

ENOCH

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CAST: ENOCH: man, age 16
NINISHAH: woman, age 15
GOD: man (sorry), age 40 - 60

SET: blank stage.

[ENOCH & NINISHAH enter from opposite sides of the stage.]

ENOCH

Ninishah, where have you been? I have been seeking you.

NINISHAH

With my friends.

ENOCH

Am I not your friend?

NINISHAH

Surely, Enoch. I was with other girls. We went to the river.

ENOCH

To bathe?

NINISHAH

To talk ... and play.

ENOCH

Were boys there?

NINISHAH

Boys are everywhere.

ENOCH

Did you play with boys?

NINISHAH

No. They did not want to.

ENOCH

But you wanted to play with them?

NINISHAH

Some of the girls did.

ENOCH

What did they do?

NINISHAH

The girls?

ENOCH

Yes.

NINISHAH

You know.

ENOCH

No, tell me.

NINISHAH

They looked at the boys, and whispered things.

ENOCH

And giggled?

NINISHAH

Some did.

ENOCH

What did you talk about?

NINISHAH

[shrugs] Boys.

ENOCH

Did you talk about me?

NINISHAH

Some.

ENOCH

What did you say?

NINISHAH

Good things.

ENOCH

What?

NINISHAH

I said you were friendly.

ENOCH

And handsome?

NINISHAH

They already know that.

ENOCH

And strong?

NINISHAH

They know that too.

ENOCH

Did they not know I am friendly?

[NINISHAH shrugs]

ENOCH

Do you wish me to be more friendly with them?

NINISHAH

No. They but wondered why you were so friendly once,
and then you stopped being friendly.

ENOCH

God told me to stop.

NINISHAH

The invisible friend?

ENOCH

He said I must choose one and forsake the others.

NINISHAH

And you chose me.

ENOCH

Yes.

NINISHAH

I was not your first choice among the girls.

ENOCH

Havah wanted all men, and Tisharah was foolish.

NINISHAH

They said nothing bad of you... except for your *friend*.

ENOCH

The same friend who would have me choose one woman.

NINISHAH

Did he *tell* you to choose me?

ENOCH

No! It was my choice. Are you not happy that I chose you?

NINISHAH

Surely I am happy. I but wonder how life will be... with the three of us.

ENOCH

Joyfull, no doubt. We will have what others want and cannot have. All of them want to talk to God like Adam did, but God hides from them.

NINISHAH

Why do you think no one sees him but you?

ENOCH

He says it is a test.

NINISHAH

What is he testing you for?

ENOCH

It is not about me. He wishes to see what happens when he appears to someone.

NINISHAH

Why does he not appear to everyone?

ENOCH

He said he already did that. And he knows what happens when he does it. Now he wishes to find out what happens when he does not appear. But he also wishes to find out what happens when he appears to only one man out of many.

NINISHAH

If God knows all things, why does he need to find out anything?

ENOCH

Ah, but he does *not* know all things. That is something the elders made up. If he knew all things, he would never need to create anything, because he would already know what happens when he does it.

NINISHAH

Perhaps he creates things for some other reason.

ENOCH

What?

NINISHAH

I know not. God may have many reasons.

ENOCH

Even if he does, he still does not know all things.

NINISHAH

How do you know?

ENOCH

He told me.

NINISHAH

[pause] The elders no longer smile on you as they once did. When you were little, your God-talk made them happy, but now it does not. Some say you think wrongly.

ENOCH

I care not what they say. I know what I see and hear.

NINISHAH

When a man cares not what the elders say, the elders can make that man unhappy.

ENOCH

I know. They now turn their backs on my father, and he in turn shows little kindness to me. But I will not live with him for long.

NINISHAH

Where will you live?

ENOCH

I will build my own house.

NINISHAH

Here with the people?

ENOCH

No. The good land is taken. But close enough that you can still see your family and friends.

NINISHAH

[pause] We also talked about other things at the river.

ENOCH

What? With the girls?

NINISHAH

Yes. We talked about who were the better hunters, and who might one day rule the people.

ENOCH

I can throw a spear with the best of them.

NINISHAH

Yes, but you hunt alone.

ENOCH

When have I ever come home without meat?

NINISHAH

Why do you not hunt with the others?

ENOCH

They but slow me down. I need no others.

NINISHAH

We all need others.

ENOCH

I need not even my mother and father any more.
They receive more help from me than I from them.

NINISHAH

What about when you get sick?

ENOCH

Then my wife will care for me. Will you not?

NINISHAH

But who will care for your wife?
Who will bring her food to cook?

ENOCH

Will not your family do that?

NINISHAH

[pause] I must go now and do some things my mother told me.

ENOCH

What?

NINISHAH

Things.

ENOCH

Can I help?

NINISHAH

No. Just girl things.

ENOCH

Eat dinner with me tonight. I have a rabbit.

