

"ARKWARD."

A Comedic Retelling of Genesis

(A Binaural Audio Experience)

Written for Children aged 8-12

by Branden Matthew Antoine

Notes:

- a. Positions of sound relative to the listener are indicated by brackets, for example [12:00]. This would indicate that the respective character is positioned directly in front of the listener, hence in the 12 o'clock position.
- b. Roman Numerals indicate the distance from the listener.
 - I. Close Up (0-2 feet)
 - II. Personal Space (2-6 feet)
 - III. Room Space (6-12 feet)
 - IV. Distant (12+ feet)
- c. Scent Palette by Act is Provided at the end of document. Implementing [AromaSync Technology](#)

ACT I - "Please Shoot the Bird"

Setting - indoors, **scent of wood (gopher wood due to the indoor construction of the ark)** - large room widely spaced.

SHEM, 12, is a very polite and sociable young man who tends to serve as the host or liaison between the variably aged members of his family.

SHEM

[9:00, II]

Hi, nice to meet you, friend. I'm Shem.

[he is now fully centered at 12:00, II]

Thank you for coming. Usually, we don't need much help but honestly..

WHISPERS

[3:00, I]

"I think my dad is scared of the animals. And this thing that we're working on... it's gonna involve a lot of animals."

[12:00, II]

Say, do you know where he went by any chan- INTERRUPTED

PIGEON WINGS FLUTTER across the soundscape [10:00, III to 3:00, IV] as it immediately begins to attack Noah.

NOAH, 35, IS THE FATHER OF SHEM - THOUGH NOAH IS BOTH A SKILLED ARCHITECT AND METEOROLOGIST, HIS ONLY TRUE DOCTORATE DEGREE IS ONE OF CLUMSINESS.

A chaotic concoction of Noah's frenzied panics ensue as he is attacked by the pigeon [3:00, IV]

SHEM

[12:00, II]

continuing "...chance..."

"Well there's my dad... don't worry, I've got this."

SHEM MOVES TO RUMMAGE THROUGH HIS BACKPACK [BACKPACK AT 9:00, II] PULLS OUT AND INTRICATELY SETS UP SOME KIND OF SLINGSHOT / BB GUN CONTRAPTION WITH HEAVY ATTENTION TO DETAIL ON THE SOUND OF IT **LOCATED, PUT TOGETHER, AND FIRED** IN THE STYLE OF ASMR (THE PROJECTILE PANNING ACROSS THE SOUNDSCAPE [9:00 TO 3:00 - 3:00, IV BEING THE LOCATION OF THE PIGEON AND NOAH] IN THE STYLE OF ASMR

SLINGSHOT FIRED - SHEM AIMS AT THE PIGEON, SHOOTS ONCE AND MISSES

Come on... come on...

SLINGSHOT STRIKES PIGEON

NOAH

[3:00, IV]

"Thank you, Shem." He replies with a hint of embarrassment.

NAAMAH, 36, IS THE WIFE OF NOAH, THOUGH HER ROLE WOULD MORE REALISTICALLY DESCRIBED AS THAT OF HIS BABYSITTER. HER VOICE IS WARM, SOOTHING AND THOUGHTFUL. SHE IS BLIND AND FLUENT IN BRAILLE, WHICH IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE CREW AS THEIR ONLY SCROLL CONTAINING THE WORD OF THE LORD HAPPENS TO BE WRITTEN IN BRAILLE.

A NEW VOICE BEGINS TO SPEAK

NAAMAH

[10:00, IV]

CLEARs HER THROAT

"Tell him Noah."

NOAH

[3:00, IV to 12:00, II, he moves gradually]

I mean... *clears throat and switches to a sterner tone as he approaches* - [moving from 3:00, IV to 12:00, II]

Shem didn't we talk earlier about- oh who's that?

(beat)

[12:00, II]

Hi, nice to meet you, I'm Mr. Noah!

Thank you for coming to help us out, you must be one of Shem's friends.

But unfortunately, Shem is about to be in a lot of trouble.

Shem is *actually* about to be grounded. So- INTERRUPTED

SHEM

[3:00, II]

Oh come on dad, you never let me hang out with friends. And look they're so cool...

They're just sitting there smiling... they're not gonna get me into any trouble.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

That's what you said about Jared, and now *today* instead of helping us he's sick in bed and covered head to toe in geese bites!

A NEW VOICE BEGINS TO SPEAK

BABY HAM

[9:00, III]

starts laughing

SHEM

[3:00, II]

Yeah, so much for duck, duck, goose...

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Listen Shem... these birds are God's creatures, and we must treat them with-

PIGEON ATTACK -[moves him from 12:00 back to 3:00, IV]

[3:00, IV]

Ok do it again please!

"Shem please shoot the bird!" in a tone approaching a falsetto

NOAH STUMBLES AND FALLS TO THE GROUND

SHEM

[3:00, II]

Ok one second dad, let me get my-INTERRUPTED

BIRD IS HIT BY ANOTHER SLINGSHOT

Wait, who did that?

JAPHETH, 14, is Noah's eldest child, the older brother of Shem and Ham. He is a "cool kid" who usually speaks solely through colloquial

one-liners which are each followed by a single reverberated strum of a guitar jazz chord.

A NEW VOICE BEGINS TO SPEAK

JAPHETH

[10:00, III]

And Japheth saves the day again as usual GUITAR CHORD

ALL CHARACTERS

Reply to greet him in a scattered union - Noah as well, though he is now on the floor.

