

Readers Theater: King Lamoni is Converted Alma 18:1-35

Cast:

Narrator

Servant 1

Servant 2

Servant 3

King Lamoni

Ammon

(highlight parts)

Reader's Theater is a style of theater in which the actors do or do not memorize their lines. In Readers Theatre, actors use vocal expression to help the audience understand the story rather than visual storytelling such as sets, costumes, and intricate blocking.

Readers Theatre is also known as Chamber Theatre or Interpretive Theatre. Readers Theatre has no apostrophe in the name because it is not a theatre owned by readers, rather it is an interpretive art form by readers.

Readers Theatre became popular during and following the second World War when resources to produce plays were scarce. A common Readers Theatre will be presented using only the scripts and stools or chairs. Limited costuming is sometimes used. While the readers may interpret the scenes or poems cold, in most cases the scripts are memorized and rehearsals are conducted with even more intensity than those conducted for a regular play.

Setting: In the Land of Ishmael. King Lamoni's palace

Narrator: *The servants stand before King Lamoni with the arms of the Lamanites in their hands.*

Servant 1: We have witnessed your new servant, who is called Ammon, and he has driven back the ones who scatter the flocks at the waters of Sebus.

Servant 2: Our brothers have scattered your sheep again from the watering hole.

Servant 3: This man told us to gathered the sheep and surrounded them by the water.

Servant 1: This man had great power and contend with those who scattered the flocks. They also wanted to kill him.

Servant 2: He cut off the arms of those offenders and no one could hurt him.

Narrator: *They place the arms in front of the King*

Servant 3: Is this the Great Spirit who will send punishments upon us because we kill those who scatter the flocks?

King Lamoni: I do not know if he is the Great Spirit or just a man. He exhibits great strength. I know he is our ally.

Servant 1: No man can have such great power and no man can ward off death like he has.

King Lamoni: I see that this is true. It is the Great Spirit we have been taught about by our fathers. He surely has come to preserve your lives.

Narrator: *King Lamoni was fearful because he had slain so many of his brethren because they had scattered the flocks*

King Lamoni: Where is this man with great power?

Servant 2: He is feeding the horses, preparing them and the chariots for your journey to the feast in in Nephi, where your father is, the king over all the land.

King Lamoni; I believe this man to be the Great Spirit, but I am afraid to have him come before me.

Narrator: *King Lamoni becomes pale. Ammon comes before the king and turns away..*

Servant 3; *(Loudly)* Rabbanah! The king wants to see you.

Ammon: *(Turns back around)* What can I do for you?

King Lamoni: *(long pause)*

Ammon: What can I do for you?

King Lamoni: *(another long pause)*

Ammon: *(filled with the Spirit)* I understand. You have heard about my defense with the servants and flocks. I did kill seven of your brothers with my sling and with the sword. And I did cut off the arms of the others in order to defend your flocks. So, I understand why you might be speechless. I am just a man and your servant. I will serve you in anything that is righteous.

King Lamoni: Who are you? Are you the Great Spirit that knows all things?

Ammon: I am not

King Lamoni: But how come you know what is in my heart, what I am thinking? Tell me of these things I don't understand, and tell me how you cut off the arms of my brothers the ones that scattered my flocks. If you tell me I will make you a guard over my army. I will do anything for you.

Ammon: Will you listen to what I want to say? Will you believe in my words?

King Lamoni: Yes, I will believe all your words

Ammon: Do you believe that there is a God?

King Lamoni: I don't know what you mean.

Ammon: Do you believe in the Great Spirit?

King Lamoni: Yes.

Ammon: This is God. Do you believe that God is a Great Spirit and created all things in heaven and earth?

King Lamoni: Yes, I believe He created the earth, but I don't know about a heaven.

Ammon: Heaven is a place where God dwells and all His holy angels.

King Lamoni: Is it above the earth?

Ammon: Yes. He looks down on all His children and he knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. He created all from the beginning.

King Lamoni; I believe all that you have said. Did God send you to me?

Ammon: I am a man, and I was created after the image of God, and I was called by the Holy Spirit to teach these things to you and your people, that you might be brought to this same knowledge that is just and true. This Spirit which is in me gives me knowledge and power according to my faith and desires which are in God.