

Three Wise Men of Chaldea

*Selected from the collection
"HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?"*

By Judith Clough

Cast: 3 m

Length: 2 page of dialogue (480 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

The three Wise Men prepare for the long journey to find the Christ Child. Balthazar is determined to go, Melchior argues because he hates to travel, and Caspar repeats everything Balthazar says or does, much to everyone's irritation. When Caspar sees the bright star, however, they all become anxious to leave.

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Three Wise Men of Chaldea

(AT RISE: Chaldea, home of Melchior. Enter BALTHAZAR, CASPAR, followed by MELCHIOR. Caspar follows Balthazar wherever he goes and mimics everything he does, in an obvious trance of hero worship. He is mostly disregarded by the other two as they talk. Melchior hurries after the two of them, his hands out in pleading gesture, shouting.)

MELCHIOR: But I don't want to go traveling! I like it here in Chaldea. I don't like to travel. It's uncomfortable and ... and uncomfortable.

BALTHAZAR: *(Earnestly.)* But this is a special trip, Melchior. We are going to follow a star to find the most important child ever born.

CASPAR: *(Nodding solemnly.)* The most important child ever born.

MELCHIOR: What star? I don't see any star!

BALTHAZAR: It's not here yet because the child isn't born yet. We must be ready to go when it does come.

CASPAR: *(Nodding.)* Ready to go when it does come.

MELCHIOR: But I want to stay here with my servants and my fine house and my food! I can't leave my food!

BALTHAZAR: We must be ready to travel fast and light, Melchior. We can't take a lot of stuff with us. You'll have to leave all your comforts behind.

CASPAR: *(Nodding.)* Leave all your comforts behind.

MELCHIOR: We've been friends for a long time, Balthazar, but this is it. You don't even know where we're going.

BALTHAZAR: I know it's somewhere in Judea. We'll probably have to stop in Jerusalem and ask. The king is named Herod. He can probably tell us where to look.

MELCHIOR: Herod! Oh, no! I've heard terrible things about him. He will not be at all happy to hear that we are looking for a new King of Jews.

BALTHAZAR: Well, then, we will fool him. Once we have found the baby, we will go home another way. Besides, I already think it might be a little town called Bethlehem.

CASPAR: *(Nodding.)* A little town called Bethlehem.

MELCHIOR: *(Sarcastically.)* Great! We are going on a long trip but we aren't sure where. We're leaving behind all our comforts. We're looking for a child we don't even know the name of. And all because of a star that isn't there!

End of Freeview

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