOTTA GO.
WE'RE THROUGH
WITH OUR FAITH IN YOU!

HEY, JOE!
YOU KNOW,
THERE'S SOMETHIN' WE' GOTTA DO.

MOB

WE GOTTA RID THIS LAND
OF THE FACE OF THAT MAN.
WE GOTTA LIE!
WE GOTTA LIE!
GOTTA DO WHAT WE CAN!

RYDER

ANYTHING AT ALL!
GOTTA MAKE HIM FALL!

MOB
LET'S BRING OL' JOE,
OL' JOE SMITH DOWN!

RYDER
(speaks)
Bring him down, boys!

MOB
Yeah, bring him down! Put him under! He's no prophet!
(sing)

WE GOTTA FIND A WAY!
CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY!
LET'S DO IT NOW!
LET'S DO IT NOW!
LET'S DO IT RIGHT AWAY!

RYDER
IF WE'RE GONNA MOVE!
GOTTA MAKE OUR MOVE!

MOB
TO DO OL' JOE,
OL' JOE SMITH IN!

RYDER
(speaks)
Yeah, do him in!

MOB
Get rid of the man! Mormon Prophet -- hah!
(sing)

WE'RE NEVER GONNA STOP
TILL WE SEE HIM DROP!
WE TAKE A VOW
RIGHT NOW
BY THE HAIRS OF OUR HEAD,
THAT WE'LL SEE OL'
JOE
SMITH
DEAD!

DANCE SEQUENCE. JOSEPH unfreezes, moves into descriptive dance with MOB. It must be apparent that JOSEPH is not actually with the MOB at this time: they are acting out a fantasy, a dance number which they will repeat when they tar and feather him at the end of ACT ONE. The DANCE leaves the imaginary JOSEPH lifeless, crumpled on the ground, with MOB exultant:

MOB (CONT'D)

WE'RE NEVER GONNA STOP
TILL WE SEE HIM DROP!
WE TAKE A VOW
RIGHT NOW
BY THE HAIRS OF OUR HEAD
THAT WE'LL SEE OL' JOE SMITH DEAD!
DEAD! DEAD! DEAD! DEAD!

LIGHTS out abruptly. A pause in the darkness.

Scene three

kitchen joseph's house
joseph's front yard
next day

In the darkness, VOICES OF THE BRETHREN are heard, then LIGHTS UP on JAKE and HEBER wrestling, ISAIAH and the rest of the BRETHREN cheering them on.

Voices of the brethren

Come on, Jake! Give it to 'im! One! Two! Hold him, Heber! Atta boy! Let 'im have it!

Their voices continue, but softer, as lights dim on them, up on JOSEPH, EMMA, and HYRUM, sitting

at the kitchen table. EMMA Laying some food on the table. HYRUM immediately digs into it, but JOSEPH continues to look out the window at the wrestlers, an open Bible on his lap.

Emma

I hope this will fill you up. I know how hungry you men get working all day on the Temple.

HYRUM

It'll be finished before you know it, Emma. And then what a structure it'll be. Did you know you can see it from ten miles down the Mississippi?

Emma

Really?

HYRUM

Isn't that right, Joseph? Joseph?

Joseph

What?

(Now he looks up, sees HYRUM as if for the first time.)

Oh, Hyrum.

HYRUM

Yes, Hyrum. Your brother. You remember me.

Emma

When JOSEPH studies, it's hard to get his attention.

HYRUM

Or when he's got his mind on wrestling.

Joseph

They're disturbing me. I can't concentrate.

His attention goes back to the wrestling match.

HYRUM

(To EMMA)

Watch. Any moment now, he's say, "I'd better go stop them. I'll never get anything done." He's going to stand up and --

Joseph

That noise --

(Standing up)

I'd better go stop them. That noise -- I'll never get anything done.

He goes.

HYRUM

When we were boys, you couldn't keep Joseph out of a wrestling match. He was almost always at it with someone.

