



THE TRIAL I

The Original Stageplay

CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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Sample Script



Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

VOICE: In the courtroom of eternity, the trial of the century is about to begin. The forces of darkness have brought numerous accusations against Christian. He will attempt to prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that man is unredeemable, and God should choose to end this world now and not delay His second coming for the sake of fallen humanity.

(Enter DEFENSE, DEFENDANT and PROSECUTOR).

VOICE: This should be a time of personal reflection, as we all examine ourselves from the perspective of this trial. We will see, as a man that beholds himself in the mirror, a true reflection of our nature and spiritual position in God. And we will have all opportunity to decide what the final verdict will be.

(The DEFENSE sits at a table SL. He scans through numerous files on his desk, while the DEFENDANT, sits humbly with his head bowed waiting.)

(The PROSECUTOR is tormented. He claps his pen against the table. Cross and crisscross his legs, gets up, sits down, walks about, etc. His eyes are glued towards US and he twitches continuously until finally the BALIFFE'S voice echoes through the auditorium).

VOICE: ALL RISE!

(Everyone [including the audience] should stand.)

VOICE: Judge Jehovah God presiding.

(God enters and takes His place behind the high-rise throne. His very mannerism define authority, His very voice defines Truth.)

(God slams the mallet hard on a metal saucer and speaks as one who commands even thunder.)

GOD: This court is now called to order. You may be seated. *(Everyone sits. God checks his notes)*. The prosecutor may present his opening arguments.

(The PROSECUTOR rise.)

PROSECUTOR: Thank you, Your honour. My compliments on the suit. Lovely tie...nice shiny shoes...

GOD: Could we get on with it. If you don't mind.

PROSECUTOR: Certainly! *(Clears throat)* I strongly doubt that I could summarize all that the Defendant has done, but I believe that there's a word that covers it all. SIN! Is it not? I will prove to this court, that Christian is guilty of innumerable acts of sin and by law, he should be cut off from all righteousness and given like sentence such as demons have received. Your honour, it has always been your wish to see man redeemed to his former state. But needless I state the obvious that he has proven himself as being unredeemable and I would implore of our fellow congregates, not to allow any form of self preference to cloud your judgement in seeing that Christian is guilty, guilty, guilty...and in like terms he should be severely and eternally punished.

(Prosecutor breathes hard to calm himself and takes a seat.)

(God finish taking a few notes and gestures towards the DEFENSE, who stands.)

DEFENSE: Your honour. It is with great disdain that I...

(Prosecutor jumps to his feet.)

PROSECUTOR: Objection Your honour!

GOD: On what grounds?

PROSECUTOR: The Defense has used the pronoun ‘I’ implying that he is the one on trial and not the defendant.

GOD: Sit down.

(Prosecutor immediately sits.)

DEFENSE: Yes. I thought it to be my soul duty to offer a defense on behalf of my client, Christian. I am not saying that Christian is being falsely accused of sin. The scriptures clearly tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and for a man to say otherwise would be to call God – [you] a liar, which you are not or could ever be. The scriptures also state that any man who acknowledges, confesses and turn from his sin should be considered righteous, being liable and very much worthy of eternal life.

(The prosecutor jumps to his feet as the defense sits.)

PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, the prosecution request that you step down from this case.

GOD: I beg your pardon!

PROSECUTOR: I do not believe you are the best person to stand over this case, seeing that you are both the writer of the Bible and the creator of man...

GOD: Sit down.

(The prosecutor immediately sits.)

GOD: And for the record, let it be noted that the Defendant will be judged by the Bible and not by personal preference, emotions or beliefs. Mr. Christian...*(Christian and the Defense stands.)* You are aware of the charges brought against you today?

CHRISTIAN: I am.

GOD: And of these charges, how do you plea?

CHRISTIAN: Not guilty, your honour.

GOD: Noted. You may be seated. *(To Prosecutor)* You may call your first witness.

(The prosecutor stands.)

PROSECUTOR: I call to the stand Dr. Omar St. Augustine Murray.

(Dr. Murray enters. He walks to the witness stand and raise his right hand as the prosecutor approaches him with a Bible. Dr. Murray rests his left hand on the Bible.)

PROSECUTOR: Do you...

DR. MURRAY *(interrupting):* I do.

(Dr. Murray sits. The prosecutor consults his files.)

PROSECUTOR: For the record doctor, could you state your profession.

DR. MURRAY: I am a doctor.

PROSECUTOR: What kind of a doctor?

DR. MURRAY: One who specializes in childcare.

PROSECUTOR: Very good. Could you tell us how you differentiate between a girl and a boy at childbirth?