NOAH

[3:00, IV]

(on the floor) hello son...

SHEM

[2:00, II]

hey big bro!

BABY HAM

[12:00, II]

babbles playfully*

JAPHETH

[10:00, II]

What's up baby Ham? GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM

[12:00, II]

"ahhhaga... mmgoo"

he replies with a cool smugness.

SHEM

[3:00, I]

"That's my brother Japheth" whispers to listener

"And this is my baby brother Ham. He's still learning how to speak"

BABY HAM

[12:00, II]

Babbles nonchalantly*

SHEM

[3:00, I]

"Oh yeah and I forgot to mention the most important part - God is sending a giant flood to cover the whole entire world with water and the only way to survive is we build a special kind of boat called an ark...

Here comes my dad Noah, I can tell you more later."

NOAH

[9:00, III - he gradually pans to the next stated zone]

"Well... sailors... now that we're all here. We've got a boat to finish building" he says unenthusiastically through a grunt/sigh while rising and dusting himself off.

[12:00, II]

"Three workers and plenty of work to do."

BABY HAM

[10:00, II]

starts crying

NOAH

[12:00, II]

"Aww no I'm sorry Baby Ham; I meant to say *four workers*."

BABY HAM

[10:00, II]

babbles a sound of satisfaction

NOAH

[12:00, II]

"Ok but seriously troops, let's get to work."

[END OF INTRO / ACT 1]

ACT II - "Two of Every Sort"

FEATURING THE QUARTET PIECE - "THE LIGHTBEARER"

NOAH

[12:00, III]

Ok Shem, I want you, your friend, and Japheth, to sit over there in front of Ham's highchair and here, take these mallets into your hands.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Over here?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Yeah, over there right next to your friend.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Mallets? These look more like hammers to me" GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

"Hammers, mallets, they're basically the same thing." He replies in a tone of mild frustration.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Whatever you say boss-a-doodle-doo" he replies while stretching.
GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Now when I say the word, you guys are going to take up your mallets and strike them down on these special bolts in front of you.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Hammers. GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Ok fine Japheth, everyone grab your hammers and give it one testing tap.

EVERYONE

Shem, Japheth and the listener gently STRIKE THE "SPECIAL BOLTS" producing a sound matching that of the kalimba to be heard later in "the Lightbearer" quartet piece.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Like that, dad?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Yeah that was pretty good.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

cries again

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I'm sorry Baby Ham but I really can't trust you with a mallet again, especially after what you did to Jared last week.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

babbles angrily in gibberish

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I know Ham, I hear you - but just because Jared annoys you doesn't mean that you can treat his face like a whack-a-mole.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

again babbles angrily

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Ham, a good man learns to control himself. He should master the art of longsuffering, that means he should be slow to anger; you will learn these things as you get older.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

blows raspberries / babbles argumentatively with a confident tone

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Well that is actually a good point, you really can't spell hammer without Ham.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

*babbles something like "I know" *

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Ok well I'll tell you what Ham, you can help us by using this. Here, give it a try.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

PRODUCES A SINGLE LOOSE PLUCKED CELLO SOUND

babbles with contentment - "ahhha ga"

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Very good.

Ok troops, there is just one single step left until the boat is ready for us to set sail.

You see, right now...

[9:00]

FLUTE STARTS SLOWLY PLAYING AN ASCENDING SCALE BUT STOPS HALFWAY

AND CANNOT ASCEND FURTHER (the flute is a metaphor for the raising of the sails)

This is as high up as I can lift the sails - but with everyone playing their parts...

With you guys hammering the special bolts into place And Baby Ham PLUCKED CELLO SOUND ... doing that...

I just might be able to...

ASCENDING FLUTE

Fully lift the sails, and keep them there. So let's all get started on three, okay?

One.

Two.

Quartet Piece Begins - "THE LIGHTBEARER" + Binaural Dialogue Each instrument incorporated through the music will serve as a metaphor for the actions of the boat's construction.

Featuring dialogue at the following timecards synchronized to "THE LIGHTBEARER":

00:02: Baby Ham: cooing happily as he makes the cello sound.

00:16 yep, that's great you three

00:36 a little higher!

00:44 Okay now I'm gonna raise it up

00:50 grunts* come on

1:00 ok very good everyone

1:03 Now the other side

1:23 Ugh I can't reach "Is that the pigeon?"

The pigeon returns and carries it

ASCENDING FLUTE

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Well guys, it looks like we did it, the boat is finished.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

GASPS WITH EXHILARATION

Like you mean... ACTUALLY finished, finished?

NOAH

Yep, we just have to wait a few more minutes for the clay to dry and then we'll know for sure.

SHEM

Okay!

JAPHETH

SWISHES HIS HAIR

NOAH

Augh!

NOAH FLINCHES, ANTICIPATING A PIGEON ATTACK

JAPHETH

Relax dad... the pigeons gone... that's just the sound of the new "do".

SHEM

A do? What kind of animal is that?

JAPHETH

Guys... Come on... it's my new hairdo - the Cedar Swirl

GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

Why does it look so... greasy?

JAPHETH

Because excellence has texture.

NOAH

You spent an hour grooming your hair while we're building a giant boat to survive the wrath of God?

JAPHETH

Correction:

I maintained morale.

SWISHES HIS HAIR AGAIN

NOAH

So that's why you were late today huh?