LIGHTS up full on BRETHREN as JOSEPH crosses to them.

Joseph

Brethren!

Upon seeing him, JAKE and HEBER stand up, brush themselves off, look around sheepishly at other BRETHREN.

Joseph (CONT'D)

I've been trying to study the Bible. Have you no better place to wrestle than before my house?

ISAIAH

Brother JOSEPH, we're just havin' a little relaxation.

Joseph

Then I'd appreciate it if you could keep it down.

They start to go. JOSEPH stops them with:)

Who was wrestling?

ISAIAH

(Warily)

Jake and Heber.

Joseph

Who was winning?

HEBER

I was!

JAKE

You was not!

HEBER

Was, too!

They almost go at it again until:)

Joseph

I'll take on the both of you.

(A pause.)

One at a time, of course.

JAKE

(A pause.) Take Heber! He was winnin'!

HEBER

Me? You had me pinned, you did!

Again, they go at it, until:

Joseph

Come on, Heber. You first.

HEBER

Aw, Brother JOSEPH. I cain't.

JAKE

Yer yella!

HEBER

No, I ain't!

*JOSEPH gets in a wrestling stance.
BRETHREN start to cheer.*

HYRUM

(To EMMA.)

If Joseph can have a little fun, then so can I.

*He goes. LIGHTS down on EMMA.
HYRUM stands watching the*

WRESTLERS. JOSEPH quickly and effortlessly downs HEBER.

Joseph
(*Helping HEBER up.*)
I didn't hurt you, did I?

HEBER
Naw.

Joseph
(*Looking around*)
Now, where's Jake?

JAKE
How are ya at a foot race?

And JAKE runs off stage. BRETHREN and JOSEPH laugh together.

ISAIAH
Guess Jake decided to go wrestle somebody else.

Laughing and shaking hands with JOSEPH, the BRETHREN exit. JOSEPH starts to go.

HYRUM
Joseph!

Joseph turns, sees immediately by HYRUM's pretended stuffiness that his fun is not yet over.

Joseph
Brother! Where have you been?

HYRUM
Minding to the business of the Church. As you should have been doing!

Joseph
Oh, I see.

HYRUM
As your fellow Elder in the Church, I'm rebuking you.

Joseph
You? Rebuking me? What for?

HYRUM
A Prophet of God does not wrestle with the brethren of the Church.

Joseph
Only with angels, eh ? Hyrum, how many prophets do you know?

HYRUM
Only one -- you.

Joseph
Then how do you know what the prophets do or do not?

HYRUM
(He's losing ground.)
The -- uh -- Scriptures ...

Joseph
... only reveal what they were like when they were being prophets. Do you realize that there was one family who apostatized from the Church when they saw me playing with my children? I suppose they thought it unbecoming a prophet to have fun.

HYRUM realizes that he has lost the verbal battle.

HYRUM
JOSEPH. Almost thou persuadest me to become a wrestler.

Joseph
And why not, Hyrum? Once in a while, I just have to get out and tustle in the dirt with someone. Come on!

MUSIC IN.

HYRUM
Me?

Joseph
We'll make it two out of three!

HYRUM

But -- I don't know how!

Joseph

I'll teach you! Now!

(sings)

I'VE BEEN A WRESTLIN' MAN
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN
REMEMBER.

AND ALL THE BOUTS
THAT I'VE HAD OUT
I COULDN'T COMMENCE
TO NUMBER!
BUT THE KEY BEHIND IT ALL,
WHY I NEVER TAKE A FALL,
IS ONLY THIS:
I'M INCREDIBLY LIMBER!

(speaks)

Would you like to see?

They wrestle, JOSEPH cleverly dodging out of the way, sending HYRUM sprawling. Finally, JOSEPH pins him.

Joseph (CONT'D)

(sings)

DO YOU SEE, MY BROTHER HYRUM,
WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY I AM,
WHEN I WRESTLE, INCREDIBLY LIMBER?

