

Star of Wonder

by **Rod Belt**

- Theme:** We all know about the Magi, otherwise known as The Wise Men or The Three Kings. We've all seen small children dress up as kings in Christmas plays and we probably get the rest of our knowledge from the song "We Three Kings", so the script takes that as its starting point. But what is true – and what did the Magi know and understand? This is a gently humorous drama for Christmas. You can read the Bible version in Matthew 2:1-12.
- Cast:**
- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| DOUGLIOR | Serious, factual, sarcastic. |
| ARTIMUS | Young and excitable. |
| KARYL | Reasonable, dignified.. |
- Notes:** The three are dressed in nice robes, but there are definitely no crowns. They are carrying packs for their provisions, gifts etc.
"We Three Kings" is in the public domain (out of copyright) and can be performed freely.

(Three people enter Stage Left dressed in fine robes. They slowly head towards Centre Stage with ARTIMUS in the lead. They are singing, DOUGLIOR less enthusiastically than the others.)

ALL *(singing)* We three kings of orient are! Bearing gifts we traverse afar! Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star! O...

DOUGLIOR *(interrupting the singing, looking pained and holding his head in his hands)*
Stop! Stop!

(They stumble to a halt, bumping into each other then trying to regain their balance and composure. ARTIMUS and KARYL look to DOUGLIOR for explanation.)

KARYL What?

ARTIMUS Have you spotted a café?

KARYL Strangers?

ARTIMUS *(getting excited)* A meteor shower?

DOUGLIOR No! I've already told you I don't like that song – It's ludicrous! Everything about it is wrong!

KARYL True. We're not kings.

ARTIMUS Well...

KARYL ARTIMUS, you are not royal. We've been through this before. And I've certainly never lived like a king.

ARTIMUS Well, to be fair, you're not even male so it would have to be kings and queens – which would make the line far too long to sing.

KARYL Or royals because we don't really need gender identifiers do we?

DOUGLIOR No, but it still doesn't fit and anyway it's still wrong!

ARTIMUS Wise men?

KARYL That would be wise *people* and I'm not sure we all fit that description. There are some who call us Magi or magicians.

DOUGLIOR That's because we live in a society that mistrusts experts and sadly they are foolish enough to think that studying and understanding the world around us is some sort of sorcery! I might accept being called a Truth Seeker.

ARTIMUS Well that definitely doesn't fit the tune!

KARYL *(Looking round)* Well, Since we seem to have paused our journeying to have this absolutely fascinating conversation about identity and song lyrics may I suggest we also share our repast here?

ARTIMUS *(blankly)* Pardon?

DOUGLIOR She means let's eat.

ARTIMUS Ooh yes! Who has got the snacks? *(pause)* Ooh, it might be me! *(rummaging through his pack and passing round cookies)* There is talk that there is royal blood in my family somewhere...

(They look ARTIMUS up and down doubtfully but say nothing.)

KARYL The song is right when it says three of us.

ARTIMUS *(trying to talk while munching)* No, there's four.

KARYL Three!

ARTIMUS Four.

(They stare at ARTIMUS as if he is mad.)

DOUGLIOR *(counting each person emphatically to make a point)* One. Two. Three. Don't tell me you've got an imaginary friend. If you have, he doesn't count.

ARTIMUS I'm not imagining anything. I'm counting him *(nods offstage)*

DOUGLIOR Who?

ARTIMUS Him!

(They all peer towards the back of the audience.)

KARYL Oh! *(taken aback)* Who is that?

ARTIMUS I call him Morty.

DOUGLIOR I don't think she was asking for his name so much as what he is doing here?

ARTIMUS How should I know? He's been with us since we first set out, always keeping at a distance, stopping when we stop, starting when we start.

KARYL And you didn't think to tell us? He might be a spy!

ARTIMUS No, I could spy better than that!

KARYL I doubt that, but if he's been with us from the start he might just be on the same quest as us. I suppose he's entitled to his privacy.

DOUGLIOR He probably didn't want to be forced to sing silly songs!

