

A Tale Of Three And Four

A Musical legend

Based on a story by **CH.N. Bialik**

Adapted for stage by **Lea Goldberg**

Play no. 136

Opening show: 12/02/1955

Producer : Shrage Friedman

Music: Emanuel Amiran

Setting by: Shlomo Van-Den-Berg

Choreography: Tehila Ressler

Conductor: Fordhaus Ben Zisi

The Cast

The Parrot: Shlomo Bar-Savit

King Solomon : Nachum Buchman

The King of Aram: Ari Kutai

The King of Tyre: Gidon Singer

The King of Moab: Albert Hezkiyahu

The King of the Ammonites: Albert Cohen

The King of Egypt: Baruch David

Ketzia, daughter of the King of Aram: Yona Atari

Natanya, the son of Malkishua: Joseph Banai

The first eunich: Niura Shein

The Second eunich: Nava Shan

The Third: Rachel Timor

The Snake: Alvin Epstein

The Hoopoe: Nira Sokolowsky

Malkishua the Zebuluneite: Yehuda Rubinstein

The daughter of king Solomon: Rivka Gal

The daughter of king Tyre: Asia Schneder

The daughter of king Moab: Simha Levy

The daughter of king Tyre: Asia Schneder

The daughter of king Ammon: Baia Kantor

The daughter of king Egypt: Adina Feldman

Act One

Scene 1

King Solomon, who is entertaining the "Kings of the West and East" at a banquet in his garden, declares that all matches are made in heaven. His guests, the kings, are skeptical. King Solomon offers to put his belief to a practical test by drawing lots among the daughters of the kings. The one chosen by lot would be sent to a remote island and locked up in a tower where she would be kept under strict guard. Despite all these precautions, according to King Solomon, her destined husband would find her out even there. The kings agree, and the lot falls to Ketzia, the daughter of the King of Aram. He is an ally of King Solomon's but deep in his heart he hates him. He laments the fate of his daughter.

Scene 2

King Solomon and the kings come to the tower. King Solomon bids the King of Aram to take leave of his daughter. The King of Aram tries to cheat King Solomon by replacing his daughter by another girl, but his trick is discovered immediately. The father says farewell to his daughter, and the daughter weeps for her lost youth. She ascends the tower, accompanied by her guards – three eunuchs and her pet birds, a talking parrot and dancing hoopoe.

Scene 3

Ketzia, the daughter of the King of Aram, imprisoned in her tower, longs for a rescuer. All efforts to cheer her are in vain. She and her companions try to surmise whence her destined husband will come, as predicted by King Solomon. Their choice falls on the city of Sidon, and the euniches tell Ketzia that a rich merchant, Malkishua, of the tribe of Zebulun, dwells in Sidon, and that he has a son called Natanya. But this Malkishua is an enemy of her father's. Ketzia is despondent once again, and sends the euniches away. Left alone with her faithful parrot, she send the euniches away. Left alone with her faithful parrot, she bids him fly to King Solomon and tell him that she is weary of living and begs to be released from her prison. One of the euniches, bribed by the King of Aram, bring Ketzia a message from her father and a long rope which he had hidden in the basket of food which the eagle of King Solomon used to bring her every day. The message urges Ketzia to descend from her tower by the rope and tells her that he has sent loyal servants by boat to help her escape. In her despair Ketzia is tempted to obey. She binds herself with the rope. But her parrot, forced by the storm to turn back, returns in time to stop her. Ketzia repents her impulse, remembering that she has promised King Solomon to bear her fate. She begs the parrot to reveal to King Solomon her attempt at escapt.

Act Two

Natanya, the son of Malkishua, who had sailed from Sidon against his father's wishes, lands on a desolate shore, after having been saved b a miracle from his shattered vessel. Weary and broken, he lies beneath a rock and falls asleep. Ketzia appears to him in a dream. When the dream is ended a snake emerges and winds itself aroud his neck. Natanya awakens and struggles with the snake who later reveals that he was sent by King Solomon to this deserted place to tell the young man it would find there, not to depart. Natanya obeys. An eagle appears and bears him aloft.

A Scene Between Scenes.

The parrot comes to King Solomon and tells him that nothing has changed in the tower and that Ketzia is as sad and Lonely as before.

Scene 2

Natanya is brought to the tower by the eagle. Ketzia finds him in her room They fall in love at once and swear to be true to one another. But knowing that their fathers are enemies they fear the future. King Solomon appears and jejoices at the justification of his belief. But he realizes that he has still to

make peace between the two fathers. He sends the parrot to Sidon to inform Malkishua that his son is alive and his wedding day is near.

Scene 3

The wedding feast of Ketzia and Natanya. Their fathers both oppose the match, and the King of Aram demands that the marriage be annulled. But King Solomon in his wisdom is able to persuade the King of Aram to be reconciled with his enemy and to forget an old hatred for the sake of a new love. The King of Aram's better self prevails and he holds out his hand to Malkishua. Love and peace prevail, and the play ends with a song of praise for the goodness of Fate.