

Abram a story of the Voice and a man.

The beginning of a walk with God. Condensed Outline

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1) **Introduction:** *Intro Music: Main theme Jurassic Park or Superman themes.*

Nar: 2,100 BCE. It was the best of times it was the worst of times. The family of Terah, (father) and sons Abram, Nahor, and Haran, plus wives, children, cattle, livestock and all there business interests were considering a move from Ur of the Chaldees. Life in the metropolis was becoming uncomfortable and a move to a quieter backwater was considered necessary. All in search of an elusive quest, finding a better life in a promised land, a promise the mysterious Voice had insisted was possible.

2) Abram at the Quay.

Background Music: Jurassic Park or Superman themes.

Nar: Abram was waiting at the quay, the soft warm winds blew his cloak and grabbed his hair as he gazed across the estuary and out to sea looking for the ship they had been expecting for days.

Abram: Can you see the ship Eresh.

Eresh: No Abram the winds are against a ship coming up the gulf at this time of the year. It will be a struggle for the men pulling oars. Can't row against the tide Abram.

Abram: Is that advice Eresh!

Eresh: Not really but you do sail close to the wind Abram be careful.

Abram: Right well the temple require a lot of idols for the new festivals this season and copper stocks are low. Running workshops without regular supplies is a nightmare, and I hope father ordered some gold and silver as well. The priests think we can supply, before they give us an order.

Eresh: And at least 6 months before they pay up, "Hail to the gods, we serve the gods." So the priests are in a hurry eh! What's new!

Abram: Ur is just too successful, 65,000 people they say. Artisans, craftsmen, architects, stonemasons, mortar carriers, carpenters, diggers, brick carriers, ox men, farmers, jewellers, butchers, priests, teachers, servers, diviners, dung carriers, feather pluckers, repairers, crazy trades, more and more with all the new work on the temples.

Eresh: I heard the latest group are musicians, harpists, what does a harpist do.

Abram: I dread to think. The more there are, the more the temple needs to satisfy them. Idols idols and more idols, bangels and beads all with the same message "serve the gods"

Eresh: "We serve the gods" I'll go and check with the harbour master other ships have come up the gulf in the last few days maybe he has news, no point in just gazing out to sea when we could be busy elsewhere.

Abram: Ok I'll wait here for a while, you never know.

The Voice: Abram (*quietly*)

Abram: Yes (*turns around looking for the voice*)

Voice: Abram (*quietly*)

Abram: Yes (*turns around again looking for the voice*)

Abram: Did you say something (*to a worker on the quay*)

Worker: No mind your back I'm coming through and this basket of fish is really heavy sir.

Voice: Abram (*quietly*)

Abram: Yes (*again looks at the worker*)

Abram: I'm sure you said something.

Worker: Not me sir, must have been the gods.

Abram: I'm not that stupid, the gods are stone, wood and dumb, they don't talk.

Worker: Are you a man that stands against the tide of public opinion sir.

Abram: I just do not think all these idols are what we are told they are, that's all.

Worker: We serve the gods remember, but if they don't speak, then your hearing voices.
You see sir when I sweat like this, I don't talk and if I did it wouldn't be to pass the time of day with you.

Abram: Sorry I troubled you.

Worker : That alright, I'm well trained, talking is a bit of a difficulty, needs a good mind and my wife who talks for 10 says I don't have one and that's the long and short of it. A Voice you say, it must be the god's sir, watch out or you'll be dreaming you're a sacrifice as well, now just keep out of my way and let me get on with my work.

Voice: Abram

Abram: Yes (*closing his eyes and looking up*)

Voice: I'm God, almighty God, the true God, the one and only God and I will talk with you.

Song: Would you want to talk with me Lord.

3) The Kings Council

Start with a statement of Ur's Importance and size.

4) Young Abram the Bad Salesman

(Taken originally from the Jewish Talmud Bereshit Rabbah, 38,19)

Nar: Abrams early start in the family firm had not been a howling success. When he was 16.

Terah: Abram "We serve the gods". Son its time for you to make your mark in life. I'm leaving you in the shop to sell the idols which have just arrived from the workshops. Eresh our foreman will help you.

Eresh: They are the new style of modern idols, the latest design sealed with the kings favor and represent the very best of our cultured and civilized times.

Terah: All I ask is that you do your best. You understand.

Abram: Yes father you can guarantee I will do my best, my very, very best.

Voice: Abram

Abram: Yes

Voice: These are not gods. Understand.

Abram: Yes, I'm not sure what to do.

Voice Be careful, I am God, trust my voice and think.

Old Man: Good morning young man, the times are troublesome are they not. I seek an idol a very special idol this morning. Have you an idol good for curing warts and diarrhea.

Abram: How old are you sir.

Old Man: I forget, let me see, 3 wives, fourteen grandchildren, and six goats.

Abram: And what, I pray does that mean.

