

THE WISE GUYS

By Rod

This sketch is based on the visit of the 'three wise men' to Jesus. Much has been built upon the brief account in Matthew 2 vv 1-12 and this sketch uses some of these 'traditions'. The main point being made, however, is that they undertook an amazing journey which defied 'good sense' in the belief that Jesus really was somebody special. It thus illustrates the difference between heavenly and worldly wisdom.

CAST

Melchior *One of the wise men*

Benizir *His wife*

[The scene opens with Benizir standing centre stage, arms folded, perhaps holding a rolling-pin. Melchior enters tiptoeing across the stage as if trying not to wake his wife. He has not yet seen her.]

Benizir *[Sternly]* And what time do you call this?

Melchior *[Timidly, surprised]* Oh, sorry dear. You shouldn't have waited up.

B How can I go to sleep when I know you're out late at night gadding about who knows where and*[Deliberately]* with who knows whom.

M I've been at the observatory.

B Ah, the observatory is it. That's what you always say. I bet it's just the name of some new pub you've found to go with 'The Artesian Well' and "The Oasis".

M It's not a pub, Benizir dear, it's where I go to study the stars in the sky.

B I know that's where you tell me you go – but how do I know it's true? You could have some fancy woman for all I know. I saw you eyeing that girl on the watermelon stall in the market.

M I was with Caspar and Balthazar all evening. They'll vouch for me.

B Huh, those two good for nothing layabouts. I wouldn't put much store by anything they told me. What is it they call you? "The three wise men". The three wise monkeys more like.
Anyway, you're even later than usual tonight.

M That's because we made an amazing discovery.

B Oh yeah? Don't tell me – the wine was cheaper at this new pub you've found.

M No dear, we saw a star.

B *[Sarcastic]* Wow, that is amazing! You went to an observatory, looked at the sky all night and you saw – a star. Incredible!

M It's a very special star. It has only just appeared in the sky.

B How much wine did you say you'd drunk.

M I didn't. And we hadn't had any wine at all.

B So, what's so special about this star of yours then?

M Well, we've been studying some ancient Jewish writings and they mention a star which will herald the birth of a great king.

B And you think that this is that star.

M Yes.

B That's great! So now you can stop going out every night and we can get back to a normal family life.

M *[hesitantly]* Yes, but er er, the thing is....

B What is it now?

M *[Hesitantly]* Well, you see, Caspar, Balthazar and I

B Yes.

M *[Hesitantly]* We thought we might er since it is such an important star... mentioned in ancient Jewish writings and all that....

B Yes.

M *[Rapidly having made his mind up to 'go for it']* We thought we might follow it to see if it will lead us to this great king who has just been born.

B *[Severely]* Did you now?

M *[Enthusiastically]* Yes, it's a really exciting project. Caspar and Balthazar are most enthusiastic.

B Hang on just a minute. Did you say “Jewish writings”?

M Yes, that’s right. Particularly it comes in a book called ‘Numbers’

B So, we’re talking about a Jewish king?

M Yes.

B A Jewish king who is therefore likely to be born in Judah.

M Yes, most probably.

B The Judah which is hundreds of miles from here?

M Yes.

B So this little jaunt of yours with your two buddies, Sage and Onion,..

M Caspar and Balthazar.

B Whatever... is going to take you away from home for – perhaps several months?

M It might even be years. We’ll only be able to travel at night because we’ll have to follow the star....

B *[Exploding]* Have you gone completely off your head? How am I going to cope with the home, the animals and your children all on my own?

M I know it will be hard on you dear but it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. And this baby could turn out to be a very special king.

B Baby king you say?

M Yes.

B So, you’ll need to take a gift of some sort – for the baby?

M Yes’ we’ve thought about that. Caspar is planning to take some incense and Balthazar will take some embalming fluid.

B *[Incredulous]* Embalming fluid! Incense! What use will they be to a baby? Trust those idiots to dream up something totally impractical. I saw some excellent babygrows on sale in Mothercare. Or you could take an

educational toy. Microsoft have just brought out a new Abacus fitted with Windows BC.

M I'm going to give the baby our gold.

B Gold! You mean the gold we've put aside for our daughter Sheherazada's wedding?

M Yes. If he's a king he deserves the best. It's got to be gold.

B Caspar, you're in no fit state to go anywhere. Let alone on a fool's errand to some tinpot nation the other side of the desert. I command you to sit down while I fetch the doctor.*[She forces him into a seat]*

M But Benizir dear...

B I won't take no for an answer. *[She starts to leave, pauses and addresses these final words to the audience]* I don't know: star, Judah, a baby king, gold. What will he think of next?
And he calls himself a wise man!

THE END