



**Playstage  
Junior**

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## **THE FOURTH WISE MAN**



**A NATIVITY PLAY BASED  
ON A CHINESE FOLK TALE**



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## **THE FOURTH WISE MAN**

### **CAST LIST**

**Narrator (*could be more than one child*)**

**3 Chinese Villagers (*speaking – could add more non-speaking*)**

**Li Chan**

**No.1. Daughter**

**No.2. Daughter**

**No.3 Daughter**

**Caspar**

**Caspar's wife**

**2 Russian Villagers (*speaking – could add more non-speaking*)**

**Balthazar's mother**

**Prince Balthazar**

**4 Indian servants (*non-speaking*)**

**Woman (*Melchior's daughter*)**

**Melchior**

**Mary**

**Joseph (*non-speaking*)**

***At least 17 speaking parts – 5 non-speaking – more non-speaking could be added.***

## **THE FOURTH WISE MAN**

### **SCENE 1.**

***(MUSIC)***

#### **NARRATOR**

**Long, long ago – over two thousand years ago, in fact – the people of a small village in China prayed to their gods to send them rain. It had not rained for many years and the villagers were desperate. Every year they performed a dance for their gods, in the hope that the rain would come.**

***(The villagers stand and watch while some of the girls perform a simple dance with fans. The dance finishes and everyone looks up at the sky.)***

#### **1<sup>st</sup> VILLAGER**

**It hasn't worked. The spirits are still angry with us.**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> VILLAGER**

**It's never going to rain. What shall we do?**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> VILLAGER**

**We must ask Li Chan. He is the wisest man in the village. He will help us.**

#### **No.1 DAUGHTER**

**My father is very old and tired. You mustn't bother him now.**

**1<sup>st</sup> VILLAGER**

**But he is the only one who can help us. We must see him.**

*(Li Chan appears. He is walking slowly and is supported by No.2 Daughter. She is also carrying a basket with three flowers in it.)*

**LI CHAN**

**What is it that you want from me?**

**NO.3.DAUGHTER**

**Father, the people from the village want to ask your advice.**

**LI CHAN**

**What advice can an old man like me give them?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> VILLAGER**

**Can you tell us why the rain has not come?**

**3<sup>rd</sup> VILLAGER**

**Yes, Li Chan. For many years now, we have been without rain. The land is dying. The rivers are drying up.**

**1<sup>st</sup> VILLAGER**

**We have danced and sung for the spirits and they do not help us. What shall we do?**

**LI CHAN**

**Foolish woman. Do you think that I know the answer?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> VILLAGER**

**You are the wisest man we know. You read the signs in the sky. What do the stars tell you is going to happen?**

**3<sup>rd</sup> VILLAGER**

**Yes. Do they tell you that it is going to rain?**

**LI CHAN**

**No. The stars say nothing about rain.**

***(All the villagers groan with disappointment)***

**LI CHAN**

**But the stars – one star in particular – tells me that something extraordinary is about to happen.**

**ALL VILLAGERS**

**What? What is going to happen? Tell us!**

**LI CHAN**

**Do you see that very big and bright star up there?**

***(He points upwards and they all look)***

**VILLAGERS**

**Yes! Yes!**

**NO.3 DAUGHTER**

**What does it mean, father?**

**LI CHAN**

**It means that a great lord will be born very soon. A king, a mighty prince, a great leader – and that he will be the answer to everyone's prayers.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> VILLAGER**

**You mean that the king will make it rain?**

**LI CHAN**

**He might. The star only tells me that this great birth will happen.**

**Anything more than that I do not know.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> VILLAGER**

**When will this king be born?**

**LI CHAN**

**In a few month's time. That much I know.**

**NO.2.DAUGHTER**

**Where will he be born? In China?**

**LI CHAN**

**No. I do not think so. To find the king, you must follow the star. It will lead you to his birthplace.**

**3<sup>RD</sup> VILLAGER**

**Li Chan, you must go and find this king. You must take him gifts and pray to him to bring the rain.**

**LI CHAN**

**No, I cannot go. I am too old to make such a journey.**