

BLIND/SIGHT

BY LORAIN F. KONRADY

ACT ONE

SCENE I

SCENE: *Stage may be divided into two parts – one half (L) for First Scene: Second half (R) for second scene*

Market Place – Rachel enters stage left

Simon is holding her arm.

RACHEL:

Come this way, Simon.

SIMON:

The market is quiet today, Rachel.

RACHEL:

It's so different on the Sabbath – no people, no animals. It's so easy to pass through on the way to your house.

SIMON:

I love the daily walks we take together, there are not many people who would spend time with a blind man.

RACHEL:

I don't think of you as blind. I think of you as a man (*a little nervously*) umm, with an amazingly cheerful attitude.

SIMON:

(He smiles) Thank you. I can feel the warm sun, there's a warm breeze. It feels like a beautiful day. Is it?

RACHEL:

It is beautiful, Simon. You know, even though you're blind you seem to see more than most people.

SIMON:

I think that's because I have to use my heart to see and not my eyes.

RACHEL:

I think that's one of the things I admire most about you.

SIMON:

Well, my parents always taught me to be thankful for what I do have in life.
Did I ever tell you the story about my birth and how my parents came to know
about my blindness?

RACHEL:

No, well not the whole story – tell me.

They sit at basket stall

Now tell me all about it.

SIMON:

Well, first there was a wonderful celebration

SCENE II

SCENE: Shifts to stage right – sound of tambourines, music, talking, some soft laughter.

RUBIN:

Benjamin, you have a fine son! – He's a big sturdy child.

BENJAMIN:

Thank you, Rubin, I thank God the almighty for him and you can be sure I will raise him to know the law and to love and obey the Lord.

RUBIN:

He is fortunate to have Godly parents like you and Deborah. May you be blessed.

Deborah enters carrying infant. Everyone huddles around, exclaiming.)

MAN 1:

He's so beautiful!

WOMAN 1:

What a big boy!

MAN 2:

Looks like his father.

WOMAN 2:

Give thanks to God.

MAN 1:

Now you can stop complaining about how you need help in your business!

BENJAMIN:

Well the camel trading business has been good to me. Why shouldn't it support another generation? Little Simon, will you like the pretty camels? *(Tickles baby under chin)*, Koochee, Koochee. Let's celebrate my son's wonderful future!

Music starts for:

He Is The God Of Abram Sung by Ben, Deborah and Chorus

I

He is the God of Abram

He is the God of Jacob

He is the Lord and God of Israel
He feeds us when we're hungry
He lifts us when we're downcast
He is the Lord and God of Israel

CHORUS:

For he is the one who fills our souls with joy
He is the one who saves our lives
He is the one who watches over us
The God of Israel

II

We praise you for your love Lord
We thank you for your care Lord
We ask that you will help us every day
You lead us through green pastures
And by the still waters
You are our Lord and shepherd every way

Repeat all

SCENE III

SCENE: *Home of Benjamin – Table, chairs, small cradle. (Right side of stage)*

DEBORAH:

What do you mean my child is blind, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

I simply mean that he has never been able to see, he's been blind from birth.

DEBORAH:

What can be done about it?

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry to tell you that this must be viewed as God's will for this child, and you must accept it. Other than loving him as you would any other child nothing more can be done.

DEBORAH:

(Agitated)

What will I tell his father? All his hopes are pinned on this child. We have wonderful plans for his future.

Puts her hands over her mouth then slowly brings them down.

What kind of future does he have now?

DOCTOR:

I don't know, Deborah, but I pray that God will give you the strength and wisdom to bear this. Remember that his mind seems to be sound and his little body is strong.

DEBORAH:

Thank you, Doctor, I'll see you out.

They cross to door – Doctor exits. Deborah turns to cradle. Looks in at baby, starts to cry softly.

Ben enters – looks worried.

BEN:

I passed the doctor on my way in – what's wrong? Has something happened?

Ben puts his arm around Deborah.

DEBORAH:

I had the doctor in today to look at Simon's eyes. I've felt very sure that he doesn't see, he's never looked me in the eyes, not even once.