(beat)

JAPHETH

JAPHETH SIGHS

Do either of you have any idea how difficult it is to preserve the integrity of the Cedar Swirl in seventy-three percent humidity?

NOAH:

Actually- seventy four percent humidity, son, but not a bad guess.

SHEM:

You named it?

JAPHETH:

Of course I named it. Great works deserve titles. Want to know how I did it?

SHEM:

It looks like a sheep lost an argument with the wind.

NOAH:

More like a bear..

JAPHETH [ignoring him]:

First, I rinse with collected rainwater-

not barrel water, that dries the roots.

Then I apply a precise blend of pressed olive oil and aloe sap.

NOAH:

You moisturize during construction?

JAPHETH:

The coming flood may destroy many things, Father.

It will not destroy volume.

[He pats the sides carefully.]

JAPHETH:

Then comes combing.

NOAH:

With what comb?

JAPHETH:

A fish bone.

SHEM:

You comb your hair with a fish skeleton?

JAPHETH:

Only the spine section. Flexible. Elegant. Aerodynamic.

NOAH:

That is the worst thing I've ever heard.

JAPHETH:

Then comes shaping.

Very delicate process. The front must suggest mystery-

[He adjusts hair.]

JAPHETH:

-but the sides communicate approachability.

NOAH:

Your hair has diplomacy?

JAPHETH:

A leader's appearance matters.

SHEM:

You slipped in goat mud yesterday.

JAPHETH:

And yet...

the Cedar Swirl endured.

GUITAR CHORD

[Beat.]

NOAH:

You couldn't have picked a better name?

JAPHETH [proudly]:

The name came to me in a vision.

SHEM:

You saw your reflection in a puddle.

JAPHETH:

Inspiration arrives in many forms.

NOAH

You know son, if you put a fraction of that effort into the ark, maybe it wouldn't have taken us 100 years to build...

JAPHETH

The boat is a science dad... the Cedar Swirl is an art.

GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

Hey dad? How come you never made a name for the boat?

NOAH

You know... I never thought about it son.

JAPHETH

How about "The Floodmobile"?

SHEM

"The Rainbearer"?

JAPHETH

"The Critter-Carrier"

SHEM

"The Drip Defender"

JAPHETH

"Arkansas"

(beat)

NOAH

Hmm... Shem I kind of like that one... "The Rainbearer"

(beat)

You boys know the bible verse... "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden"?

(beat)

How about...

IN UNISON

"THE LIGHTBEARER"

SHEM

That's so awesome...

JAPHETH

Not bad, not bad

GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

Well...

It looks like the clay is all dry. The ark is finished.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Oh man, I can't wait to sail the sea. We can finally leave this rainforest! We can go all around the world we could see the mountains, the desert valleys, the frozen- INTERRUPTED

NOAH

[12:00, II]

HE CHUCKLES

I know it's exciting, Shem. But before we get too carried away, we always have to follow God's instructions first, right? Obedience is the most important thing.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Not to mention there's a giant flood coming to cover the whole Earth in water, little bro. GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

You're right, you're right - sorry guys.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

No need to be sorry, I'm excited too. But first things first, we need to read the sacred text. Shem, could you bring me the scroll please?

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Sure dad!

SHEM RUMMAGES THROUGH A BACKPACK

SHEM URAVELS THE SCROLL

Hmm... That's weird... I don't understand, it doesn't have any words, it's just a bunch of dots.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"So much for the honor roll" GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Japheth, you're the one with a D minus in French.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Touché. GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

WALKS OVER TO SHEM AND GENTLY TAKES THE SCROLL IN HIS HAND.

He chuckles and replies "Don't worry Shem, each one of those little dots are actually letters. You see, the scroll is written in braille, so we will need your mother to help us read it. Naamah dear, would you mind reading this for us?"

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Can't you read braille, dad?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I understand it a little bit but only the best and brightest readers can master braille.

HE WALKS OVER TO NAAMAH AND HANDS HER THE SCROLL

ASMR concept of Naamah in a state of deep concentration "hmmm" interpreting the scroll with her fingers and feeling through its letters on your left [9:00], gently murmuring them out them out to Shem who is etching each character onto an empty canvas with a quill on your right [3:00].

Fragments that are translated:

"Two of every sort" "Birds"

"Cattle" "Creeping"

(FOR CONTEXT - The biblical message in full:

"And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.")

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Well, according to the scroll it's time to go outside.

ACT III - "Something's Coming"

THE CREW WALKS OUTDOORS. THE WILDERNESS BESIDE THE HOUSE. OPEN AIR. LIGHT WIND. OCCASIONAL DISTANT FOREST AMBIENCE.

FOOTSTEPS TRANSITION FROM INDOOR FLOORING TO SOFT GRASS. AMBIENT WILDERNESS SURROUNDS THE LISTENER IN GENTLE STEREO.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Whoa... this is the first time we've actually stepped out here for real.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Shem... this is our backyard.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Our backyard's about to become a bowl of soup." GUITAR CHORD.

SOFT GRASS NIBBLING begins around [4 o'clock] and [8 o'clock]. Tiny, crisp chewing sounds. Gentle sniffing.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

[whispers]

Hey, do you guys hear that?

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

[hushed babble]

"mmmgo"

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

[calm] Sounds like tiny teeth.

RABBITS EMERGE.

SOFT HOPS CIRCLING LIGHTLY AROUND THE LISTENER. ASMR CHEWING. GRASS TEARING GENTLY.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

[softly delighted] Hey little guys...

