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HEART OF MY FATHERS

BY

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SETTING: THE STORY TAKES PLACE IN MODERN DAYS AND DEPICTS THE EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE VEIL IN REUNITING FAMILIES THROUGH GENEALOGY AND PERFORMANCE OF NEEDED TEMPLE ORDINANCES.

THE BACKGROUND IS SET WITH THREE SEPARATE STAGE AREAS REPRESENTING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD. MEN WEAR WHITE DRESS SHIRTS AND TAN PANTS, NO TIE, WHILE WOMEN WEAR WHITE DRESSES.

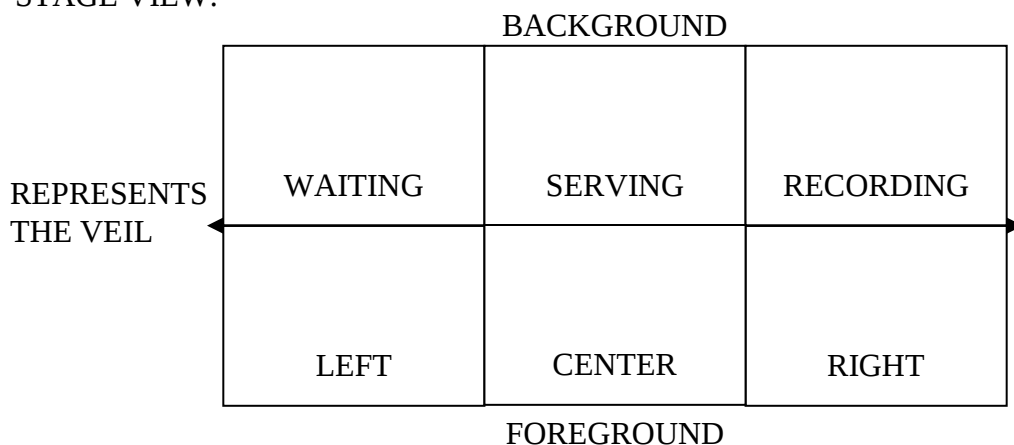
WAITING - IN THIS AREA, THERE SHOULD BE SEVERAL CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE, EACH BEING TAUGHT THE GOSPEL. IDEALLY, THE TEACHERS SHOULD EACH BE SPEAKING A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE. OTHERS HAVE HEARD AND ACCEPTED THE GOSPEL, BUT ARE WAITING FOR THEIR ORDINANCES TO BE DONE.

SERVING - IN THIS AREA, THERE SHOULD BE A TABLE WITH MANY BOOKS AND PAPERS. SEVERAL PEOPLE WILL BE GATHERED AROUND THE TABLE STUDYING THE PAPERS AND RESEARCHING THE BOOKS TO AID IN GENEALOGY WORK.

RECORDING - IN THIS AREA, ORDINANCES ARE WITNESSED AND RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE. PEOPLE ARE BROUGHT FROM THE WAITING AREA TO WITNESS THEIR TEMPLE WORK BEING DONE.

THE FOREGROUND IS SET WITH TWO SEPARATE STAGE AREAS REPRESENTING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF OUR EARTHLY WORLD. THESE AREAS WILL CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION SO WILL NOT HAVE MANY PROPS OR DISTRACTIONS. THE EYE SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THE PEOPLE AND THE ACTIVITY THAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BACKGROUND.

STAGE VIEW:



CAST:

NARRATOR	GUIDES AUDIENCE THROUGH PRODUCTION.
MARY SANDERSON	MOTHER OF JAMES AND JESSICA SANDERSON. MARY BEGINS GENEALOGY WORK AND WE FOLLOW HER ON HER JOURNEY AS HER TESTIMONY AND LOVE OF THE WORK INCREASE.
JAMES SANDERSON	AGE FOURTEEN. DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HIS MOM IS SO CAUGHT UP IN A BUNCH OF DEAD PEOPLE. WE FOLLOW JAMES AS HE LEARNS ABOUT THE PEOPLE WAITING FOR THEIR WORK TO BE DONE. JAME'S HEART WILL BE SOFTENED AND CHANGED, AND HIS TESTIMONY AND LOVE WILL GROW.
JESSICA SANDERSON	AGE NINE. SHE IS IMPATIENT TO GO TO THE MALL. HER VIEW IS LIMITED TO THINGS OF THIS WORLD. WE FOLLOW JESSICA AS SHE LEARNS ABOUT THE SACRIFICES MADE BY HER ANCESTORS SO THAT SHE COULD HAVE THE GOSPEL. JESSICA'S HEART WILL BE SOFTENED AND SHE WILL BECOME MORE APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THAT SHE HAS AND THAT HER SERVICE IS NEEDED, TOO.
BETH	A RETURNED MISSIONARY. BETH COMES TO STAY WITH JAMES AND JESSICA WHILE THEIR MOTHER GOES TO THE TEMPLE. THEY ARE COMPLAINING AND THROUGH BETH'S GENTLE GUIDANCE, THEY LEARN OF THE SPIRIT WORLD AND THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE VEIL.
ARTHUR NOBLEMAN	LIVED IN ENGLAND. HEARD THE GOSPEL AND SAILED WITH HIS FAMILY TO THE PROMISED LAND. WHEN THEY WERE DRIVEN OUT OF NAVOO, THEY MADE THE JOURNEY TO THE SALT LAKE VALLEY.
VICTORIA NOBLEMAN	MARRIED TO ARTHUR NOBLEMAN.

ADAM NOBLEMAN	AGE EIGHTEEN. OLDEST SON OF ARTHUR AND VICTORIA NOBLEMAN.
JOSEPH NOBLEMAN	AGE FIFTEEN. SECOND SON OF ARTHUR AND VICTORIA NOBLEMAN.
CATRINA NOBLEMAN	AGE TWELVE. FRATERNAL TWIN TO SAM NOBLEMAN. CHILD OF ARTHUR AND VICTORIA NOBLEMAN.
SAM NOBLEMAN	AGE TWELVE. FRATERNAL TWIN TO CATRINA NOBLEMAN. CHILD OF ARTHUR AND VICTORIA NOBLEMAN.
ANNA NOBLEMAN	AGE NINE. YOUNGEST CHILD OF ARTHUR AND VICTORIA NOBLEMAN.

MESSENGERS - 1
SERVICE WORKERS - 4
RECORD KEEPERS – 2
WITNESS – 1
TEACHERS – 3
CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE – 3 CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE

ACT 1:

LIGHTS ON STAGE LEFT. IN SUNDAY DRESS, MARY SANDERSON IS WAVING TO SOMEONE OFF-STAGE.

MARY SANDERSON

Thank you, Brother Erickson. I have learned so much and can hardly wait to begin.

(SMILES)

I had no idea how interesting and exciting genealogy work could be! See you next Sunday.

LIGHTS OUT ON STAGE LEFT. LIGHTS ON CENTER STAGE. NARRATOR STEPS FORWARD FROM SPIRIT WORLD.

NARRATOR

Malachi 4:5-6. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

(PAUSE)

Family is central to the Creator's plan. Not only the family you know, but the tens of thousands of deceased family members who wait on the other side of the veil. For many, you may be their only link to the gospel and the opportunity to have their temple ordinances done on their behalf. Arthur and Victoria Nobleman are just such a family.

LIGHTS OUT ON CENTER STAGE. NARRATOR STEPS BACK TO THE SPIRIT WORLD. LIGHTS ON STAGE RIGHT. MARY IS SITTING WITH HER CHILDREN, JAMES AND JESSICA, READING FROM AN OLD JOURNAL.

MARY SANDERSON

Listen to this.

LIGHTS ON WAITING STAGE. ARTHUR NOBLEMAN STEPS TO THE VEIL. IT IS HIS VOICE WE HEAR AS MARY READS HIS JOURNAL.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

We have sold everything. The house, the furnishings, the art...everything is gone save Victoria's china, a wedding gift from her grandmother. I worry that my dear wife will miss the grand life had here in England, but she assures me that we must journey with our family to the promised land. Most of our friends and much of our family think us misled by the Mormon elders, but even now, my bosom burns with the spirit and I know these things to be true. We gladly give up all to join the saints in Zion.

LIGHTS OUT WAITING STAGE. ARTHUR NOBLEMAN STAYS AT THE VEIL, WATCHING AND WAITING FOR THEIR WORK TO BE DONE. JAMES AND JESSICA SANDERSON LOOK BORED.

JAMES SANDERSON

Cool. Can I go over to Roger's house?

MARY CLOSES THE BOOK AND REGARDS HER CHILDREN. SHE IS DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY ARE NOT MORE INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY.

MARY SANDERSON

No, I told you that I am going to the Family History Center to do some research this evening. Beth is coming to stay with you while I'm gone.

