

# Junior Wise Men

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

The wise men are an evocative image. Mysterious strangers. A star shining in the night sky. A pilgrimage to a king.

Though historically their visit most likely happened months after the shepherds visited the manger, they are just too good to keep out of our Nativity scenes.

We don't know exactly what set the wise men on their journey. They knew something of astronomy and astrology. A comet - an alignment of planets - a supernova - something told them a king was born. They also knew something of the Jewish anticipation for a Messiah. Connecting the dots, they set off across hundreds of miles of desert for a journey of weeks and months.

As Abathar in this sketch observes, there ought to be an easier way to find a king. Thanks to the king they were seeking, there is. As that king would later say, "seek and you will find."

<b>Cast list</b>	Abathar Stable Master
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	2 1/2 minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	Somewhere in the desert at night
<b>Prop List</b>	Large burlap sack apparently full of feed Two large scrolls Abacus
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	None
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	2 Chronicles 15:2; Isaiah 43:18-20; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	Follow the Light (Vader/Rouse), Do You Hear What I Hear

*Lights come up as Abathar is fumbling with star charts. He has one scroll rolled up under his arm and an abacus under the other arm as he tries to orient what he sees in the sky with the scroll open in his hands.*

*Stable Master enters, walking backward, struggling to drag the bag after him.*

**Stable Master:**

Abathar! (*drags bag a few more feet*) Abathar!

*Stable Master drops the bag a couple yards from Abathar and catches his breath with hands on his knees while he watches Abathar with annoyance.*

**Stable Master:**

Abathar! (*Abathar, just hearing him for the first time, turns to look at him*) Little help here?

**Abathar:** (*continuing to fiddle with the charts*) I'm working on these star charts, boss. I think we may have taken a wrong turn at the Euphrates.

**Stable Master:**

Leave that to the wise men, already. You're a stable hand. So give me a hand with the camels.

**Abathar:**

Balthasar has been teaching me. He says I show great promise.

**Stable Master:** (*sarcastically*)

Great promise. (*skoffs*) I promise that if you don't get over here right now...

**Abathar:**

Ooh! There's the North Star. Come here. Come here. You gotta see this. (*Stable Master moves beside him. Abathar puts his arm around him and points.*) That's Orion the Hunter. And that's the bear. And that one's the crab constellation. I always know that one because it looks like you.

*Stable Master shoots him a look and smacks him on the back of the head.*

**Stable Master:**

Listen, kid, you were born a stable hand, and you'll die a stable hand. Sooner than you might think if you don't get to work.

**Abathar:** *(in his enthusiasm ignoring the threat)*  
No. No. Balthasar says this star - this new king - changes everything. He said, "You think we would schlep all the way to Judea for just any king?"

**Stable Master:** *(confused)*  
Schlep?

**Abathar:**  
That's the way he talks. *(enthusiastic again)* But everything is changing. The old is passing away. So who knows? Maybe I could become a wise man.

**Stable Master:**  
So, wise guy, where do your calculations say we are?

**Abathar:**  
OK. See I line up this chart with that star. Then I look up that sign *(hands star map to Stable Master and taking the other scroll from under his arm)* over in this table. That gives me a number. OK. Now I have to calculate *(hands scroll to Stable Master and fools with abacus)* carry the two. No, wait *(turns abacus other way around and calculates some more)*. Then take that back to this map *(takes star map from Stable Master and hands him abacus)*. That means we are right here. *(pointing to a spot)*.

**Stable Master:** *(pointing at the map)*  
There.

**Abathar:**  
Right there.

**Stable Manger:** *(looking at the map)*  
That's the middle of the ocean.

**Abathar:**

What? Oh. Well, it worked yesterday. I'll try it again.

**Stable Master:** (*grabbing the map*)

You'll feed the camels first.

**Abathar:**

OK.

*Abathar and Stable Master start to exit.  
Stable Master picks up a corner of the bag,  
waiting for Abathar who turns back and looks  
up at the sky.*

**Abathar:** (*wistfully*)

You'd think there'd be an easier way to find a king.

*Abathar turns back to help Stable Master.  
They exit, dragging the bag.*

*Fade to black*

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