NOAH

[12:00, II]

[overly cautious whisper]

Everyone move slowly. We don't want to startle them.

[2:00] SUDDEN CAT SCREECH

RABBITS SCATTER in quick surround hops outward.

NOAH

[3:00, III]

What th-INTERRUPTED

CAT LEAPS. FABRIC RUSTLE. NOAH STUMBLES.

Okay! Okay! That's my tunic!

CAT CONTINUES SCRAMBLING ACROSS HIM - CLAWS LIGHTLY CATCHING FABRIC.

It's using me as a staircase!

THE CAT LAUNCHES OFF OF NOAH'S STOMACH; HE LANDS FLAT ON HIS BACK IN THE GRASS

SHEM

[11:00, II]

You okay dad?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

"Yeah I'm... I'm alive. Thanks."

(He exhales these words as if he were a deflating balloon)

FAMILY LAUGHTER

CAT LANDS SOFTLY AT [12 O'CLOCK].

INSTANT GENTLE PURR BEGINS - DEEP, SOOTHING, CLOSE-MIC ASMR.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

[laughing]

Oh! It's just a cat!

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Plot twist." GUITAR CHORD.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

[reaches toward it] "baaa..."

CAT PURRS LOUDER.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

[holding it now, centered at 12 o'clock] It likes us.

NOAH

[4:00, III]

It does not like me.

CAT HISSES LIGHTLY AT NOAH

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Perhaps it senses your... bird-related history.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Hey, Naamah, the pigeon started it.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Here Mom, it's right in front of you.

NAAMAH EXTENDS HER HAND CONFIDENTLY - THE CAT PRESSES INTO HER PALM

PURR DEEPENS

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Warm. Relaxed. Steady heartbeat. It trusts.

CAT SUDDENLY MAKES AN AGITATED SOUND, IT SWATS NOAH AGAIN

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Ouch! - It trusts selectively.

EVERYONE CHUCKLES

THE PURRING FADES GENTLY AS THE CAT HOPS DOWN

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Okay... so rabbits were easy.

Cats were easy, well... not for dad. But what about... bigger animals?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

"Don't worry guys, we'll be fine. Everything will be just fine." he replies unconvincingly while dusting himself off.

IN A SOFTSPOKEN INAUDIBLE MUMBLE HE BEGINS ANXIOUSLY PRAYING TO THE LORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Well why don't we try just asking politely?

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

That didn't work out for Jared. GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Maniacal babble.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Mom... what did the scroll say again?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

[STEPS SLIGHTLY FORWARD TO 9 O'CLOCK. THE WIND SOFTENS]

Hmm... I remember how the letters felt beneath my fingers. It didn't say to "chase them."

It didn't say to "trap them." It said...

SHE GENTLY RUMMAGES FOR THE SCROLL AND GOES BACK OVER THE SECTION WITH HER FINGERTIPS - ASMR

NAAMAH (CONT'D)

"Two of every sort... shall come unto thee."

(beat)

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Unto us? He replies with concern.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Well that's what the bird did." GUITAR CHORD (quieter).

SHEM

[11:00, II]

"And the cats."

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Babbles as if to list another animal

SHEM

[11:00, II]

"So we just wait?"

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

IN A TONE OF DEEP CONTEMPLATION

"We prepare... And we trust."

SOFT WIND. A MOMENT OF STILLNESS.

FROM HIGH ABOVE AT [11 O'CLOCK], A DISTINCT, RESONANT LIMPKIN CALL –
LONG AND ECHOING.

THE CALL ARCS OVERHEAD.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Whoa...

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Is that dad trying to sing again?" GUITAR CHORD.

WINGS FLUTTERING, THE BIRD DESCENDS TO [1 O'CLOCK]

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

NAAMAH CHUCKLES

It sounds like a limpkin.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Excited squeal

THE BIRD SETTLES CALMLY

SUDDEN SHARP PECK

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Ow!

(Beat)

It pecked me.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"As usual" GUITAR CHORD.

BIRD FLAPS AGGRESSIVELY, AND FLIES INTO JAPHETH.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

HE WHISPERS WITH COMPLETELY GENTLE NONCHALANCE ouch. GUITAR CHORD
FAMILY LAUGHS

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

As you have done, it shall be done unto you, Japheth.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

That's from the scroll of Obadiah, right mom?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Yep. Obadiah 1:15

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Hey I never flew into anybody. GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

You flew into dad's emotions.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

True.

Soft sand-like scuffling at [6 o'clock]. Tiny claws dig.

A MEERKAT pops up near the listener's feet.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Oh! Hi!

MEERKAT CHITTERS.

SUDDEN FABRIC RUSTLE - IT SCRAMBLES UP NOAH'S ROBE.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Yet again, there is something ascending me.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

A meerkat! Look dad, it's on your elbow!

MEERKAT CHITTERS LOUDLY NEAR NOAH'S EAR

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Aah! Sir, my arm is not a ladder!

FAMILY LAUGHTER

THE MEERKAT LEAPS OFF

NOAH

[12:00, II]

So much for peace and quiet.

LOW, DISTANT THUD.

GROUND VIBRATION BEGINS SUBTLY.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Oh no.

ANOTHER THUD - CLOSER

ELEPHANT TRUMPETS [12 O'CLOCK, IV]

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"...That's not backyard sized." GUITAR CHORD (minor). ELEPHANT APPROACHES SLOWLY. EACH STEP HEAVY BUT GENTLE. IT STOPS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THEM.