(Defense jumps to his feet.)

DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honour. This is highly irrelevant.

PROSECUTOR: If the court permits, I will get to the point soon enough.

GOD: Very well. You may proceed.

(Defense sits.)

PROSECUTOR: Please answer the question, doctor.

DR. MURRAY: Well...to be honest there's just one way really. By looking at their...you know.

PROSECUTOR: Be a little more specific doctor.

DR. MURRAY: By looking at their private parts.

PROSECUTOR: A little more specific doctor.

GOD: I think we all know what the doctor is referring to, so please proceed.

PROSECUTOR: Doctor, how do you differentiate between a Christian and a non-Christian?

DR. MURRAY: Well...ahh. That in itself has gotten quite difficult, seeing that they all dress alike; women cut their hair; men grow their hair, etc.

PROSECUTOR: So how do you tell the difference?

DR. MURRAY: By looking at their private lives, I guess.

PROSECUTOR: Private lives, doctor?

DR. MURRAY: Yes. What they do when the lights go out; when the doors close, that kind of a thing.

PROSECUTOR: Doctor. Do you know the defendant?

(Dr, Murray looks directly at Christian.)

DR. MURRAY: Yes, I do.

PROSECUTOR: Would you say that his behavior defines Christianity.

DR. MURRAY: No.

PROSECUTOR: How about his dress code?

DR. MURRAY: No.

PROSECUTOR: Maybe his conversations?

DR. MURRAY: No.

PROSECUTOR: How he treats his fellow brother?

DR. MURRAY: No.

PROSECUTOR: And I could go on and on and on. Couldn't I, doctor?

DR. MURRAY: I guess.

PROSECUTOR: No further questions, Your Honour.

(The prosecutor sits. God takes notes and then lifts his head casting his eyes towards the defense table. The defense rise.)

DEFENSE: Doctor, could you clarify all that you've just said.

DR. MURRAY: It's very simple. I do not believe that Christian is a Christian because everything about him is in direct opposition to the Word of God.

DEFENSE: In what way?

DR. MURRAY: He's boisterous. Very rebellious and hardly follows instructions. Disrespectful to his elders and those in authority. He pierces his body in unmentionable places, wears whatever he feels like, and goes wherever he wants to. He is always telling rude jokes and idle jesting and he's sexually active.

(Defense appears stunned by those last words.)

DEFENSE: How do you know that he's active sexually?

DR. MURRAY: Because he got my daughter pregnant.

(Gasp from the audience.)

DEFENSE: How did that make you feel, doctor?

DR. MURRAY: Angry!

DEFENSE: Vengeful, arrogant...

PROSECUTOR: Objection...

DEFENSE: Withdrawn. *(pause)* Doctor, when was the last time you spoke to my client?

DR. MURRAY: I...don't remember.

DEFENSE: Five, maybe six years ago.

DR. MURRAY: Maybe. I'm not sure.

DEFENSE: Was it before or after your daughter's graduation.

DR. MURRAY: Before.

DEFENSE: How long has it been since she graduated.

DR. MURRAY: Five years, Two months, One week and four days.

DEFENSE: I assume that your precision is based on the fact that it was graduation night that she told you she was pregnant?

DR. MURRAY: Yes.

DEFENSE: Are you aware that Christian has been attending church now for only four years.

(Silence.)

DEFENSE: Are you?

DR. MURRAY: Does it matter? Once a sinner always a sinner.

DEFENSE: No further questions, your honour.

DR. MURRAY: I'm not finished. Do you have any idea what it's like...

GOD: Be quiet.

DR. MURRAY: I have...

GOD: Silence.

(A hush falls over the courtroom.)

GOD: Does the prosecutor wish to cross examine the witness?

PROSECUTOR: No, Your Honor.

GOD: Very well. The witness may step down.

(Dr. Murray alights from the witness stand and exits.)

GOD: Next witness!

PROSECUTOR: I call to the stand, Reginald Bowe.

(Mr. Bowe enters and stands in the witness booth. The Prosecutor approaches him with the Bible.)

PROSECUTOR: Do you promise to tell...

REGINALD: I do.

(Reginald sits.)

PROSECUTOR: Mr. Bowe, could you state your profession.

REGINALD: I'm a mortician, sir. A certified mortician.

PROSECUTOR: So, you deal with the dead?

REGINALD: That I do, sir. That I do.

PROSECUTOR: About how many dead people come to your parlor a year?

REGINALD: A lot, sir, a whole lot.

PROSECUTOR: And what percentage of that lot would you say are victims of suicide?

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