

**EXPERIENCE
PUPPETS**

DO LIONS MAKE GOOD PILLOWS?



Based on Daniel Chapter 6

| Timothy Brown

Do Lions Make Good Pillows?

Cast:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1) King Darius | 4) Melzar |
| 2) Counselor—Dermitt | 5) Daniel |

Scene 1: Street in Front of the Palace

Melzar: (*Steps forward on first step*) Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye, listen to the proclamation, signed by the king...Hear ye, hear ye. King Darius has proclaimed that this kingdom is to be divided up into 120 states. One hundred twenty satraps have been selected to rule over these states. And King Darius also says that Daniel and two others will govern these satraps. Each one will report to Daniel and these two who will in turn report to the king. The king is also thinking about making Daniel the #2 man in the whole kingdom.

Dermitt: I can't believe it! Doesn't he know who Daniel is? He's one of the Hebrew captives brought from Jerusalem. He isn't Babylonian and yet he is placed in charge of 120 true Babylonians. That's not fair! I need to go talk to the king.... no...no, that won't do any good. The king thinks the world of him. Well, if I can't change the king's mind, maybe I can figure a way to get rid of Daniel. But how? I'll need the help of the other counselors, but that won't be difficult. All we have to do is find some crime Daniel has done. No, no, we'll never find anything. He's one of the most honest guys I know who follows what his God wants him to do. Wait a minute! His God! That's it. Daniel always stays true to his God. What if we get the king to make a law that Daniel can't keep and stand true to his God at the same time. Oh, that's perfect! If he stands true, he breaks the law. If he obeys the law, we tell the king he has no character because he won't stand true to his beliefs. And...if we make the punishment to be thrown into the lion's den, that'd be the icing on the cake. I've got to talk to the others about this.

Melzar: (*Enters as Dermitt leaves.*) I wonder what he is up to now. I think it's great news about Daniel, but I know that Dermitt and his friends don't like him. I'll have to keep my eye on him. Oh, well, I'd better get busy letting people know about this proclamation. I've got a lot of land to cover. I guess I'll be out of town for several days to get word throughout the kingdom.

Dermitt: That worked better than I thought. All I had to do was come up with an idea and share it with my friends and we've got a great plan. We just flatter the king, telling him that he is not just a great king, but a god! Once he's filled with pride, we can get him to sign *our* proclamation. (*Holds up a scroll.*) "All the governors have consulted together to establish a royal decree, that whoever asks any god or man for anything for thirty days, except the king, shall be cast into the den of lions." Once the king signs this, Daniel will be finished. All we have to do is watch him and when he starts to pray, we tell the king. Once this law is signed, it can't be changed so even the king can't do anything about it. We can't lose!

Scene 2: The Palace

Dermitt: Good morning, your Majesty!

King: Good morning Dermitt. You know, it really is a good morning. Things are going great in the kingdom and this plan of the 120 states and leaders is working fantastic.

Dermitt: Your Majesty, the other governors and leaders and I have been talking about this great plan of yours and we all think it is brilliant.

King: Really? You really think that?

Dermit: Of course we do. We're constantly amazed at the ideas you come up with and the laws you make. We can't believe how lucky we are to have a king as great as you!

King: I appreciate what you're saying, but...

Dermit: Now don't try to downplay how great you are, sir. I mean many of us believe that a mere man could not do all these great things you've done.

King: What are you trying to say, Dermit?

Dermit: Some of us believe you aren't a normal person but one of the gods come down to rule us.

King: Well...now that you mention it...

Dermit: In fact, your majesty, we are so convinced that you are a god we have taken the liberty to draw up a law, proclaiming it.

King: Well, what does it say?

Dermit: It's simple and to the point. "Whoever asks anything of any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king will be cast into the lion's den."

