

The Road of Wisdom

By Scott R. Mealey

[The cast of this sketch consists of 7 people who could be of any age or gender. It will probably run between five to six minutes. The people of the “Chorus” should demonstrate a sense of oneness and they often overlap or complete each other’s sentences. I’ve indicated by bolding the text when more than one person is supposed to be speaking simultaneously. If costumed, the chorus should look very similar and I would suggest something like a turtleneck and slacks of all the same solid colour. Also, The Sword, The Fortress, and The King could be costumed with a simple neutral outfit with one symbolic addition (i.e. a scabbard, a pair of sunglasses, a crown). I think a piece of low volume music played underneath could be quite effective and live accompaniment would be even better)

[The following section of lines should slightly overlap each other. It should also begin quietly until it reaches a relatively loud peak with the “where is wisdom” said by all three.]

Chorus#1: [almost a whisper] Where is wisdom?

Chorus#2: Where is wisdom?

Chorus#3: Where is wisdom?

Chorus#1: Where is wisdom?

Chorus#2: Where is wisdom?

Chorus#3: Where is wisdom?

Chorus (all): [big] **Where is wisdom?**

[Pause]

Chorus#1: It is said that wisdom calls out from the streets...

Chorus#2: ...but on what streets can it be found...

Chorus#3: ... and to whose voice does it belong?

Chorus#1: We must look...

Chorus#2: We must listen...

Chorus#3: We must journey to the place where wisdom makes its home.

[Pause. Sound effect (Chimes? Small gong?)]

Chorus#1: Wait.

Chorus#2: Someone approaches.

Chorus#3: [nervously] I can hear the screams...

[The Sword enters]

The Sword: I am known as *The Sword* but I have many names - *gun, bomb, blockade*, are but a few.

Chorus#1: We have heard of you.

Chorus#2 & 3: **But what is your wisdom?**

The Sword: Destroy all enemies – for there are many. Overwhelm with might – because it is the only language that can be understood. Fight for your lives – never forget the lessons of the victims before you.

Chorus#1: I hear a ring of truth...

Chorus#2: ...but yet...

Chorus#3: ...it leaves a hollow sound.

Chorus#1: Doesn't the one who lives by the sword die by the sword?

Chorus#2: Isn't there a deeper Truth that penetrates more thoroughly than any sword?

Chorus#3: You are truly the sword; but, you are not wisdom.

[The Sword exits]

Chorus#1: We must look...

Chorus#2: We must listen...

Chorus#3: We must journey to the place where wisdom makes its home.

[Slight pause. Sound effect]

Chorus#1: Wait.

Chorus#2: Someone approaches.

Chorus#3: [with a shudder] I can feel the chill...

[The Fortress enters]

The Fortress: I am known as *The Fortress* but I have many names – *high alert, border patrol, isolation*, are but a few.

Chorus#1: We have heard of you.

Chorus#2 & 3: **But what is your wisdom?**

The Sword: Be vigilant for all enemies – for they lurk in every shadow. Build walls of might – because they seek to exploit any welcome. Shelter your lives – never forget we live in perilous times.

Chorus#1: I hear a ring of truth...

Chorus#2: ...but yet...

Chorus#3: ...it leaves a hollow sound.

Chorus#1: Doesn't the one who fears lack true love, true control and even true power?

Chorus#2: How can any Light be seen if its holder is desperately sealing it up?

Chorus#3: You are truly a fortress; but, you are not wisdom.

[The Fortress exits]

Chorus#1: We must continue looking...

Chorus#2: We must continue listening...

Chorus#3: We must continue journeying to the place where wisdom makes its home.

[Slight pause. Sound effect]

Chorus#1: Wait.

Chorus#2: Someone approaches.

Chorus#3: I can see the fanfare...

[The King enters]

The King: I am known as *The King* but I have many names – *party affiliation, supreme court, propaganda*, are but a few.

Chorus#1: We have heard of you.

Chorus#2 & 3: **But what is your wisdom?**

The King: Convert your enemies – for they are fools. Legislate with might – because all must bow to the system. Demand your lives – never forget the rights you are entitled to.

Chorus#1: I hear a ring of truth...

Chorus#2: ...but yet...

Chorus#3: ...it still sounds hollow.

Chorus#1: Doesn't the one who longs desperately for an earthly king forget the one who is the King of all kings?

Chorus#2: Isn't there a kingdom more lasting than this world's?

Chorus#3: You are truly a king; but, you are not wisdom.

[The King exits]

Chorus (all): **(dramatic sigh)**

Chorus#1: [wearily]Keep looking...

Chorus#2: Keep listening...

Chorus#3: Keep seeking the place where wisdom makes its home.

[Slight pause. Sound effect.]

Chorus#1: Wait.

Chorus#2: Someone approaches.

Chorus#3: I can sense... peace...

[Jesus enters]

Jesus: I am known as *Jesus* but I have many names - *Messiah, The Word, Prince of Peace*, are but a few.

Chorus#1&2: **We have heard of you.**

Chorus#3: But what is your wisdom?

Jesus: Love your enemies – for it is the way of your Father. Overwhelm with compassion – because it is the only language that can be truly understood. Lay down your lives – never forget I laid down my life for you.

Chorus#1: I think I see...

Chorus#2: ...I think I hear...

Chorus#3: ...I think I've found...

Chorus (all): ...wisdom.

Jesus: This is wisdom: When you were still separated from God, I, the Christ, was crucified for you. To the world this is both scandalous and foolish; but, to those who are being saved, I am the power and wisdom of God.

Chorus#1: Amen.

Chorus#1 & 2: Amen

Chorus#(all): Amen

[All exit]