HYRUM

I'll remember.

(sings)

BUT A QUESTION, BROTHER JOSEPH.
I'VE A PROBLEM AND I KNOW IF
I SHOULD TELL YOU, YOU CAN ANSWER
WHY.

Joseph

I'll try.

HYRUM

A CHICKEN IS LIMBER
AND SO IS A CAT.

I'VE SEEN A FEW FISH WHICH
CAN EVEN TOP THAT.
BUT IN ANY SORT OF BOUT
WITH A PUGILISTIC TROUT,
IT'S VERY PLAIN WHO THE VICTOR
WOULD BE --
ME!

(speaks)

So there's more to it than that, just being limber, isn't there?

Joseph

You didn't like that one, eh? How about --

(sings)

I'VE BEEN A WRESTLIN' MAN
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN RECALL.
AND ALL THE CLOUDS
I'VE GIVEN OUT
ARE MANY AND THEY ALL
BRING BACK TO MEMORY
THAT THIS ONLY IS THE KEY:
WHEN WRESTLING,
I JUST CLEVERLY STALL!

(speaks)

I'll show you what I mean.

They wrestle. At one point, JOSEPH suddenly grabs his leg and hops about as if in pain. As HYRUM bends to help, JOSEPH downs him.

Joseph (CONT'D)

(sings)

AND THAT IS ALL THAT THERE IS TO IT!
IT REMAINS FOR YOU TO DO IT!
DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO STALL!

HYRUM

And that's all? We'll see about that!

With JOSEPH's arms spread out as he finishes his song, he makes a perfect target. HYRUM goes to him, throws a startled JOSEPH over his shoulder to the ground, where the two of them struggle, HYRUM

*finally pinning JOSEPH just as the
MUSIC goes out, the TWO BROTHERS
laughing.*

Joseph

(After a pause, when he has caught his breath)

Hyrum -- now that we're alone ...

HYRUM

(Realizing that JOSEPH is serious now.)

What is it?

Joseph

Have you heard?

HYRUM

What? The rumors? About plans to assassinate you? Don't worry, JOSEPH, they're nothing but rumors.

Joseph

No, Hyrum. They're true.

(A pause.)

I received confirmation yesterday.

*HYRUM goes to his brother; there
is a moment of silence. They
embrace. After a pause, JOSEPH
pulls away.*

Joseph (CONT'D)

I also received much encouragement, and the fact that I must seal nLy testimony with my own blood no longer weighs on my shoulders as first it did. I know it's the Lord's will; I'm resigned to it, My greatest conflict will be sharing this knowledge with Emma.

HYRUM

You mean you haven't told her yet?

Joseph

No.

HYRUM

When? Or are you going to?

Joseph

Yes, I'll tell her. The time will have to be right. When it is, I'll tell her.

HYRUM

When the time is right. Isn't that just an excuse?

Joseph

You know Emma --

HYRUM

Yes, I know Emma. And she deserves to know this.

Joseph

I said I would tell her ???

HYRUM

Joseph, she's your wife.

Joseph

All the more reason to keep it from her.

HYRUM

But you know you can't. Eventually, the truth will have to be said.

Joseph

I know, Hyrum.

HYRUM

It'll be difficult, certainly. How to say it, which words to use ... But you have to remember one thing, Joseph. Emma loves you -- that is certain --and no matter how she reacts at first, she'll come around, accept it as God's will -- eventually.

Joseph

I know that, too. So why do I have such -- foreboding? -- this feeling that, without me, she'll no longer have any roots in the Church, that she'll ...

HYRUM

Say it.

Joseph

... that she'll leave.

HYRUM

The Church will look after her. She won't be forgotten. After all, Joseph, she's the wife of the Prophet. That alone deems her worthy of the greatest respect.

Joseph

I love her, Hyrum. I would gladly go to Hell, if only there I could be with her eternally.

HYRUM

I know how you feel.