JESSICA SANDERSON

But, mom, you promised to take me to the mall. I need a new outfit for school.

MARY SANDERSON

I never promised to take you to the mall. I said we would see, but I seem to recall that you have not cleaned your room, yet. Besides, you have plenty of clothes to wear to school.

JESSICA SANDERSON

But mom, I hate my clothes. Sheri and Pam got new outfits.

A KNOCK SOUNDS AT THE DOOR AND MARY RISES TO ANSWER IT.

MARY SANDERSON
(SARCASTICALLY)

Well, then that changes everything.

(SMILES, PAUSES ON HER WAY TO THE DOOR.)

Get your room cleaned and we'll talk about it when I get home.

JESSICA SANDERSON
(ROLLS HER EYES)

Whatever.

MARY ANSWERS THE DOOR. BETH, A YOUNG RETURNED MISSIONARY
SMILES AND ENTERS THE ROOM. LIGHTS OUT STAGE RIGHT. LIGHTS ON
WAITING STAGE. VICTORIA NOBLEMAN JOINS HER HUSBAND AT THE
VEIL. THEY JOIN HANDS.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN

What is it, Arthur? What do you watch?

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN
(TURNS TO WIFE EXCITEDLY)

It is our record. The woman was reading it.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN
(TOUCHES HIS ARM GENTLY)

Many have read the journal before and still we wait.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

It is true, but the woman is Mary. She is of us, and she is an elect daughter of God. Our
work will be done, soon. I am certain of it.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN
(COVERS HER HEART, LOOKS A BIT DAZED.)

She has the blessings of the temple? Oh, Arthur, we have waited so long. Do you really
think after all, we will at last be a family?

(PAUSE)

Quick, let us gather the children to witness this work.

THE NOBLEMAN'S GATHER THEIR CHILDREN AND STEP FORWARD JOYOUSLY TO THE VEIL WITH THEIR PARENTS. THEY JOIN HANDS. LIGHTS OUT WAITING STAGE. LIGHTS ON SERVING STAGE. A GROUP OF SERVICE WORKERS STAND AROUND A TABLE, RESEARCHING BOOKS AND STUDYING PAPERS. A YOUNG MESSENGER ENTERS THE ROOM. EVERYONE STOPS TO HEAR THE MESSAGE.

MESSENGER

The Arthur Nobleman family is being researched, but help will be needed. The records are not accurate and we fear that a child will be missed. Look!

(POINTS TO MARY, STAGE LEFT)

LIGHTS ON STAGE LEFT. THE SERVICE WORKERS STEP TO THE VEIL AND SEE MARY SANDERSON SITTING AT A TABLE READING A BOOK OF RECORDS. LIGHTS OUT SERVICE STAGE. LIGHTS OUT STAGE LEFT. LIGHTS ON STAGE RIGHT. BETH IS SITTING WITH THE CHILDREN. JAMES AND JESSICA ARE BOTH SULLEN AND QUIET.

BETH

Well, I've seen happier dispositions on the faces of people slamming the door in my face.

JESSICA SANDERSON

Did people really slam the door in your face?

JAMES SANDERSON

Of course they did, Midget. That's part of being a missionary.

BETH
(LAUGHING)

Yes, I really did get the door slammed in my face. And it was a part of being a missionary, but I like to think it was a very small part. The big part was being able to share the gospel. Reaching just one person who felt the promptings of the spirit was enough to make all the door slammings worthwhile.

(PICKS UP JOURNAL MARY WAS READING TO CHILDREN)

Your mom is kind of a missionary, too.

JAMES SANDERSON

Naw, she's just reading about a bunch of dead people. She says when we come home and get married then she'll go on her mission.

BETH

There are lots of different kinds of missions, James. Do you know where your mom is right now?

JESSICA SANDERSON

I do. I wanted to go to the mall, but she went to the Family History Center instead.

BETH

Well, working at the Family History Center is kind of like serving a mission. Do you know what happens when people die?

JAMES SANDERSON

Yeah, we learned about that. They either go to Paradise or Spirit Prison.

JESSICA SANDERSON

Paradise is for people who have heard the gospel, and Spirit Prison is for people who still need to be taught.

BETH

That's right, but there is more to it than that. When you turned eight years old, you were baptized, right? And then you were confirmed a member of the church and received the Holy Ghost. Well, those are just two of the ordinances needed to enter the Celestial Kingdom. Hopefully, you'll receive all of the necessary ordinances while you're on the earth, but not everybody has had that opportunity. Let me ask you a question. Does your family have any callings?