SOFT EXHALE FROM ITS TRUNK - WARM AIR ACROSS THE LISTENER'S LEFT EAR.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Gasps in awe.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Please don't climb on my shoulder Mr. Elephant sir.

SHEM

Haha I think it likes you dad! What's it doing? It looks like it's breathing in really deep.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

THE ELEPHANT SNEEZES POWERFULLY.

NOAH FALLS TO THE GROUND

THEN SUDDENLY SPRAYS A PLAYFUL BURST OF WATER. SPLASH. DRIP. DRIP.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Oof!

SHEM

God bless you Mr. Elephant sir!

NOAH

HE SIGHS

Forgot my umbrella.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Gesundheit." GUITAR CHORD.

NOAH REMAINS ON THE GROUND, SOAKED.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Dad?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Yes, Shem.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

I was just thinking... If we built the ark inside the house...

How are we going to get it into the water?

LONG PAUSE.

WATER DRIPS FROM NOAH'S TUNIC. INSECTS HUM.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Oh man.

(Beat)

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Nurse, I think my dad stopped working. GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I need a moment.

IN A SOFTSPOKEN INAUDIBLE MUMBLE HE BEGINS ANXIOUSLY PRAYING TO THE LORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Mom, I think you should talk to him - he's having a crisis.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

He's praying, the Lord will answer him.

We should pray too. Do you remember the Lord's prayer?

SHEM, NAAMAH, JAPHETH, AND BABY HAM (BABBLING) BEGIN TO PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER IN UNISON, THERE IS A GUITAR CHORD FOLLOWING THE FINAL AMEN

THE WIND SOFTENS

A SUBTLE, DISTANT RUMBLE CAN BE HEARD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Umm... guys?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

What is it (Shem / son)?

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Something's coming, something huge. The sky is like a different color over there.

THE DISTANT RUMBLE CRESCENDOS INTO THE SOUND OF A POWERFUL SLOWLY APPROACHING TRAIN

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Oh wow... That's not the sky... it's a wave.

Everyone quickly, follow the animals back to the house! The flood is coming; we need to get to the boat now!

A POWERFUL THUNDERSTORM EMERGES (THE OUTER BAND OF THE STORM)

WIND HOWLS THROUGH THE TREES.

ANIMALS CRY AND STAMPEDE PAST.

THE CREW MAKE HASTE TO SCRAMBLE BACK TO THE HOUSE

SFX: FEET SPLASHING THROUGH MUD.

BABY HAM CRIES IN NAAMAH'S ARMS.

THEY STAND IN FRONT OF THE BOAT AT THE MAIN DOOR

SFX: THE FIRST HEAVY DROPS OF RAIN STRIKING THE ARK.

SHEM [panicked, out of breath]

Okay Dad, can you open it please?

JAPHETH YANKS ON THE HANDLE.

JAPHETH

Wait—

you built the ark and you can't even open the door?!

NAAMAH

Excuse me, Japheth?

JAPHETH

I'm just saying this feels like something we should've discussed earlier!

THUNDER CRACKS OVERHEAD.

THE ANIMALS BEGIN GROWING MORE DISTRESSED.

SHEM TRIES THE HANDLE HIMSELF.

SHEM

It won't move!

JAPHETH PULLS HARDER.

JAPHETH

Okay—okay—

this is officially becoming a situation!

NOAH [calmly]

A man can do nothing on his own.

God built the ark through us.

NAAMAH

Even to open the door depends on God.

(beat)

RAIN SUDDENLY INTENSIFIES.

JAPHETH

...What do you mean "depends on God"?!

SHEM

You mean there's no latch?!

NOAH

The Lord will open it.

[A TERRIFYING THUNDERCLAP.]

[BABY HAM STARTS CRYING HARDER.]

JAPHETH LOWERS HIS VOICE.

JAPHETH

Father... respectfully...

the sky sounds angry.

NAAMAH [gently bouncing BABY HAM]

Have faith.

JAPHETH

I DO have faith!

I would simply also enjoy having a door!

SHEM TRIES TO HIDE A NERVOUS LAUGH.

NOAH [stepping toward the ark]

Come close.

THE FAMILY HUDDLES TOGETHER AS WIND AND RAIN ROAR AROUND THEM.

NOAH

Lord of Heaven and Earth...

You warned us before the rain came.

You guided our hands while we built.

NAAMAH

You gathered every creature here safely.

NOAH

If it is Your will...

open what no hand of man can open.

SHEM [quietly]

Please protect us.

[JAPHETH GULPS NERVOUSLY]

JAPHETH [small voice]

Please don't turn us into sea croutons.

ONLY THE STORM.

RAIN HAMMERING WOOD.

JAPHETH BREATHING QUICKLY.

JAPHETH

Okay I suddenly regret every joke I've ever made about this project—
DEEP INTERNAL THUD.

EVERYONE FREEZES.

SFX: MASSIVE WOODEN LOCKS SHIFTING SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE ARK.

SHEM [whispering]

It's opening...

THE GREAT DOOR BEGINS TO GROAN OPEN.

WIND RUSHES THROUGH THE OPENING.

ANIMALS SURGE FORWARD.

NOAH

Inside! Quickly!

JAPHETH

MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE—!

[THE FAMILY AND ANIMALS RUSH INTO THE ARK AS THUNDER EXPLODES
OVERHEAD.]