Joseph

(Rising in emotion)

And if I thought that my leaving would endanger her status in the Church, I'd --

HYRUM

You'd what? You received confirmation it was to be, remember?

Joseph

No man should have to make a decision like this!

HYRUM

Is this Joseph Smith I hear saying that? The same man who has preached from countless pulpits that "there must needs be opposition in all things?"

Joseph

Hyrum, I'm just man!

HYRUM

You're also a prophet. And do you think if you didn't share all the same problems, anxieties, weaknesses, strengths the rest of us have, that you'd have much of a following? It's in your very humanness where lies your power. That's what they say: "Brother Joseph wants us to do it. It's hard, but if he did it, so can we."

(A pause. HYRUM looks JOSEPH in the eyes.)

Joseph I can't tell you how to run the Church. But as you elder brother, I feel I have the right to advise you in your personal life. Tell her. A yoke borne by two seems all the lighter.

Joseph

Hyrum?

(JOSEPH smiles.)

Almost thou persuadest me --

Before he can finish, HYRUM bursts out laughing, JOSEPH joins him, and the TWO BROTHERS go off stage, arms around each other.

Scene four

robert and abigail foster's house

next day

Crossfade to FOSTER and his son CALEB, about twelve. They are repairing the front porch to their house, but CALEB's mind does not seem to be on his work. After a moment, he stops, looks up at his father.)

Father? CALEB

Yes, Son? FOSTER

Do you haveta go? CALEB

Do your work, Caleb. We're almost finished. FOSTER

A moment of silence.

Can you take me with you? CALEB

(Suddenly,) No! FOSTER

At this point, ABIGAIL enters and, seeing the two, stops to listen.

CALEB

(Hurt)

I was only askin'.

FOSTER

(A pause. He touches his son's shoulders.)

I'm sorry, Son. But these meetings -- well, they're not the sort of thing a man can take his son to.

CALEB

If you can't take me with you, then you shouldn't be there, either.

FOSTER

Now, Caleb, that'll be enough and that's final!

A long pause. More to himself than to CALEB.

FOSTER (CONT'D)

Someday, you'll understand.

(Here, he sees ABIGAIL. A pause.)

Run along, Caleb.

(CALEB goes.)

ABIGAIL

What sort of meetings are they?

FOSTER

I gotta finish this job, Abby. I can't talk now.

ABIGAIL

You mean you won't talk now.

FOSTER

I meant what I said!

ABIGAIL

You never used to raise your voice to me. You used to always talk kindly, gentlemanly,

FOSTER

Times change.

ABIGAIL

People change.

FOSTER

Look, I really gotta --

ABIGAIL

Maybe they were right.

FOSTER

Who?

ABIGAIL

All those people who thought I was too young to make you a good wife.

FOSTER

Now you forget that talk. You're a good wife.

ABIGAIL

But not good enough.

FOSTER

That's not true. And you make a good mother for Caleb.

ABIGAIL

I remember telling them, "You're wrong. You're all so very wrong. It doesn't matter, the years that separate us. We're in love. And love can bridge all gaps," And, though they didn't answer back, I knew they were thinking, "She'll never be able to take Anne's place. "

(He turns away.)

You still can't forget her, can you?

(A pause. Pleadingly.)

Robert, give me another chance. I'll make you a better wife.

FOSTER

Abby, this has nothing to do with you. Please believe that.

ABIGAIL

How can I believe you when you haven't so much as touched me these last weeks? How do I know what you're doing at those meetings?

FOSTER

It ain't nothing like that. I -- I just been doing some thinking , that's all.

ABIGAIL

Who else goes to these meetings?

FOSTER

Now don't ask me anymore. I gotta go.

ABIGAIL

Brother JOSEPH said not to worry, that he would take care of everything.

FOSTER

(Grabbing her arm.)

You went to him? What did you tell him?

ABIGAIL

You're hurting me!

FOSTER

I'll break your arm off if you don't tell me what you said!