King: Lion's Den, huh. You know...I think you're right. The people should know that I am a god. Hand me the decree and I'll sign it. *(Signs it and then leaves.)*

Dermit: Heh, heh, heh...Daniel is finished now. This decree won't get him to stop praying to his God. He makes it so easy by praying the same three times every day. Oh...it's getting close to the time that he starts praying. Is he in for a big surprise at the end of his prayer time today? *(Exits laughing.)*

Scene 3: Street in Front of the Palace

Melzar: Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye...Listen to the proclamation, signed by the king, hear ye hear ye. *(Shows scroll.)* King Darius has proclaimed "Whoever asks anything of any god or man for thirty days, except the king, shall be cast into the den of lions."

Daniel: *(Walks by as the proclamation is read. Melzar exits. Daniel goes to the side and bows his head. Dermit is watching from the top level.)*

Dermit: What did I tell you? I knew he'd keep right on praying. You know, he almost made this too easy...(pause)...almost. Time to go to the king and tell him about his *beloved* Daniel.

Scene 4: The Palace

King: Let's see, another law to sign. Do I really want to do this? After all, once I sign it, it can't be changed no matter what. I'm just not sure about this one. I think I'll wait and think about it.

Dermit: Your majesty, I have terrible news!

King: What is it?

Dermit: We've found someone who has broken your new law.

King: What law is that?

Dermit: The one about not praying to any god but you for 30 days.

King: *(Hesitantly.)* And who might that be?

Dermit: Daniel.

King: Daniel! I never thought about him when I signed that law. Yes, his faith is so strong; he wouldn't let my decree stop him from praying. How could I have made that foolish law?

Dermit: Umm... Your majesty; he has broken the law and must be thrown into the lion's den. Shall I have the soldiers go get him?

King: No!

Dermit: But your majesty, you that when a law is made, it can't be changed, even by you.

King: I know that Dermit, but I have until the end of the day to work something out and I'm going to try. I owe it to Daniel. He's been a good and faithful servant. Now get out of here before I have you thrown into the lion's den.

Dermit: Right away your majesty. *(To audience while leaving.)* He'll never figure a way to get Daniel out of the lion's den. In just a few hours, we'll finally be rid of him!

Melzar: *(Enters from opposite direction.)* The king has had us working for hours now to try to change the law or find a way to spare Daniel, but we've come up with nothing. We can't stop Daniel from being thrown in. I wish we could. I really like Daniel. Maybe the God he serves will save him. I don't put a lot of stock in that though. I'm sure going to miss him! *(Exits.)*

Dermit: *(Enters.)* It's time, O king. Daniel must be thrown in the lion's den in order to fulfill the law.

King: Go see to it.

(Dermit brings Daniel on the top level. Daniel is pushed and drops down.)

King: Daniel, your God, whom you serve continually, he will deliver you.

Scene 5: The Lion's Den (The king, Dermit & Melzar enter)

Melzar: I'm sure he's all right sir. His God is powerful.

King: I hope you're right, Melzar. I couldn't sleep at all last night thinking about Daniel.

Dermit: Do you honestly believe that his **god** is able to save him? I don't know why we're even here. There's going to be nothing to see but lions. Why are we wasting our time?

King: Whether you believe it or not, Daniel's God is powerful. There's a chance he's alive and I'm going to make sure. *(Calls out.)* Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?

Daniel: O king, live forever! God sent his angel and shut the lion's mouths, so they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before him; and also, O king, I've done no wrong before you.

King: Melzar, go open the den.

Melzar: Right away, your majesty. *(Goes to get Daniel.)*

King: Dermit!

Dermit: Yes, your majesty?

King: You and the other counselors planned this whole thing to get rid of Daniel didn't you?

Dermit: *(Stammers.)* I...uh...we...that is...

King: Enough! Since you were so anxious to send Daniel to the lion's den, I think it's only fitting that you get a turn in there too. *(Melzar and Daniel enter.)* Melzar, I've got a job for you.

Melzar: Anything you ask, O king.

King: Take Dermit and get his coconspirators and have them all thrown into the lion's den. When you get back, we'll have to start thinking about who will take their places.

Melzar: Right away your majesty.

All Exit