INTO THE BOAT [AS THEY ENTER THE BOAT, A REVERB ALTERATION IS
APPLIED, SMALL TO MODERATE ROOM SIZE REVERB BUS WITH A SLIGHT ECHO]

WAVES EXPLODE ON IMPACT, GUSHING, CRACKLING AND SNAPPING OF LARGE
WOODED BOARDS CAN BE HEARD AS THE SURROUNDING HOUSE COLLAPSES AWAY

AROMA OF THE OCEAN

A CLUSTER OF ONOMATOPOEIAS ENSUES AS THE BOAT IS CARRIED TO THE
SURFACE AND EVENTUALLY SETTLES

THEY GATHER AROUND IN SILENCE, ALL PANTING

NAAMAH TAKES BABY HAM IN TO HER ARMS TO SOOTHE HIM WHICH INDIRECTLY
SOOTHES EACH MEMBER OF THE BOAT

BABY HAM SETTLES DOWN

THEY CATCH THEIR BREATH

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Proverbs chapter three?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Very good Shem, one day you will be a great leader for the church.

THE STORM SUBSIDES, THE SOUNDS OF THE OCEAN BECOME MORE APPARENT

[end of ACT III]

ACT IV - "Arkward."

FEATURING THE OCEAN DIVE / OPEN WATER SEQUENCE

SETTING: Inside the ark at sea. Wooden interior. Calm but active ocean. Warm room reverb. The ark rocks slowly beneath the listener. Ocean breeze drifts faintly through cracks in the wood. Animal life occasionally shifts around the vessel.

WOOD CREAKS above [12:00, III].

WAVES softly roll beneath the hull [12:00, IV].

A GOAT BLEATS faintly [2:00, III].

A PIGEON COOS overhead [11:00, IV].

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

happy babbling*

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Wow... we're really doing it.

We're actually floating.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Yes.

And thankfully, for the first time this week, nothing appears to be attacking me.

IMMEDIATELY:

PIGEON COO ABOVE.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I spoke too soon.

FAMILY CHUCKLES.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Maybe the birds finally signed a peace tr—"

No GUITAR CHORD.

Just silence.

A tiny awkward beat.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

...Never mind.

THE ARK GROANS GENTLY.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

You okay, big bro?

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Yeah.

Just a little tired.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

You seem quieter today.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Do I?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

A little.

SHORT QUIET.

OCEAN MOVES BELOW THEM IN LONG RHYTHMIC SWELLS.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

The water sounds calmer now.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

The storm has passed.

The sea is carrying us gently.

THE ARK LURCHES SLIGHTLY LEFT.

WOOD STRESSES.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Gently-ish. GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM GIGGLES.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

I still can't believe it...

Like... You built this whole thing in the house... and now the house and everything is flooded, but the boat is still here.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Please stop reminding me that I built a full-sized boat *indoors*.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Blows a raspberry and giggles*

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Well it worked out dad.

NOAH

Yeah... I guess it did...

(beat)

(softly, tired but sincere)

This boat took about a hundred years to get right...

You boys certainly did your thing...
Especially during the pigeon incident.

SHEM

And the goat incident.

NOAH

There were... more goats than I anticipated.

[The boys chuckle quietly. Noah exhales through a smile.]

NOAH

Still...

A man starts off thinking that he's building something alone.
Then one day his sons are holding the other end of every board.

[Small pause. Wind moves through unfinished beams.]

JAPHETH

Well, somebody had to stop you from measuring everything wrong.

GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

I measured perfectly.

[A loud crooked CREAK from somewhere on the ark.]

SHEM

Sounds like the arc disagrees, dad.

NOAH

NOAH CHUCKLES

I mean it. Thank you... all four of you...

Not just for the work.

But for sticking by your old man...

I know it wasn't easy.

(beat)

SHEM

You're welcome dad.

JAPHETH

Yeah, no problemo.

GUITAR CHORD

NOAH LEAVES THE CREW AND WALKS AWAY

ABOVE THEM:

NOAH UNINTELLIGIBLY WHISPERS A PRAYER IN THE DISTANCE [12:00, III]

THE ARK DOOR OPENS [12:00, IV].

OCEAN WIND SWELLS THROUGH THE SPACE.

NOAH'S CLIMBS THE LADDER.

WOODEN LADDER CREAKS.

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Oh wow...

SHEM

[11:00, II]

What does it look like dad?

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Just...

a whole lot of water.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"...my turn." GUITAR CHORD

JAPHETH CROSSES TOWARD THE LADDER.

CLIMBS.

OPEN WIND GROWS LOUDER.

JAPHETH

[12:00, IV]

Okay wow...

(beat)

That's incredible.

No chord.

Just awe in his voice.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Can we come too?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

One at a time. I would like for this boat to remain a boat and not a zoo.

JAPHETH

Well it *is* already full of animals, mom. Maybe we *could* open a zoo.
GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[12:00, I]

Here... come with me!

WE WALK WITH SHEM ACROSS THE WOOD FLOOR.

CLIMB THE LADDER.

OPEN SEA AIR SURROUNDS US.

WIND PASSES LEFT TO RIGHT.

DISTANT WAVES MOVE IN EVERY DIRECTION.

A LONG LOW WHALE CALL EMERGES FAR BELOW [12:00, IV].

THE SOUND VIBRATES THROUGH THE WOODEN STRUCTURE.