JAMES SANDERSON

Yeah, my dad teaches in Sunday School and goes home teaching, and my mom works in the library.

JESSICA SANDERSON

Mom also goes visiting teaching and sometimes takes food to people.

JAMES SANDERSON

Taking food to people isn't a calling, Midget.

BETH

Are you sure about that, James? Remember, our earthly home was modeled after our heavenly home, and callings are given to help us remember to take care of one another. Sometimes that means that we have a formal calling given by the bishop, but more often, we have opportunities to serve our brothers and sisters of our own free will and agency. James, can you look-up a scripture for me? It is Doctrine and Covenants Section 58, Verses 26 through 28.

JAMES SANDERSON

(JAMES OPENS HIS SCRIPTURES AND READS THE SELECTION.)

For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

BETH

Thank you, James. Heavenly Father has told us that sometimes he will command us to do things, but He also gives us opportunities to look for ways to serve on our own. That is what your mom is doing when she takes food to people, or goes to the Family History Center, or when your dad goes to give someone a blessing, or you smile at someone to help them have a better day. Any act of service, no matter how big or how small, is pleasing to our Father in Heaven.

(PAUSES)

So, do you think that we only give service while we're on the earth?

JESSICA SANDERSON

I've heard that when we die, we rest in peace. I guess we'll just be sitting on clouds playing BING-O or something.

JAMES SANDERSON
(THOUGHTFULLY)

I don't think so. If the earth is patterned after our heavenly home, and Heavenly Father wants us to take care of each other, then there must be service done there, too.

BETH

What if I told you that you are both right? We do rest in peace because we rest from our trials, our troubles and our afflictions, and that gives us great peace. But we also have tremendous opportunities to serve, too. Can you think of any service that is done in the spirit world?

JESSICA SANDERSON

Well, if people don't eat, we won't need to bring meals, and if people don't get sick, then they won't need blessings, but there might be some teaching that needs done.

BETH

That's right. Missionary work is a huge part of the spirit world.

LIGHTS ON STAGE WAITING. SEE SEVERAL CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE EACH BEING TAUGHT THE GOSPEL (IDEALLY EACH CLUSTER WILL BE TAUGHT IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE.)

BETH

There are hundreds of thousands of people who didn't have the opportunity to hear the gospel while on the earth, so teaching the gospel is one way to serve in the spirit world. Once those people have heard and accepted the gospel, our help is needed.

ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WAITING STAGE MOVE FORWARD TO STAND AT THE VEIL. HANDS ARE HELD, ARMS ARE PUT AROUND SHOULDERS, AND SMILES ARE GIVEN TO SHOW THEIR GREAT LOVE OF THE GOSPEL AND THEIR EXCITEMENT TO HAVE THEIR ORDINANCES DONE.

BETH

Just like you were baptized and confirmed, the people in the spirit world who have accepted the gospel are waiting to have the same opportunity, but since these and all of the other ordinances needed must be done on the earth, they have to wait for us to help them.

LIGHTS OFF WAITING STAGE. CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE MOVE BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS. ONLY THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY REMAINS AT THE VEIL. LIGHTS ON SERVING STAGE. SEE A GROUP OF PEOPLE STANDING AROUND A TABLE ACTIVELY SEARCHING BOOKS AND PAPERS AND CONFERRING ONE WITH ANOTHER.

BETH

In order to help them, we have to find them and certain pieces of information are needed before the work can be done. Your mom is trying to help the Nobleman family, but sometimes records weren't kept very well, or they are difficult to find. That is why there are people on the other side of the veil helping her to find the information she needs.

LIGHTS OUT SERVING STAGE. LIGHTS ON RECORDING STAGE. SEE A FEW PEOPLE WATCHING THROUGH THE VEIL, RECORDING INFORMATION IN A BIG BOOK.

BETH

Once your mom has all of the information needed, she will be able to take the names to the temple so they can receive all of the ordinances they need. When she does this, people in the spirit world will witness these ordinances being performed and will record them in the book of life.

LIGHTS OUT RECORDING STAGE.

BETH
(LOOKS AT EACH OF THE CHILDREN)

So, although you may have wanted to go to the mall, or to go hang out with your friends, can you see how important the work is that your mom is doing?