KARYL You call it silly songs, I call it team building.

(They munch quietly on their cookies.)

DOUGLIOR And orient? Orient!

KARYL It means the east.

DOUGLIOR I know what it means, but east of where? I've never heard anyone say "hello, I'm from the orient".

ARTIMUS I once went orienteering...

(There is a silence as KARYL and DOUGLIOR just stare at ARTIMUS, who pretends not to notice, then delves in his bag and produces a thermos flask and pours a drink, which he sips and passes around)

KARYL Moving swiftly on...

ARTIMUS We *are* bearing gifts. For the new-born king. When we find him.

DOUGLIOR Yes, I agree that bit's right. But don't get me started on the field and fountain, moor and mountain!

KARYL There definitely *has* been a distinct lack of fountains – I was getting seriously dehydrated back there.

ARTIMUS I thought we were all going to die! Those fields and moors all looked very much like deserts to me!

DOUGLIOR But the big problem with the song, the elephant in the room, the glaring inescapable conundrum in the centre of the whole story is, of course, the star.

(Now it is the turn of KARYL and ARTIMUS to stare in silence at DOUGLIOR.)

ARTIMUS I don't actually know what any of that means but there is definitely a star. *(pause, waiting for reaction)* I've seen it. *(another pause)* It's up there *(pointing)*. I'm following it.

DOUGLIOR *(slowly, deliberately)* Are you though? Are you really?

ARTIMUS We all are! That's why we're here!

KARYL You're not giving up on us are you? We've been through a lot of hardship together.

DOUGLIOR No! No, not at all. My question more revolves around the actual nature of this so-called "star".

ARTIMUS Well, that's easy! It's in the sky, it's shining, it's a star!

DOUGLIOR The planets are shining in the sky. Are they stars?

ARTIMUS Well no, obviously not. They move about.

DOUGLIOR Precisely. The stars are fixed in relation to each other. Every night they travel above our heads from East to West, and they do it *all together*. And that is exactly what our star is *not* doing. That is why it is special. That is why we are following it. That is why it *is not* a star.

So what is the star? Planet, meteorite, something else? And then there's the little matter of what it is actually leading them to... Do they know? And if not why are they doing this? Oh, and what song they can sing if this one is all wrong? To find out and to perform it you can purchase the entire script (and others) at DramatisDei.com

© Rod Belt 2019

Preview - not for performance

This script is **copyright © 2019 Rod Belt. All rights reserved.**

The right of Rod Belt to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted.

The copyright holder's permission must always be obtained before the copying, performance or recording of any dramatic work. Licenses normally cover one performance of a work. However, with your purchase of this script the author grants you the following rights.

Purchase of this script from DramatisDei licenses your non-profit organisation to unlimited performance royalty-free if there is no charge to the audience to attend. If there is a paying audience or commercial involvement please see the notes further down this page.

You are granted the right to print or copy a "performance set" of scripts. This means one script per actor/performer taking part and one script each for the director, producer, musical director and technical director (where these exist). At the end of the production these scripts must be retained by the purchaser or destroyed. No script may be uploaded to the internet or circulated electronically.

You are granted license to make one video or audio recording of a performance for your archives. If you want to make further copies (whether for sale or not) or to charge an audience to view the recording there is a small fee - please contact sales@dramatisdei.com for rates. Extracts of a recording may be made for placing on websites etc – if in doubt ask the author.

These rights are granted to the purchaser. **These rights are non-transferable and rights and/or scripts cannot be resold.** You may not represent the script as your own. All copies of scripts must include the original copyright notice and these conditions. All publicity or recordings must credit the author of the script. Any online publicity or uploaded video or audio extracts must credit the author and include a link to dramatisdei.com.

The words "you" or "yours" in these notices means the individual or organisation (drama group, church, school, club) purchasing the script.

If an admission charge is made or the performance is being paid for by a commercial organisation then there is a sliding scale of (reasonable) fees which depends on the size of the audience and the total number of minutes of our material that is being performed. Please contact sales@dramatisdei.com for charges.