SHEM

[12:00, I]

Whoa...

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Wow! I heard that in my spine!

THE WHALE CALL RETURNS.

CLOSER.

DEEPER.

SHEM

[12:00, II]

Dad...

Can we please go in the water?

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Absolutely not.

SHEM

[12:00, II]

But it sounds friendly.

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Isn't that what the prophet Jonah said right before the whale swallowed him?

NAAMAH

[9:00, III]

Not exactly Hun.

SHEM

[12:00, II]

But Jonah survived the whale!

JAPHETH

Yeah... after three days in its belly, little bro.

GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

Please dad!?

Please, please?

We've been inside all day.

And it sounds like the water is calm now.

(beat)

THE WATER STARTS TO PICK UP

SHEM GULPS

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

Shem—

SHEM

[12:00, II]

And Japheth will come with us.

JAPHETH

[12:00, III]

"Why am I suddenly involved?" GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[12:00, II]

Because you're responsible.

LONG PAUSE.

JAPHETH

[12:00, III]

"...I am?" GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, III]

No, but in this case, you are the oldest.

FROM BELOW:

NAAMAH

[9:00, III]

Noah, if you keep them trapped inside much longer they will start climbing the animals for entertainment.

JAPHETH

[12:00, II]

Hey don't give us any ideas, mom. GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM

[7:00, III]

excited agreeing babble*

NOAH SIGHS.

NAAMAH

[9:00, III]

Let them stretch.

But not for long.

Very briefly.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Well... the whale is gone

...and I suppose I am outvoted.

JAPHETH

[12:00, II]

"Overruled." GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM

[7:00, III from below]

victorious babble*

JAPHETH

What are you cheering about Ham? No babies allowed in the ocean.

GUITAR CHORD

BABY HAM

HE BABBLES AND THROWS A TOY AT JAPHETH'S HEAD

THE TOY WHOOSHES ACROSS THE AIR

DING

JAPHETH

HE GRUNTS UPON IMPACT "Oof"

GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, III]

Ok fine.

Fine.

You guys may go in the water.

But very briefly.

First hang tight for a few minutes so we can make sure the whale is gone.

And you know the rules...

No drifting away... no racing fish... and if anything larger than a loaf of bread approaches you, return immediately.

SHEM

Okay!

JAPHETH

[12:00, IV]

"Bread... you're making us hungry dad." GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[12:00, IV]

YES! Mom! Dad said yes!

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

You kids make sure to bring some towels with you.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Ok sure mom!

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

insistent babbling, wanting to go too*

NOAH

[12:00, II]

No, Ham.

You are not swimming in the open sea.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

outraged babble*

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Maybe once you finish potty training.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

argumentative babble*

obliterates a diaper*

NOAH

Deep sigh*

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

I will take care of him.

SNIFFS

Oh dear..

NOAH

Let me help you honey.

DIAPER CHANGING ASMR

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Okay I've got him now.

NOAH DEPARTS FROM NAAMAH AND BABY HAM
HE APPROACHES THE ARK DOOR

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

sulking babble*

NAAMAH LIFTS BABY HAM.

SOFT FABRIC RUSTLE.

BABY HAM SETTLES AGAINST HER, HE COOS.

NOAH MURMURS A PRAYER UNDER HIS BREATH.

THE ARK DOOR OPENS.

SEA WIND SURGES IN.

ROPE IS HANDLED at [12:00, II].

ANCHOR CHAIN SHIFTS WITH DEEP METALLIC WEIGHT.

NOAH

[12:00, IV]

All right.

The boat is steady enough.

SHEM AND JAPHETH MOVE TO THE EDGE OF THE ARK.

OPEN WIND.

WAVES BELOW.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Ready guys?

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Not really, but let's do it." GUITAR CHORD

SHEM

[11:00, II]

One...

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Two...

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Three!

THEY LEAP.

WIND ROARS PAST BOTH EARS.

SPLASH.

THE SOUND WORLD TRANSITIONS UNDERWATER.

MUFFLED LIQUID SPACE.

BUBBLES RISE PAST [6:00] TO [12:00].

CURRENT MOVES GENTLY LEFT TO RIGHT.

SHEM

[11:00, II underwater]

joyful muffled laughter*

JAPHETH

[1:00, II underwater]

muffled surprised yell*

THEY SURFACE.

WATER BREAKS.

BREATHING.

SPLASHING.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

HAHAHA!

It's freezing!

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"...Okay yeah this is amazing." GUITAR CHORD

ABOVE THEM:

NOAH

[12:00, III]

NOT TOO FAR!

SHEM

[11:00, II]

WE'RE NOT FAR!

NOAH

[12:00, III]

YOU ARE IN THE OCEAN!

ALL OF THAT IS... FAR!

NAAMAH

[9:00, III]

Noah, lower your voice.

You are frightening the fish.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Good." GUITAR CHORD

"Let them warn the others."

A LOW RUMBLE EMERGES FROM BENEATH [12:00, IV].

LONG PAUSE.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

...Did you hear that?

THE WHALE CALL RETURNS.

ENORMOUS.

THE ENTIRE SEA HUMS WITH IT.

SOMETHING IMMENSE PASSES BENEATH THEM.

WATER DISPLACES SLOWLY.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Whoa...

A whale.

A real whale.

NOAH

[12:00, III]

BACK ON THE BOAT.

RIGHT NOW.

THE WHALE SURFACES DISTANTLY [12:00, III-IV].