JAMES SANDERSON

I guess so, but looking at names and dates in a bunch of books is still pretty boring.

BETH
(LAUGHING)

I guess it would be, if that was all it was, but keep in mind that these people are your family. Oh, you may not remember them right now, but you used to know them, and someday you will know them again. In the meantime, they know you and love you, and many of them tried to leave clues for you to know them at least a little bit while you're here on earth.

(HOLDS UP JOURNAL.)

When we research these people, they become more real to us, and the work doesn't seem as boring, or as much like work. This is what Elijah the prophet meant by turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. The more we learn and love these people, the more we'll want to help each of our brothers and sisters who are watching and waiting for their work to be done.

(PAUSES)

Why don't we read a little about the Nobleman family and see if Elijah's promise is true.

OPENS JOURNAL AND BEGINS READING TO THE CHILDREN. LIGHTS OUT
STAGE RIGHT.

ACT 2:

LIGHTS ON WAITING STAGE. THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY IS AT THE VEIL
TELLING THEIR STORY THROUGH THE PAGES OF THEIR JOURNAL.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

The passage from England to America is difficult. It is cramped and the conditions are squalid. The rolling of the sea has caused many to become violently ill, and the smell hangs in the air with that of bodily wastes. Food and water are scarce and the heat of so many bodies is nearly unbearable. Disease has already taken some and others burn with a rash. Though our physical comforts are poor, our spirits rejoice. The elders lead us in song and teach us more of the gospel, and the spirit is with us. It is a place of peace and love, even withstanding the harsh conditions. Even our fair captain has said that he has never had so few complaints as he does when the Mormons are on board.

ADAM NOBLEMAN

My brother, Joseph is sick. Mother and father pray over him constantly and the elders have blessed him that he would live to join the saints in Zion. As the oldest, I help care for the twins and little Anna. I have celebrated my eighteenth year on board the ship and have spoken to the elders about joining in their cause when we reach the saints. My bosom burns with the knowledge of the truth and I seek to share this message of glad tidings with any who will listen.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN

Young Joseph, nearly a man at fifteen is recovered. Thanks be to God for his tender mercy. Truly this is a miracle as he had turned ashen and could no more ingest food or drink until the elders laid their hands upon his head.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

At last we have reached the saints. We were plagued with all manner of ridicule and persecution while traveling the river, insomuch that we believed we would find the saints in muddy swamps with nary a crust of bread to dine. Imagine our joy in seeing the sturdy homes on parcels of ground neatly tilled and planted. Work has begun on a temple, and every able man has been called to this labor. The Lord's goodness is without measure. All is well.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN

I fear for my husband and sons. There are those intent on driving the saints out and already many saints have lost their lives protecting our people and our temple from the hands of these men.

(PAUSES)

The work on the temple must go forward, though we fear we will be driven out before it is yet completed. All of the saints are working in one capacity or another to this end. The china I carried from England, a wedding gift of my grandmother, was ground with so many others to adorn the walls of the temple. How it shines in the sun! I rejoice that I had place in such beauty.

ADAM NOBLEMAN

I have asked Sarah Gooding to be my wife. The sun shines in her very smile and the Lord willing; we will soon be married in His holy temple for time and all eternity.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN

My son is dead. Adam, my eldest was shot while defending our home from an angry mob. I gathered the youngest children and hid them in the bushes near our property. Arthur, Adam and Joseph fought valiantly, but in the end the mob set fire to our lovely home and it, too, was lost. Joseph suffered severe burns, but the Lord guided my hands in administering an herbal poultice to heal him. Arthur was shot in the leg trying to get to Adam. It is too soon to tell if Arthur will join Adam or will remain with us here.

(PAUSES)

Plans are already underway to move west as soon as the temple is complete.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

We have buried three of our children now and I fear for my wife's grief. Adam met his maker in battle and our twins, Catrina and Sam, succumbed to fever before the sun rose this morning. There are few to tend to the sick as the whole of the town has taken ill. The men continue working on the temple, but our strength is failing us and many have collapsed in their labor. We lost our cow to the mob and so live on little more than watered down corn. It matters not. The cause of the gospel is true and we gladly shoulder our burdens to fulfill this work, that our children may know of our sacrifice for that which is precious above all else.

