

# 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]