ABIGAIL

I told him how you come home drunk, and what you say!

FOSTER

(Suddenly quieting.)

What do I say?

ABIGAIL

You don't know?

FOSTER

(Moving away.)

Abby--

ABIGAIL

Please don't make excuses. There's none good enough to justify what you're planning.

FOSTER

This has to be. 1- -I don't expect you to understand.

ABIGAIL

(Now desperately.)

But, Robert, can't you see what this is doing to you? The hate festering inside you turns you into a man I don't want to know! It causes you to berate your child, to raise your hand against

your wife. Is what you're becoming worth what you'll have to sacrifice?

FOSTER

He's got to be stopped. He's gone too far.

ABIGAIL

I suppose God's told you that.

Joseph

Abigail, the mans turned into a maniac. Sure, I'll admit he might have been a prophet at one time, but no more.

ABIGAIL

This isn't you talking. Those are words they've put into your head! My own husband wouldn't stand before me and willingly blaspheme!

FOSTER

I told you you wouldn't understand! Now I've got to go!

ABIGAIL

Robert!

*FOSTER stops, turns, looks at her.
A pause. He goes. LIGHTS slowly
fade on ABIGAIL.*

Scene five

joseph's study

mob's lair

another day

*LIGHTS UP as JOSEPH, seated at a
table writes, scribbles a few
lines, crumples the paper. He
speaks as he writes.*

Joseph

Dear Mr. Wentworth: In reference to your most kind and solicitous letter in which you desire that I lay before you, and the general public, the circumstances leading up to the restoration of the Gospel in these latter days, I humbly and

prayerfully submit the following: At a time while I was laboring under the extreme difficulties caused by the contests of several parties of religionists, some contending for this church, some contending for that, I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. II Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did, at that time, to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did. At length, I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is, ask of God. (MUSIC in.) So, in accordance with this determination, I retired to the woods to make the attempt ...

He moves away from the desk, into LIGHTING suggesting the spiritual confusion he was going through at that time. DANCERS are used to further suggest the confusion, or spirit of the Devil, that was present. at the first vision. He sings.

Joseph (CONT'D)

EVERYWHERE I LOOK -- CONFUSION
NOWHERE DO I FIND A SOLUTION!
IS THE TRUTH I SEEK A MERE ILLUSION?
WHO KNOWS?
WHO KNOWS?

I SEE ALL AROUND ME DILLUTION!
LIES AND FALSE TEACHERS IN
PROFUSION!
WILL THERE EVER BE AN END TO
THIS POLLUTION?
WHO KNOWS?
WHO KNOWS?

AS THE MISTS ABOUT ME START TO DARKEN,
I LONG TO HEARKEN TO WORDS WHICH ARE TRUE.
WHO IS THERE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER?

GOD--IS IT YOU?

DANCE SEQUENCE. Dancers are meant to bec the power of the Devil and choreography should suggest that JOSEPH is being slowly overwhelmed: he struggles, breaks free, they draw him in again, etc. until he breaks forth with:

AS THE MIST ABOUT ME START TO DARKEN,
I LONG TO HEARKEN TO WORDS WHICH ARE TRUE.
WHO IS THERE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER ?
GOD --IS IT YOU?

(Simultaneously with the word, "GOD", the DANCERS move off, leaving JOSEPH flat on his back, arm outstretched toward Heaven. A LIGHT flashes down, as MUSIC segues. The actual vision is done in MUSIC, as JOSEPH watches in awe, When the vision has ended, JOSEPH slowly rises. He sings.