BEN:

But Deborah, he's still so young, how can the doctor be sure that something is wrong?

DEBORAH:

The doctor says *(pause, voice breaking up)* he's blind, Benjamin.

BEN:

Well, that's just not possible! *(getting angry)* He doesn't know what he's talking about *(angrier)*. Doesn't he know what this means to me, to us, to Simon? Blind? I've seen blind people before. I'll tell you what they do – they beg! Is this what our dear doctor is really telling us? Our child is going to be a beggar?

And what about his future? Could he be a husband, a father? This is unbearable. Dear, God! - Our son a blind beggar.

DEBORAH:

Benjamin, please don't! We can't give up on Simon. He's alive. He's still the sweet baby he was this morning. The doctor says that his mind and body are sound. He can hear and think. There's still so much we can teach him, things he'll be able to do. Please, don't give up on him.

BEN:

Deborah, I love our Simon. Nothing will ever change that. You know that I will always do the best for our child.

DEBORAH:

I know, I know, Benjamin, as will I. May God help us.

Benjamin puts his arm around Deborah – they look down into cradle together.

SONG: My Little Blind Child *sung by Benjamin and Deborah*

I

My little blind child
 Who knew that's what you'd be
 With the promise we saw in your life
 My little blind child
 With your hand still in mine
 I'll lead you to a life that will shine

CHORUS:

For you bring lots of joy
To hearts that are blue
You know that Mom and Daddy are
Standing here for you
My little blind child
You're the light of our life

II

My little blind child
We'll do all that we can
To give you a life that has peace
My little blind child
We know that God has a plan
To give your life purpose and joy

They embrace at end of song.

SCENE IV
(Full stage now)

SCENE: Return to Simon and Rachel. They are sitting by the baskets – on stools. A few people are starting to enter the market place.

RACHEL:

Oh Simon, you're parents are wonderful people.

SIMON:

They never gave up on me Rachel. Father spent hours and hours over the years teaching me the scriptures. That's why I love the Lord so much.

I just want them to be proud of me, and to be a man of God, even if I have to beg to make my living.

RACHEL:

Simon, have you heard of Jesus of Nazareth?

SIMON:

Of course – the whole city has been talking about him. Some say he is a great prophet, some a great teacher and some think he is the Messiah. I wish I could see, just to witness the amazing miracles they say he is working.

RACHEL:

Simon, what about you? Don't you deserve a miracle too?

SIMON:

Deserve a miracle? What have I done? No, it would have to be an act of mercy on his part for me to get a miracle.

RACHEL:

I'm going to find out where he is and take you to him.

SIMON:

You know Rachel, I have many blessings in my life. You, my parents, I can hear, touch, smell all the wonderful smells –

RACHEL:

Ah yes, fish, donkeys, garlic –

SIMON:

You know what I mean.

SONG: I Am Blessed *sung by Simon*

I

I am blessed
 When I wake every morning
 I am blessed
 When I feel the warm sun
 I am blessed
 When I hear the birds singing
 I am blessed, I am blessed

CHORUS:

For I know that I'm loved by God
 Who takes me by the hand
 And helps me lead a Godly life
 To live the breathe and stand

II

I am blessed
 When I hear your warm laughter
 I am blessed
 When I feel your sweet smile
 I am blessed just to love and to know you
 I am blessed, I am blessed

Rachel looks at him lovingly
End of song

RACHEL:

Your loving heart is a blessing, but I'm going to pray that God will give you a miracle.

SONG: You Alone Are God *Sung by Rachel*

I

My Lord, I stand before you in great faith
 My Lord, here is a man of such great grace
 I ask you Lord to give him joy now
 I ask you Lord to heal his eyes
 I ask you Lord to make us one in life
 You alone can answer prayer

CHORUS:

For you are our God
 And you answer prayer

You are our Lord
 We place our lives in your hands
 For you and you alone are our God
 You and you alone are God
 You and you alone (x 2)
 You and you alone are God

II

My Lord, I ask you send your Son to heal
 You gave to him the power to heal
 Jesus is the true answer
 Jesus alone can help him now
 Jesus is the Lord and Master
 We will live to serve him now

Jesus and disciples arrive with crowd following – walking toward basket stall

DISCIPLE:

Make way, please make way.

