A Proud King

*II Kings 1:2-18*

One actor plays all the characters. The only set piece is a stool representing Ahaziah’s “bed,” so only Ahaziah sits on the stool. All interaction with Ahaziah happens to the right of the stool. All the interaction with Elijah happens to the left of the stool, except when Elijah goes to confront Ahaziah.

Character suggestions:

* Ahaziah, sitting, sticks his leg as if it’s injured. This conveys the “disease” Ahaziah is suffering from.
* Angel sings or chant the lines.
* The first two Captains are secure (even pompous), but the third fears for his life. When marching, they whistle a military march (i.e. *The Bridge on the River Kwai*).
* Off stage focus is helpful for all the characters. Change in focus and location are especially helpful to distinguish Elijah from the Captains.

STORYTELLER

A Proud King. II Kings 1: 2-18. And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them,

AHAZIAH

(sitting, pointing to the right)

Go. Enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this…disease.

STORYTELLER

(moving to left of stool)

But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite,

ANGEL

(singing/chanting)

Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

STORYTELLER

And Elijah departed.

(sitting)

And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them,

AHAZIAH

Why are ye now turned back?

STORYTELLER

(moving to right of stool)

And they said unto him,

MESSENGER

There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

STORYTELLER

(sitting)

And he said unto them,

AHAZIAH

What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?

STORYTELLER

(moving to right of stool)

And they answered him,

MESSENGER

He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins.

STORYTELLER

(sitting)

And he said,

AHAZIAH

It is Elijah the Tishbite.

STORYTELLER

(stand, moving to right of stool)

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty.

(marching around front of stool to the left side, whistling)

And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him,

CAPTAIN #1

Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

STORYTELLER

(moving to left of the stool)

And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty,

ELIJAH

If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty.

STORYTELLER

(indicating the fire falling on the fifty)

And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

(moving to right of stool)

Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered

(marching around front of stool to the left side, whistling, only this time reacting to the “burnt bodies” at the bottom of the hill)

and said unto him,

CAPTAIN #2

O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.

STORYTELLER

(moving to just left of the stool)

And Elijah answered and said unto them,

ELIJAH

If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty.

STORYTELLER

(indicating the fire falling on the fifty)

And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

(moving to right of stool)

And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty.

(marching around front of stool to the left side, whistling, reacting even more to the “burnt bodies” at the bottom of the hill)

And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him,

CAPTAIN #3

(kneeling before Elijah)

O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

STORYTELLER

(standing just left of the stool)

And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah,

ANGEL

Go down with him: be not afraid of him.

STORYTELLER

(moving around front of stool to the right side)

And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. And he said unto him,

ELIJAH

(to Ahaziah)

Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

STORYTELLER

(moving to left of stool)

So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because

(picking up stool)

he had no son. Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?