Joseph (CONT'D)

HE
TOUCHED
ME.
IN MY DARKEST NIGHT,
HE GAVE ME SIGHT.
HE
SPOKE TO
ME.
HIS WORDS OF PEACE
SET ME AT EASE.
I
WONDERED
WHY
IT HAD TO BE.
HE
SAID TO
ME:

A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER

IS ABOUT TO COME FORTH!
WITH A VOICE LIKE THE POWER OF THUNDER,
IT WILL CONQUER AND FILL THE
WHOLE EARTH!
EVERY HEAD WILL BOW;
EVERY KNEE WILL BEND!
EVERY HEART WILL POUND!
AND AT THE VERY END,
THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW,
YES, THE WORLD WILL KNOW
THAT THE GOSPEL IS TRUE!

HE
CHOSE
ME
TO SPREAD THE WORD,
TO MAKE IT HEARD!
HE
TOLD
ME
HOW,
I KNOW NOW!

I
WONDERED
WHY
IT HAD TO BE,
HE
SAID TO
ME:

A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER
IS ABOUT TO COME FORTH!
WITH A VOICE LIKE THE POWER OF
THUNDER,
IT WILL CONQUER AND FILL THE
WHOLE EARTH!
EVERY HEAD WILL BOW!
EVERY KNEE WILL BEND!
EVERY HEART WILL POUND!
AND AT THE VERY END,
THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW,
YES, THE WORLD WILL KNOW,
THAT THE GOSPEL IS TRUE!

A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER
IS ABOUT TO COME FORTH!
WITH A VOICE LIKE THE POWER OF
THUNDER,
IT WILL CONQUER AND FILL,
EVER Y VALLEY AND HILL
OF THE EARTH!

*MUSIC UP and OUT. Silence. JOSEPH
returns to his letter, continues
writing as EMMA enters.*

Joseph (CONT'D)

When I came to myself again, I found myself lying on my back,
looking up into heaven.

Emma

That story never ceases to thrill me.

Joseph

And yet few who read it will ever believe it. If I hadn't
experienced it, I doubt I would even believe it.

Emma

Tell me again. What was it like?

Joseph

Have you ever seen the sun rising on a morning just after a new
snow? Well, if you stand in exactly the right spot, where the
sun's rays strike the snow at exactly the right angle, the
brightness which reflects into your eyes is almost enough to
blind you. You don't want to look away, the sight is so
unearthly breath-taking. Add a million more suns reflecting off
snow a million more times as bright and that's what it's like.

Emma

That's beautiful.

Joseph

I'm glad you think so. Unfortunately, I'm afraid Mr. Wentworth
will not. But I'm obligated to tell the story as it happened.
The truth never has to be excused.

Emma

You have that sermon to prepare for tomorrow.

Joseph

I think I'll talk on procrastination. The Temple still isn't up yet.

Emma

Can I get you anything?

Joseph

I don't know why I always write these things down. I never use my notes anyway. When I get up before the congregation, I get such an overpowering sensation that begins in my chest and goes clear out to the tips of my fingers. That's when I know He's talking through me.

(A pause. EMMA goes out to the porch.)

Speak to me often, Lord, between now and ... I want to leave them something that will help them. If this is to be my last address, let it be one that will move them to follow you more faithfully. If this be my last testimony, let it be one that stands unshaken.

Emma

Such a clear night.

JOSEPH follows her out. They freeze. LIGHTS stay on them as LIGHTS come up on FOSTER AND HOCKER. They are in the Mob's Lair.

FOSTER

(Pacing nervously back and forth.)

Where are they?

HOCKER

(Picking at his boot with a knife.)

They'll be here.

FOSTER

But when? That's what I'd like to know. What's taking them so long?

HOCKER

Siddown. Yer makin' a rut in the floor.

FOSTER

Nervous.

HOCKER

Nervous? What fer?

FOSTER

Well, Sam, it isn't everyday you go out after the Prophet of God. It's only natural to be nervous.

HOCKER

(Reaching up and grabbing FOSTER by his lapels, pulling his face into his own.)

If he was the Prophet of God, he wouldn't need no goin' after, now would he?

FOSTER

Sure. I know that ... sure ...

They freeze. Emma unfreezes.

Emma

Joseph, did you feel that? A breeze ..? A chill just carne over me.