RACHEL:

Rachel looks up, mouths

Thank you!

Jesus stops, looks at Simon

RACHEL:

Simon, Jesus is here – he's looking at you!

Simon stands up straighter, smiles

DISCIPLE:

Who sinned? This man or his parents?
 That he was born blind?

Simon sags

JESUS:

Neither this man, nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. while I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Jesus takes Simon's hand, draws him forward, spits on ground, puts mud on Simon's eyelids.

Rachel looks on – her hands over her mouth

JESUS:

Go wash in the pool of Siloam.

SIMON:

Yes, Lord!

RACHEL:

Come on Simon!

RACHEL:

Just before she exits

Oh, thank you Lord!

Rachel takes Simon's arm and quickly guides him off stage.

SCENE V

SCENE: Rachel leading Simon rushes onto stage – to pool of Siloam

RACHEL:

We're here, we're here, hurry, hurry Simon!

SIMON:

I have never been so nervous in my life!

RACHEL:

Here's the water – wash, Simon, wash!

Simon kneels down to pool, washes eyes.

SIMON:

First blinded by light, then laughing.

Oh, ho ho, yes!

Jumps up – looks at hands, looks around finds Rachel.

Rachel?

RACHEL:

Yes, Simon it's me

Happy, excited. He runs to her, swings her around

SIMON:

I can see, I can see!

Puts hands on either side of her face.

Rachel, you're beautiful, so beautiful!

RACHEL:

God has answered my prayers for you, you're going to have a wonderful future!

SIMON:

Maybe God will give us a wonderful future.

They embrace.

Parents enter stage left – excited, expectant, worried looking

BENJAMIN:

We came as soon as we heard that Jesus laid his hands on you – is it true, my son? Can you see?

SIMON:

Father, I'm looking at you right now. Mother!

Mother goes to Simon, puts her hands on his face, looks into his eyes.

DEBORAH:

Simon - ! I can't believe it – I feel faint.

BENJAMIN:

Let's be calm Mother, yes, calm. *(Puts his arm around Deborah)*

Neighbors begin to arrive.

NEIGHBOR 1:

Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?

NEIGHBOR 2:

No, he only looks like him.

NEIGHBOR 1:

Yes, it's the same man.

SONG: I Am The Man *Sung by Simon and Chorus*

CHORUS:

Isn't this the same man
Who used to sit and beg?
Isn't this the same one
We used to go give bread?
How is it possible
How can it be
That has had his sight restored
That he can really see?

SIMON:

I am the man
That man that you know
I am the man
That God has worked through
And I know that he's got
A plan for my life
I am his man through and through

CHORUS:

Isn't this the same man
We used to see each day
Isn't this the same man
We'd pity every way
How is it possible
How can it be
That God has touched this lowly one
Now he's good as you and me?

NEIGHBOR 1:

How then were you're eyes opened?

SIMON:

The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see!

NEIGHBOR 2:

Where is this man?

SIMON:

I don't know, but I'd like to see him and thank him.

Temple guard enters stage right.

TEMPLE GUARD:

The Synagogue Pharisees want to see you and your parents immediately.

Parents look at each other.

SIMON:

Why, what do they want?

GUARD:

I imagine they'll tell you themselves. Don't delay!

DEBORAH:

Why do you think the Pharisees have called us to the Temple?

SIMON:

Probably to see if my healing is real.

BENJAMIN:

What do they expect from us – a medical opinion?

SIMON:

No, they probably just want to see if we all agree on what happened to me.

RACHEL:

Should I come and give witness?

SIMON:

No, Rachel – just stay nearby.

RACHEL:

I will, Simon.

BENJAMIN:

We may be banned from the Temple, my son. Do you understand that if your Mother and I tell them that Jesus healed you – they may think we believe he is the Messiah – and they will throw us out of Temple for good?