A MASSIVE EXHALE.

SPRAY FALLS LIKE RAIN.

SHEM AND JAPHETH EXCLAIM

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Hello... Mr. Sea Potato." GUITAR CHORD

THE WHALE GLIDES PAST.

ITS TAIL SWEEPS THROUGH THE WATER.

THE WATER BUBBLES EXCESSIVELY

JAPHETH

Hey the water's warm now.

GUITAR CHORD

THE BUBBLES INCREASE

SHEM

[11:00, II]

That feels really good.

(beat)

This is beautiful.

(beat)

Hey.

I'm really glad you're here with us.

This is way better with a friend.

SMALL SPLASH.

JAPHETH DRIFTS BY AT [1:00, II].

JAPHETH

"Yeah. You're part of the family now." GENTLE GUITAR CHORD

A PEACEFUL PAUSE ENSUES

NOAH

[12:00, III]

That is enough wonder for the day!

Back!

Now!

THEY SWIM BACK.

SPLASHING.

WOODEN LADDER CREAKS.

WET FOOTSTEPS RETURN INSIDE THE ARK.

WOODEN INTERIOR REVERB RETURNS.

DRIPPING WATER.

NAAMAH HANDS THEM TOWELS.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Towels. Both of you.

Dry yourselves before one of you slips and the boat sinks.

SHEM

HE GIGGLES

Hey mom, we're not that fat!

NAAMAH

You boys are about to be after tonight's meal, come and sit.

SHEM

Ooh lentil stew?

NAAMAH

And some freshly baked bread.

SHEM

Mmm...

CHAIRS SCOOT AROUND A TABLE.

BOWLS ARE SET DOWN.

SOFT SERVING SOUNDS: LADLE, WOODEN SPOON, POT STEAM.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

Pleased hungry babble*

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Let us eat, give thanks, and agree never again to dive headfirst into mystery.

JAPHETH

"...No promises."

THERE IS NO GUITAR CHORD

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Who would like to lead us in prayer tonight?

SHEM

I'll do it dad!

THEY PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER IN UNISON.

THE FAMILY BEGINS EATING.

SOFT DINNER AMBIENCE.

ARK ROCKING GENTLY.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Japheth?

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Yeah?

NOAH

[12:00, II]

You seem distant.

Everything okay?

JAPHETH SITS SLOWLY.

FABRIC SHIFTS.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

I don't know.

(beat)

Everything just suddenly feels really big.

The ocean.

The sky.

God.

(beat)

Us floating in the middle of all of it.

QUIET.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

The sea can make people feel very small.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Yeah.

(beat)

I didn't mean to make things ark-

I mean awkward.

SHEM BURSTS OUT LAUGHING.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Arkward.

BABY HAM LAUGHS WILDLY.

NOAH GROANS.

NAAMAH TRIES NOT TO LAUGH.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

..Okay that's actually pretty good.

SOFT GUITAR CHORD.

SMALL.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

We are saying that forever now.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Please no.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

"Too late." GUITAR CHORD

FAMILY LAUGHTER WARMS THE ROOM.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Japheth...

what you are feeling is something many people feel sometimes.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Feeling awkward?

SOFT FAMILY LAUGHTER.

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

No dear.

Feeling restless.

(beat)

Do you remember how God made us?

(beat)

...from the dust of the Earth and...

SHEM

UNABLE TO RESIST THE URGE TO BLURT OUT THE ANSWER

"...He breathed the breath of life into our noses!"

our bodies with desire for the things of the Earth...

Hunger for food.

Thirst for water.

Our bodies belong to the Earth

But we are much more than our bodies

We are not just made of the dust of the Earth

We are made of...

JAPHETH

...God's breath of life

HE REPLIES WITH A QUIET FASCINATION

NAAMAH

And for this part of us.

There is no meal, or drink or any kind of comfort of Earth that can satisfy this.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

Bummer...

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

SHE CHUCKLES

Not exactly

This part of you, the breath of life longs for something eternal.

For peace that cannot disappear.

For God.

LONG QUIET.

OCEAN MOVES BELOW THE HULL.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

So when we feel empty sometimes...

We're... thirsty for God?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Yes it does.

King David actually wrote once to God in Psalm 63, "my soul thirsts for you"

SHEM

GASPS WITH FASCINATION

NOAH

[12:00, II]

I think all people search for Him eventually.

Even when they do not realize that is what they are searching for.

The soul has a mind of it's own.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

thoughtful babble*

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

I think I understand that.

(beat)

I still feel kinda sad though.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

That is alright.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

Can we pray for him?

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

I think that would be lovely.

THE FAMILY GATHERS CLOSER.

FABRIC RUSTLES.

THE ARK CREAKS GENTLY AROUND THEM.

NOAH

[12:00, II]

Lord...

thank You for carrying us safely through the storm.

Please help Japheth feel Your peace.

And help all of us trust You when the world feels frightening or uncertain.

SHEM

[11:00, II]

And thank You for family.

And whales.

But mostly family.

BABY HAM

[7:00, II]

emotional babble*

NAAMAH

[9:00, II]

Lord...

You remembered Noah in the flood.

Please remind Japheth that You remember him too.

LONG STILLNESS.

ONLY OCEAN.

DISTANT WHALE CALL BELOW.

JAPHETH

[1:00, II]

...Thanks everybody.

SOFT GUITAR CHORD.

Warm.

Alive again.

[END OF ACT IV]