JOSEPH NOBLEMAN

I know not why the Lord has preserved my life. Twice I should have lain down in my grave, and twice He has lifted me up. Much of my family is lost, but our faith is whole. I have learned carpentry and labor alongside my father at the temple. Mother still grieves for Adam and the twins, but it does not stop her from her sewing and knitting, or from proclaiming the gospel. Soon, she says, we will be sealed as a family in the temple of our God. I think that is why mother and father work so late into the night.

ARTHUR NOBLEMAN

We are traveling in the second wagon train company with 2,500 of the saints. Our beloved temple is complete, though we were forced out before we could seek its blessings for our family. It is extremely cold, storming snow and rain to the point that we are only able to travel a few miles each day. The journey is hard, but is worth it. We will build a new temple that will stand until the glorious day of the Lord, and our children will grow without fear or persecution. How grateful we are for the Lord's sweet blessings!

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN

My husband was buried this day. Lightening caused the oxen to stampede and our wagon was overturned, and my beloved Arthur was pinned beneath it. The men worked to free him, but the heavy rain and mud made the task difficult. He died with a prayer on his lips and praises to God for the blessings of the gospel.

(PAUSES)

Joseph now drives the wagon as I try to keep little Anna warm enough. It is bitter cold and many graves are dug along the trail. The faith of the saints is being tested. Some have turned back and renounced the gospel, but the more part are strong. The Lord God watches over us and we are blessed.

JOSEPH
(SADLY)

We entered the Salt Lake Valley this day, though I am all that is left of my family. Mother and sweet Anna died of exposure. I placed Anna in Mother's arms in the grave. It was all I could do for them.

(PAUSES)

My family died not in vain. I will make sure of it. The gospel is true, I know it with every fiber of my being, and though I know not why I alone have been preserved, it is enough to reach this place to begin work on a new temple where at last we may be sealed for time and all eternity. Even death's cold hand cannot stop it. The work will be done. I, Joseph Nobleman, make it my mission to do so.

ACT 3:

LIGHTS OFF WAITING STAGE. THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY REMAINS AT THE VEIL. LIGHTS ON STAGE LEFT. MARY SANDERSON IS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER SITTING AT A TABLE RESEARCHING THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY.

MARY SANDERSON

Poor Joseph, the last of his family and after laboring fifteen years on the temple, he lost a hand during a construction accident and later died of infection.

(PAUSES)

Don't worry, Joseph. The work will soon be done. I have the records for Arthur, Victoria, Adam, Joseph, Catrina, and Sam. There is no record for little Anna, but the work need not be done for a child who died before reaching the age of accountability. I will submit the records, and very soon your family will be sealed for time and all eternity.

LIGHTS OFF STAGE LEFT. LIGHTS ON WAITING STAGE.

ANNA NOBLEMAN

Mother, what will become of me? I was nine when I passed and yet they think I was a baby.

VICTORIA NOBLEMAN
(COMFORTINGLY)

Shhh! All will be well, dear Anna. Have faith.

(LOOKS TO ARTHUR NOBLEMAN)

Is there nowhere a record of Anna? She was always 'Little Anna' due to her frail size. Surely there is some mention of this.

JOSEPH NOBLEMAN
(PAUSES)

I know where a record exists. Fear not, my promise will yet be fulfilled.

JOSEPH LEAVES THE ROOM. LIGHTS OUT WAITING STAGE. LIGHTS ON SERVICE STAGE. THE SERVICE WORKERS ARE WORKING QUICKLY TO LOCATE THE NEEDED RECORDS. JOSEPH ENTERS THE ROOM.

JOSEPH NOBLEMAN

Have the records been found?

SERVICE WORKER – 2

No, we have the records for the rest of the family, but we're still trying to locate something on Anna.

JOSEPH NOBLEMAN

I think I know where a record exists. Check under Beatrice Howell. She was close friends with my mother and traveled with our family out west. There may be some mention of Anna in her writings.

THERE IS SILENCE FOR A TIME WHILE THE RECORD IS RESEARCHED. AT LAST A MAN WAVES A BOOK TRIUMPHANTLY.

SERVICE WORKER – 3

You were right, Joseph! It is here!

JOSEPH NOBLEMAN

Quickly then, before she leaves! Guide her to the record!

(STEPS TO THE VEIL AND WHISPERS FERVENTLY TO MARY.)

Check again. Please, Mary. Check again. Don't forget little Anna. Please, check again.

LIGHTS ON STAGE LEFT. MARY STANDS TO LEAVE AND BEFORE SHE REACHES THE DOOR, SHE SHAKES HER HEAD AND RETURNS TO THE TABLE AND SITS DOWN.