SIMON:

Yes Father. I'm the one that's involved here. Let me speak about it. I'm of age you know. If anyone believes in Jesus it's me.

BENJAMIN:

Deborah, that's what we'll do. We'll let Simon speak for himself.

RACHEL:

My prayers are with you.

They exit stage right.

SCENE VI

SCENE: Pharisees enter stage left.

Somber setting – Pharisee 1 behind podium. Others standing in orderly line – or on benches

SYNAGOGUE LEADER:

Let us come to order and begin discussion of the problem at hand.

PHAR 1:

Healing on the Sabbath! Healing on the Sabbath – the man shows no respect for the law!

PHAR 2:

He's turning everything upside down!

PHAR 3:

This has got to stop!

PHARISEE 4:

(Placating)

Let's find out what really happened.

SONG: Who Is That Man Sung by Pharisees

I

Who is that man?
Where does he come from?
Who is that man
Where is he now?
He has nerve if he can think
That he's better than us all
Where is that man called Christ?

CHORUS:

For we are the ones with the law
And we are the ones with the truth
How dare he think that he can come right in
And take it all away?

II

Who is that man?
What has he done now
Who is that man?
What shall we do?

We'll fix his wagon now
 We'll prove he is a fake
 For we're the ones God chose.

PHAR 1:

All right, let's get to the bottom of this. Let's call in the blind man and his parents – maybe it's all a hoax. If not, we'll gather evidence against this Jesus – we'll get rid of him one way or another.

Bring in the blind man.

Guard goes off stage and brings in Simon holding him by the arm.

PHAR 1:

Sweetly Thank you for coming to help us in our investigation. Now tell us how you recovered your sight.

SIMON:

He put mud on my eyes and I washed and now I see.

PHAR 2:

Angry. This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath!

PHAR 4:

Placating. How can a sinner do miraculous signs?

PHAR 1:

What have you to say about him – it was your eyes he opened.

SIMON:

(Pauses) He is a Prophet.

PHAR 1:

Goes to Simon turns his face back and forth with his hands, looks into his eyes.

He seems normal to me. Maybe this is a hoax. Let's interrogate his parents.
(Turns to guard). Bring in his parents *(returns to original position).*

Parents enter holding on to each other – escorted by guard.

PHAR 1:

Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?

BENJAMIN:

We know that this is our son, and we know that he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes – we don't know. Ask him, he's of age – he will speak for himself.

SONG: He's Of Age *Sung by Benjamin and Deborah*

I

Oh, he's of age, why don't you ask him
 He's of age so check it out
 He's of age he saw it happen
 He's of age he's fully grown
 He's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age so check it out
 We've done our part
 To raise him right
 To set him on God's path
 So he's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age why don't you ask him now

II

Oh, he's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age the man to know
 He's of age he knows the answers
 He was there he saw it all
 He's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age he'll tell you all
 He got his sight
 We don't know how
 Or where or when he did
 So, he's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age why don't you ask him
 He's of age why don't you ask him now?

PHAR 1:

Give glory to God! -We know this man Jesus is a sinner.

SIMON:

(Getting bold) Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know.

One thing I do know, I was blind but now I see!

PHAR 2:

What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

SIMON:

I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?
Do you want to become his Disciples too?

SONG: Only God Sung by Simon

Only God could have opened my eyes
Only God could have given me sight
How is it possible that I can see
How is it possible you're blind not me
He touched my eyes and changed my life you see
Yes God and God alone has given me my sight.

II

Only God can change the life of a man
Only God can heal eyes and bring life
I put my faith in him to give me sight
Now I can see that I was truly right
I want to go and walk beside him now
For God and God alone has given me my sight

Pharisees all talking together.

PHAR 1:

You sinner, you liar!

PHAR 3:

You are this fellow's disciple!

PHAR 4:

We are disciples of Moses!

PHAR 2:

We know that God spoke to Moses – but as for this fellow, we don't know where he comes from!

SIMON:

Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the Godly man who does his will. Nobody has heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man Jesus were not from God he could do nothing.

PHAR 1:

You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us! Throw them out!

Guards throws Simon and his parents out.