NINISHAH

Thank you. But I must eat with the people.

[Exit NINISHAH]

[ENOCH sulks, paces around.]

ENOCH

[shouts] *God!*

[Enter GOD]

GOD

Hello, Enoch.

ENOCH

Ah, I'm so glad you come when I call.

GOD

Not a problem. When I wish to converse, I simply look up your most recent call, and pop in after it.

ENOCH

You speak so strangely.

GOD

Only because your questions require answers you find strange.

ENOCH

I marvel that I somehow understand you.

GOD

As do I, that you understand anything at all.

ENOCH

I cannot believe we talk like this.

GOD

Yes you can. You can believe anything your little emotions want to believe. I just wish you were more discerning.

ENOCH

Can you not make me as you wish me to be?

GOD

Not without first putting you through the experiences you need to be it. And that takes time.

ENOCH

Why do the elders say you can do all things?

GOD

Because they wish not to offend me, and they think flattery is the safest way to avoid it. Unfortunately they don't see how insulting it is to think I *like* flattery, because *they* like flattery, and they think I'm just a big one of them.

ENOCH

Is that also why they say you *know* all things?

GOD

Yes, and it gives them a feeling of security.

ENOCH

I wish you would but pop in and tell them what you tell me, so they would not think I lie about it.

GOD

Not on my agenda. However, I can teach you how to argue with them, if you like.

ENOCH

Yes! I most truly would like that.

GOD

Very well. If I can do all things, then I can create something I don't understand, right?

ENOCH

Uh... Yes.

GOD

And if I create something I don't understand, then I don't know all things, right? [pause] After I create it.

ENOCH

Right. Right.

GOD

Then either I can't do all things, or I don't know all things.

ENOCH

[pause] What if you *can* create something you don't understand, but you choose not to do it?

GOD

Why would I not?

ENOCH

I know not. But they will say you may have other reasons.

GOD

What? Do they think I'm *afraid* to create something I don't understand?

ENOCH

No.

GOD

And if they did, they would never admit it.

ENOCH

But the priests will say you may have other *Goddy* type reasons.

GOD

True. And they would be right - in that much. But I do yearn for the day when people no longer need priests to tell them what to think - when they have minds evolved enough to figure things out for themselves.

ENOCH

Lucky you have me, huh? [pause] Anyway, the reason I called you is that I have a complaint. I do not like the way you made women. [pause] Did you hear me? I said I

GOD

Yes, I heard you. It's just that anything I might have said would have been anti-climactic.

ENOCH

I did what you told me. I chose one and forsook the rest. But no matter what I do, they wish me to have done something else.

GOD

[pause] Yes, I'm listening. Go on.

ENOCH

The girls here are foolish. They are bound to the thoughts of others. Can you not just make me a new one out of earth, or a rib or something?

GOD

Sorry, my friend. Not part of the program. But in fact, our little test is just about over.

ENOCH

What do you mean?

GOD

We must quit meeting like this.

ENOCH

Why?

GOD

I've seen what I wanted to see. Selective personal appearance makes the subject anti-social. And it becomes rather odious at puberty - as I knew it would.

ENOCH

You *knew* it would? You *knew* my life would turn out like this?

GOD

Pretty much.

ENOCH

Then all this was for nothing?

GOD

Not at all. It's a valuable case study. Now when anybody wants to know why I don't do this sort of thing, I'll have something to show them.

ENOCH

But will you no longer talk to me?

GOD

Do you *want* me to continue to talking to you?

ENOCH

Yes!

GOD

Even if it means you will never have a wife?

ENOCH

Why must I never have a wife?

GOD

You've seen what happens. What do you think?

ENOCH

But if you would just appear to her, she would not think I am strange.

GOD

But then she would want me to appear to others, so they would not think *her* strange. And so on, until I have appeared to everyone.

ENOCH

Would that be so bad?

GOD

No, but I've already done it. I told you that. And I don't need another world full of ass kissing sycophants.

ENOCH

Have you seen our priests?

GOD

Yes, and it's even worse in heaven, believe me. No, you free willers have a potential that can't be unlocked under tyranny, however benevolent. I want a world that can stand alone without my supervision.

ENOCH

So then what happens to me?

GOD

I'll give you two choices: our little conversations, or a wife.

ENOCH

What choice is that? You made me to *need* a wife.

GOD

Sorry.

ENOCH

What then? Shall I go home and tell them you went away,
so I will not be foolish any more?

GOD

You could start over in another land - someplace where you
are not known.

ENOCH

Where?

GOD

Cain started over in the land of Nod. You could go there.

ENOCH

Where is Nod?

GOD

East of Eden.

ENOCH

[shrugs] I need what I need.

[Exit ENOCH.]

GOD

Ah, the old sex drive. Perhaps I overdid that part of it.
[pause] Nah! He'll be back.

[Exit GOD. Blackout]