MARY SANDERSON

That's funny, I have the strangest feeling I'm forgetting something.

(SHE NOTICES A BOOK ON THE TABLE AND PICKS IT UP AND LOOKS
AROUND TO SEE WHO MIGHT HAVE SET IT THERE.)

How odd. I don't recall seeing this book before.

(LAUGHS GOOD-NATUREDLY)

That must be a sign that I really am getting old. Let's see, this is the journal of Beatrice Howell.

MARY SETS THE BOOK ASIDE AND MOVES TO RE-OPEN ONE OF THE BOOKS
SHE WAS READING PREVIOUSLY. THE BEATRICE HOWELL BOOK GETS
KNOCKED TO THE FLOOR AND WHEN PICKING IT UP, THE NAME
NOBLEMAN CATCHES HER EYE.

MARY SANDERSON

Nobleman? What connection does Beatrice Howell have to the Nobleman's?

(PAUSES)

Victoria Nobleman and her nine year old daughter, Anna—Little Anna as she was
called—died today. She was my best friend. Many are the days we walked these dusty
plains together and I shall miss her friendly smile and generous heart. I know that I will
see her again, but the days will be long without her.

(MARY LOOKS UP, BEWILDERED.)

LIGHTS OUT STAGE LEFT. LIGHTS ON WAITING STAGE. JOSEPH RETURNS
TO THE ROOM AND THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY HUG AND WEEP IN JOY.

LIGHTS OUT WAITING STAGE. LIGHTS ON STAGE RIGHT. MARY IS THERE
WITH JAMES, JESSICA, AND BETH.

JESSICA SANDERSON

But why can't I go to the temple with you?

MARY SANDERSON

If you continue to keep the commandments, when you are a little older you will be able to
come. Today James is going to help with the baptisms and then your father and I will do
the rest of the work for the Nobleman family.

BETH

Remember how I told you that there are lots of different ways to serve and that the Lord wants us to do whatever we can to help one another?

JESSICA SANDERSON

Yes, but I wanted to help Anna. She was my age, you know?

BETH

There will be lots of families just as special as the Nobleman's who will need your help, but there is something you can do right now for little Anna. Do you know what that is?

JESSICA SANDERSON
(THINKS ABOUT IT, THEN ANSWERS SLOWLY)

Yes, I think so. I can pray for her and her family.

LIGHTS OUT STAGE RIGHT. MARY AND JAMES EXIT. LIGHTS ON STAGE LEFT. BETH AND JESSICA MOVE TO LEFT STAGE, SIT DOWN, FOLD THEIR ARMS AND BOW THEIR HEADS. LIGHTS ON WAITING STAGE. A MESSENGER ENTERS AND RUSHES UP TO THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY.

MESSENGER

Come! Quickly! It is time!

LIGHTS OUT STAGE LEFT. LIGHTS OUT WAITING STAGE. THE NOBLEMAN'S EXIT. LIGHTS ON RECORDING STAGE. THE NOBLEMAN'S ENTER AND ARE GREETED BY THE RECORD KEEPERS AND WITNESS.

WITNESS

It is time. The Sanderson family has just entered the temple. Step forward to witness this most sacred work.

THE NOBLEMAN FAMILY STEPS TO THE VEIL AND WATCHES AS THE SONG, THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD (FROM THE WOMEN OF DESTINY—SONGS CELEBRATING THE RELIEF SOCIETY DECLARATION) IS PLAYED, SYMBOLIZING THE WORK THAT IS DONE IN THE TEMPLE.

LIGHTS OUT RECORDING STAGE. LIGHTS ON CENTER STAGE. THE NARRATOR STEPS FORWARD FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD.

NARRATOR
(PAUSES)

And so at long last, the Nobleman family is sealed together for time and all eternity.

(PAUSES)

(Doctrine and Covenants, Section 138, Verses 47 and 48.) The Prophet Elijah was to plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to their fathers, Foreshadowing the great work to be done in the temples of the Lord in the dispensation of the fulness of times, for the redemption of the dead, and the sealing of the children to their parents, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse and utterly wasted at his coming.

(PAUSES)

(Moses, Chapter 1, Verse 39) For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

(PAUSES)

(Doctrine and Covenants Section 58, Verses 26 through 28.) For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

(PAUSES)

That we may remember these things is my humble prayer, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

LIGHTS OUT CENTER STAGE.

--THE END--