SCENE VII

SCENE: In Outer area of Temple.

SIMON:

Father, I am so thankful to God. I want to spend some time in prayer, so before I....

BENJAMIN:

Yes, Simon of course! I will take mother home.

DEBORAH:

Simon, tonight will be a night of celebration – I'll make your favorite dish.

SIMON:

Thank you mother – I'll be home soon.

He embraces his parents, they leave.

SIMON:

(He reaches for Rachel's hands.) Rachel – something wonderful happened today.

RACHEL:

My prayers were answered – all of them.

SIMON:

When I come back home I want to talk to you about our future together.

RACHEL:

All right, Simon.

They embrace – look at each other – Rachel exits.

Simon alone on stage, looks up.

SIMON:

Heavenly Father, I have so much to thank you for – my sight, Rachel, the love of my parents. You knew I was content with what I had, Lord, but you've given me so much more than I could ask or imagine. I do ask that you send Jesus so that I could thank him myself – but as you know – I don't know what he looks like.

As he is speaking Jesus and Apostle enter

Please bless Rachel and the life together we want to have. Thank you Lord, Amen.

PETER:

Jesus, did you know that the blind beggar you healed was thrown out of the Temple by the Pharisees?

JESUS:

Yes, I've been looking for him.

Jesus crosses to Simon, stands near him.

JESUS:

Do you believe in the son of man?

SIMON:

Tell me sir so that I may believe in him.

JESUS:

You have seen him; in fact he is the one speaking with you.

SIMON:

Simon takes a long look into Jesus' eyes.

Lord, I believe! *He falls to his knees.*

JESUS:

For judgment I have come into this world so the blind will see and those who see will become blind.

He lifts Simon to his feet.

Pharisees are walking up across stage as Jesus is speaking.

PHARISEE 1:

What? Are we blind too?

JESUS:

If you were blind you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

People start to gather to hear him speak.

I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice.

Turns to crowd.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice. I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to kill, steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The hired man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

To audience.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay my life down, for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them in also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.

MAN 1:
He's demon possessed!

MAN 2:
He's raving mad!

MAN 3:
These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?

SONG: I Know My Sheep *Sung by Jesus*

I

I know my sheep
And my sheep know me
I gather them in so carefully
They go out with peace
And in with joy

Knowing my love and my care
I know my sheep
And my sheep know me

CHORUS:

For they are the ones
I lay my life down for
I lay my life down for them
I know my sheep
And my sheep know me

II

I know my sheep
And they know my voice
I lead them to life
So patiently
I give them hope and a future
A future in heaven with me
I know my sheep and my sheep know me

*At end of song Jesus puts his arm around Simon's shoulder, walks off with
Simon and Disciples – stage right.*

SCENE VIII

SCENE: At Benjamin's house – Benjamin, Deborah, Rachel, Simon and chorus members.

One group sitting on floor – reclining at table.

One group of women ready for dance.

BENJAMIN:

Thank you, my friends for joining us on this wonderful day.

MAN 1:

Blessings on you Simon and on your house!

All saying – Praise the Lord, the Lord is good, blessings on you, blessings on Simon.

SIMON:

(Looking at Rachel) What an incredible day.

She smiles, reaches out for his hand, they gaze at each other.

BENJAMIN:

Simon, God has given you a new future.

SIMON:

I didn't even know Jesus, but he came and found me. I'm not going to lose this chance of following him, all of my life.

RACHEL:

I'll join you Simon. *(Simon takes her hand.)*

BENJAMIN:

Let's celebrate, Everyone!

SONG: He Is The God Of Abram Sung by all – dance begins

He is the God of Abram
 He is the God of Jacob
 He is the Lord of God of Israel
 He feeds us when we're hungry
 He lifts us when we're downcast
 He is the Lord and God of Israel

For he is the one who fills our souls with joy

He is the one who saves our lives
He is the one who watches over us
The God of Israel

We praise you for your love Lord
We thank you for your care Lord
We ask that you will help us every day
You lead us through green pastures
And by the still waters
You are our Lord and Shepherd every way

Repeat all

THE END