(JOSEPH puts his arms around her.)

There -- it's gone now.

They freeze.

FOSTER

Hey, Hocker, have you ever wondered why Simonds is doing all this?

HOCKER

All what?

FOSTER

You know, he has never said what it was he has against Joseph. It must be something terrible for Simonds to hate him so much.

HOCKER

It ain't none of yer business. I sure hope he brings the Doc.

FOSTER

The Doc?

HOCKER

Ain't nobody told ya? Sure, the Doc's comin' along.

FOSTER

What do we need the Doc for?

HOCKER

He's the only one knows how to do it right,

FOSTER

I thought we'd pitched that idea.

HOCKER

The Doc wanted to be in on it.

FOSTER

Yes, but -- there's no telling what he'll do if he gets the chance.

HOCKER

He'll do just what's needed to make sure there won't be any little Joe's runnin' around after us.

They freeze.

Joseph

There's no wind tonight.

Emma

Joseph, let's go in!

Joseph

Something's at you.

Emma

I want to go in.

Joseph

You're shivering. Are you sick?

Emma

The dark, Joseph. All of a sudden, I'm afraid of the dark.

RYDER bursts in with DOC.

FOSTER

I thought sure as anything something had happened to you.

Joseph
Don't be afraid. Not with me here.

DOC
All right, men, the important thing is to hold him real still.

FOSTER
I don't like it, Ryder.

HOCKER
Nobody asked you what you liked!

Joseph
(Kissing EMMA.)
Now. Are you still afraid?

Emma
No.

RYDER
Calm down, all of you! We have a job to do! Doc has the feathers. Where's the tar?

FOSTER
(Reluctantly.)
live got it.

RYDER
Everyone remember what he's supposed to do?
(They all nod assent, ad lib responses.)
Then let's go!
(They all go, except for FOSTER. A pause. RYDER comes back on.)
What's the matter with you?

FOSTER
I'm coming.

He and RYDER exit. JOSEPH and EMMA unfreeze.

Joseph
Now nothing's going to happen.

Emma

Joseph, why must there always be darkness?

*JOSEPH enfolds her. She relaxes
and even lets out a contented
sigh.*

Joseph

Are you complaining?

Emma

No, of course not. But there must be a reason for it.

Joseph

Why? Isn't Love -- love--reason enough for anything?

MUSIC IN.

I mean --

(He sings.)

WE CAN FIND A REASON.
OH YES, WE CAN!
ALL WE REALLY NEED TO DO IS TRY.
WE CAN SEARCH THE WORLD,
TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN,
LOOK UNTIL WE'VE FOUND OUT WHY!

Emma

I know, Joseph.

Joseph

(AND) IF WE DON'T FIND A REASON,
WELL, WE WON'T CARE!
WE WILL HAVE EACH OTHER FOR ALL TIME.
WE WILL ALWAYS KNOW,
IF EVER WE'RE IN DOUBT,
THINGS WILL ALL WORK OUT JUST FINE!

TOGETHER

WITH A LOVE LIKE THE ONE WE SHARE
NEVER WILL A BURDEN BE TOO HARD
TO BEAR!
WE WILL FIND A REASON
BECAUSE WE LOVE.
AND LOVE IS ALL THE REASON THAT
TOGETHER(Continued.)

WE FEEL!
WHO NEEDS TO SEARCH THE WORLD?
IT'S JUST BEYOND YOUR DREAMS.
THE LOVERS' REASON SEEMS SO
REAL!

*MUSIC under, during entrance of
MOB. DANCE SEQUENCE. Here, the MOB
acts out in actuality what they
have previously done in FANTASY
DANCE SEQUENCE. JOSEPH struggles,
but to no avail; he weakens under
the barrage. EMMA, who has been
oblivious to all this, now sings:*

Emma

WITH A LOVE LIKE THE ONE WE SHARE,
NEVER WILL A BURDEN BE TOO HARD
TO BEAR!
WE WILL FIND A REASON
BECAUSE WE LOVE.
AND LOVE IS ALL THE REASON THA T
WE FEEL!

