The Creditor

*2 Kings 4:1-7*

STORYTELLER

WOMAN

SON (with line to say)

SON

ELISHA

CREDITOR

SINGER

PERCUSSIONIST

STORYTELLER

The creditor. II Kings 4: 1-7.

(Actors line up along the back of the stage, facing out. The PERCUSSIONIST and SINGER sit off to the side stage left. All objects are mimed except the pot of oil, which is a small, pottery jar. The WOMAN and her two SONS form a desolate image in their house, down right, with the pottery jar. After a moment, ELISHA and the WOMAN form an image down stage left where Elisha has his prophesy. The STORYTELLER approaches this last image.)

STORYTELLER (continued)

Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying.

WOMAN

Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD.

(CREDITOR enters the scene and creates a tableau of struggle with the two SONS.)

WOMAN (continued)

And the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

STORYTELLER   
And Elisha said unto her.

ELISHA

What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house?

STORYTELLER

And she said.

WOMAN  
Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

STORYTELLER  
Then he said.

(During ELISHA’S next speech, the WOMAN, along with the STORYTELLER, gets up and moves to images that show the parts of ELISHA’S prophesy. ELISHA continues speaking to her as if she is present in his home. The WOMAN borrows vessels, shuts the door against the creditor, protecting her sons, and begins to pour oil into vessels.)

ELISHA  
Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

STORYTELLER  
So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son.

WOMAN

Bring me yet a vessel.

STORYTELLER  
And he said unto her.

SON

There is not a vessel more.

(The PERCUSSION has ceased, and now the SINGER trails off to silence. WOMAN and SONS form a tableau, amazed at the jar of oil, which is full.)

STORYTELLER  
And the oil stayed.

(SONS pull a wagon full of jars to town as WOMAN kneels before ELISHA presenting a jar.)

STORYTELLER (continued)

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said.

ELISHA

Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt.

(Image of WOMAN paying creditor, SONS giving jars to audience members. Then the family returns home to a final image of eating.)

ELISHA (continued)

And live thou and thy children of the rest.

(ELISHA exits and the family is in final tableau until music ends.)