

Passion Play – 2025 Herod Script (12.10.24)

ACT I—Scene 3: Pilate Arrives

PILATE: Claudia, it's good to see you here.

CLAUDIA: It's good to see you, too! How was your tour of inspection?

PILATE: It went well? When did you arrive from Caesarea?

CLAUDIA: Only a few hours ago. It went as well as can be expected. It was just long and lonely.

PILATE: In that case, I'll be sure to travel back with you.

(Herod and his entourage is coming down the Via)

CENTURION: Pilate, there are rumors that this holy man of the Jews...Messiah I believe they call him. There are rumors he's coming here.

PILATE: Longinus, it is more than rumor. It's fact. What is more, Herod my old enemy is also here for their Jewish Passover. But enough of this for now, let us go in.

Act III—Scene 4a: Pilate Private Trial

PILATE: For trial? But is he not under Herod's jurisdiction? ...*(They debate among themselves)*... Answer my question!

PRIEST 2: This man is under Herod's jurisdiction, but...

PILATE: Herod is here in Jerusalem at this very time! Take him to Herod. Don't trouble me further. I **(have no time) (don't have time)** for such foolishness.

Act III—Scene 4b: Jesus tried by Herod

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HEROD: What is this? What do we see here? Do we see John the Baptist here? Salome, Herodias, look this is John the Baptist. He's risen from the dead.

[LAUGHTER]

PRIEST 2: Your Excellency.

HEROD: Silence! No one must speak. We must examine this man more closely. Are you John come back from the grave to haunt us? No, no, no...this is not John, we know that. *(almost laughing with amusement).*

This is the man called Jesus.

Thank you for bringing him to us. We are greatly pleased to meet him at long last. So, you are Jesus of Nazareth. We hear that you perform miracles...that you heal the sick and the lame...that you make the blind see. The deaf hear. The dead live again!

[LAUGHTER]

Is all of this true? As you are a Galilean and under my jurisdiction, we are indeed very interested in seeing these miracles performed in our presence.

Salome, wouldn't you like to see a miracle performed?

SALOME: Yes! Oh yes! *[SALOME clothes Jesus with purple mantle.]*

HEROD: Oh, and you Herodias?

HERODIAS: Very well.

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HEROD: You see we are not alone in our curiosity. So perform for us! Entertain us with your miracles.

[Crowd voices of affirmation]

What's wrong? Why is he not doing anything?

Wait, I have it. Is there water in that jug?

HEROD SERVANT: Yes, Excellency!

HEROD: Well, then bring it to us. Set it there in front of him. Now, step back!

Change this water into wine for us. Can you do that?

Well, we're waiting! *(waits a moment for Jesus)* You, taste it!.....Well?

WITNESS 2/TASTER: Excellency, it's still water!

HEROD: AHHH! Take him back to Pilate.