WHO NEEDS TO SEARCH THE WORLD?
IT'S JUST BEYOND YOUR DREAMS.
THE LOVERS' REASON SEEMS SO REAL!

*And JOSEPH is completely overcome,
slumping nearly lifeless to the
ground. MUSIC out.*

HOCKER

Let's do 'im in!

RYDER

(Hearing a noise, off.)

Hold it!

EMMA

Is that you?

HOCKER

Aw, it won't take long, Simonds!

RYDER

Shut up! You want him to hear you?

DOC

Aren't you through with him? Get out of my way!

RYDER

(Again, a noise off.)

Somebody's coming!

He starts to go, HOCKER and FOSTER following.

DOC

Wait! I'm not finished yet!

And he goes. HYRUM rushes in.

HYRUM

(Running up to EMMA.)

I heard a commotion. What is it?

Emma

JOSEPH .??

HYRUM

Is he all right? Where is he?

Emma

-rlont ?..

HYRUM

I'll get some men. We'll find him!

Emma

I heard noises, sounds of a struggle --

JOSEPH is rising slowly, painfully. He staggers toward HYRUM and EMMA, who are still not aware of his presence.

HYRUM

Did you see where they went?

Emma

I--can't be sure.

HYRUM
Well, they can't be far--

Now he sees JOSEPH. A pause.

Joseph
EMMA .??

Emma
JOSEPH?

He totters, starts to fall. HYRUM and EMMA rush to his side, catching him, helping him to the floor, EMMA holding his head in her lap.

Joseph
So ... many things ... many things ... to do ... I. .. can't go ...

Emma
JOSEPH, what are you saying?

Joseph
Can't go yet ... need more time! ...

HYRUM
He's delirious!

Joseph
Don't tell Emma! DON'T TELL EMMA!

Emma
Don't tell me what?

HYRUM
I'll get some help!
(He goes.)

Emma
Joseph, I know you're trying to tell me something. What is it? Tell me.

Joseph

Don't tell Emma! Don't tell Emma! DON'T TELL EMMA!

Emma

All right, you don't have to tell me.

Joseph

(Softer now, as he starts to lose consciousness.)

She mustn't know. , ,

Emma

Joseph I don't know why these things have to keep happening.
(MUSIC IN.) You said they wouldn't anymore. You said this was
the place where we could settle down, begin living in peace, ..
But it's just like all the other places. It's just like it's
always been. There's no love here anymore.

(She sings.)

LOVE GONE.
ANYBODY SEEN IT?
LOVE GONE.
ANYBODY CARE?
LOVE GONE.
ANYBODY SEEN IT?
IF ANYBODY'S SEEN IT,
TELL ME WHERE.

LOVE HERE.
WHERE HAS IT GONE?
LOVE HERE.
JUST A MOMENT AGO.
LOVE HERE.
WHERE HAS IT GONE?
IF YOU KNOW WHERE IT HAS GONE,
LET ME KNOW!

WHERE DID IT GET THE WINGS TO FLY?
IT STARTED OFF SO WELL, WHY CAN'T IT STAY?
WHAT WAS I DOING WHEN IT SLIPPED ON BY?
DID I LOOK THE OTHER WAY?

LOVE, PLEASE!
CAN YOU HEAR ME CRYING?
LOVE, PLEASE!

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE!
LOVE, PLEASE!
CAN YOU HEAR ME CRYING?
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME CRYING,
COME BACK TO ME!

LOVE, PLEASE!
LOVE HERE!
LOVE -- GONE!

*JOSEPH is quiet now, lying at rest
as the last chords fade to
silence. TABLEAU: JOSEPH in EMMA's
arms. They freeze. SLOW FADE TO
BLACK.*

END OF ACT ONE

Act Two contains 47 pages