Old Man: The first wife helps me to remember it was 15 summers for me to get started,

each wife after that, another 3 summers, and the 14 grandchildren add up to 35 summers. Add the 6 goats when I was past it, and we had all lost interest in breeding and that makes 41 summers, lucky its only warts and diarrhea I suffer from.

Abram: So you are a man of 41 summers, a considerable age in these days. You see this idol over here.

Old Man: Yes looks like a bad image of the donkey god.

Abram: This idol as you rightly suggest is “um” strange, its powers are limited by the fact it was only made yesterday.

Old Man: Yesterday you say.

Abram: Before yesterday it was a useless lump of ignorant wood, incapable of being useful, and today it is supposed to be

Old man: a leading light in spiritual supervision.

Abram: with the extra benefit of healing warts and diarrhea.

Old Man: Possible I suppose.

Abram: If you bow down and worship it, feed it with a sacrifice and strangle a chicken in its honor it is meant to provide you with blessing upon blessing.

Old Man: I’m confused, you are saying things that seem to be against the tide of general belief.

Abram: Just serving your needs sir.

Old Man: Should I report you to the temple and then see if you like their treatment of your thinking. Are you a boy or man now, um. You seem to stand against the tide young man.

Voice: Your safe Abram.

Abram: Sir, I am serious, do you not think that your life of 41 summers is more important than a god that is a day old.

Old man: I’m confused I think I have to think about this some more.

Abram: Thank you sir and by the way, they say arrow root is a really good cure for diarrhea, and castor oil for warts. Try rubbing salt and an onion into the wart, works for some. These are truly days of enlightenment sir. Have a good day.

Old Man Thank you for your help young man, we still serve the gods eh!

(later)

Terah: Successful day Abram, sold plenty, how are you doing, no let me tell you it’s a grand day to celebrate.

Abram: Oh

Terah: Yes just confirmed a large order worth more silver in weight than you and I put together. This will keep the family business ticking, a new idol series in green jadestone, a tribute to Nanna Sin and worth a mound of silver.

Abram: Father

Terah: Forget just getting paid in grain or copper we shall bring home silver my son. Talents in abundance not mere minas or shekels. Now tell me how have you got on today.

Abram: No not sold anything(silence).....I.(tells the story of the old man)

Terah: Stupid boy, we have to keep everyone happy, we have to compromise just enough but not too far. It's no good standing against the tide it's dangerous, you'll suffer, more importantly we will all suffer.

Voice: That's not true. I have prepared something better for you.

Abram's song: I have a dream to Stephen Warbecks tune (Pelagias theme)

5) Ur city of the empire and the temple festival.

i. Main theme from Zulu.

ii. Interludes to dance to goddess Inanna - Casino Royale – Vesper

iii God of the Underworld – Ashkolan Farewell from the Civil War.

iv. Choir No Nobis Domine (Not to us, not to us, o gods, But to your name give glory) and O gods here our prayer.

Note: This scene needs the presentation of the gods at a major festival demonstrating the power and wealth of Ur. Flags, banners, screen figures grandeur pomp and procession.

A suitable passage from the story of Gilgamesh can be told. Dancers can weave an atmosphere of seduction and intrigue that will draw in the people to fill the coffers of the treasury. Empowering the temple and Ur.

6) Young Abram the Bad Priest

(Taken originally from the Jewish Talmud Bereshit Rabbah, 38,19)

7)Just a laugh

Bau: Older Boy

Zif: Younger Boy

Dab: youngster

Song: Find some words for the calypso music from Jacob.

Background music

Bau: Simples. It'll be a doddle, just you watch. Zif its easy peasy for me.....

Zif: Bau that temple is big, I mean big, and I'm looking, but what I see ain't good.

Dab: Its high its wide its on 3 levels, its protected, guarded by the specials.

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8)Young Abram on trial before the king

(Taken originally from the Jewish Talmud Bereshit Rabbah, 38,19)

Music and Script

9) The idol maker negotiations

10) Delivery at the temple

Nar: Preparations for the kings future funeral are in progress

11)The Lost Boy

i. Background music: Casino Royale – Vesper, Ashokan farewell from The American Civil War. Magistrates song Like Bring him home, from Les Miserable.

12) The temple authorities.

i. Action music the grand entrance of the High priest. Mussorgsky: Night On Bald Mountain

13) The idol seller in the market.

Note: The seamy side of Terah / Abram's life dealing with the sellers of Idols. Trickery, deceit.

14) Abram testing and tempted

i. Trapped by temple tradition, and now family, a compromise .

Nar: The trap has been set by the temple authorities inviting Abram

Gods Song: Come unto me (by Don Francisco)

15) The lost children

Abram, Terah, Zif and the driver in a quiet moment.

16)The Swineherds monologue.

The Monologue on death and the underworld.

17)Father on his own then joined by his son.

Nar: Somewhere in the city of Haran, a son and father talk through one of those family arguments.

18)Abram and his Wife

19)Mother and son

i. Mothers Song. To the tune of Edward Scissorhands

20) Finale

i. Abrams Song with chorus

ii.Parts of|Terah and the Mothers song

iii. Parts of Magistrates song