

Slouching Towards Bethlehem Part 1.18

By

LordRifa

Cast of Characters

<u>The Kids-They narrate the story:</u>	Tyron-more street like than the others. Pliable in the extreme.
:	Peaches-The Main narator of the story. Gaia's voice on earth.
:	Jesus-Friend of Tyron
<u>God:</u>	Pagan-One of the faces of god. It is in this form that god walks with man on the earth.
<u>Goddess-See Transmogrification:</u>	Gaia-The Goddess. A face of god that he has denouced and cast out
:	Rashelum-A creation of the Goddess to bring balance to the universe. Rashelum loves the Prophet
:	The General-God's best warrior. Utterly compassion free. Worships on Gods alter of blood.
:	The Prophet-What happens to the General after meeting Rashelum and realizing the falicy of the word.

ACT I

Scene 1-Opening

Stage lit darkly, Tyron is walking around the stage talking to someone on the cell phone while texting someone else. He is clearly agitated and almost yelling.

(NOTES for Budz- Mic into Ableton Pitch changes for god. Sound design gods ring tone)

Sound Design Notes-Street scene, people talking, yelling, cars, traffic, bumpin beats...NYC late august.

TYRON

I never said that, are you calling me a liar? Who the fuck do you think you are that you can talk to me like this? I'm no ones bi...

Text sounds He stop talking and reads the text and answers.

No ma, I ain't go be around tonight, got some bizness I need to handle. What do you want?

He moves back to the phone call

Look woman, I said I loved you last night in bed, I don't need to repeat it all of the time. I'm a man and I got to do my thing, and besides I never promised I wouldn't see Sharona again, she's just a friend anyway....

He pulls phone away from his ear in a comical manner because Betty is yelling.

text sounds, he reads another text and answers.

Look Ma, I don't need you putting your nose up in my grill. I'll do as I see fit. Now stop bugging me!

Tyron moves back to phone call his tone is one of impatiens.

Look here baby, I'll be home late tonight, and we can chop it up tomorrow. You know I love you, so it's all good.

Tyron hangs up phone abruptly and it rings again

It's Sharona his Guma, his manner becomes sweet and caring.

(CONTINUED)

TYRON

Hey Baby, it's so good to hear your beautiful voice again, am I gonna light your fires again tonight?

*Sharona begins to scream at him over the phone.
Tyron pulls phone away again in a comical manner.*

Tyron is taken aback by the her tone.

TYRON

Wait what...Who'd you talk to...I never did noth....She did not say that. I'm telling you, I AM splitting up with that crazy bitch. All I want now is your fine body next to mine. I swear baby. It's all about yo....What do you mean you just talked to her? Who the fuck told you, you could call her. You don't need my what?...my permission? Of course you do, so stop calling he.....

Sharona hangs up on him and Tyron walks around the stage befuddled

TYRON

Man, why are these women so damn crazy? All they do is bitch and scream. Bitch, bitch, bitch. They ain't necessarily wrong but they definitely ain't right.

We see the screens light up above Tyron with the sound of Gabriel horns and letters being texted out. We hear actual reply.

PAGAN (GOD)

Bitches be crazy yo!

TYRON

For real, hey who is this, you ain't peter.

PAGAN (GOD)

It's just me, no worries

TYRON

OK, how did you know I was having problems?

PAGAN (GOD)

You told me fool!

TYRON

Oh yea yea.....I did?

PAGAN

Get your mouth off the pipe and in your biz son!

TYRON

For sure dude.

*Tyron looks up and see's his pals across stage.
Puts phone in his pocket and walks to them.*

TYRON

S'up yo

PEACHES AND JESUS TOGETHER

S'up cuzin

TYRON

Man, I just had the shitiest morning. Both my women and my mother are giving me shit!

JESUS

Man, what the fuck are you still doing living with your mother?

TYRON

fuck you man don't judge me!

JESUS

whatever

(PEACHES interrupts)

PEACHES

Bout what?

TYRON

Bout this n that...you know they just all up in my face

JESUS

Yea, I dig. it's like they get like that sometimes.

TYRON

It's the red river dude!

Jesus and Tyron laugh

PEACHES

Hold up y'all!

Peaches looking pissed at the boys

PEACHES

Just who the fuck you think is standing here, yo mama? If all your women are bitchin at you, most likely it's cause you the bitch!

Tyron gets a text, (we hear Gabriel's horns as a text sound) and looks down at his cell phone.

(CONTINUED)

Text is read aloud and seen on screen.

PAGAN (GOD)

Don't listen to bitches, they be lyin.

TYRON

Huh?

PEACHES

Namean, serious dude. what have you been doin? OR maybe not been doin?

(PAGAN (GOD) IN A SING SONG MANNER

Be lyin!

TYRON

Y'know something weird is happening. This dude keeps texting me and acting like he's all knowing and shit. It's fucking creepy.

PEACHES

Must be one of your banger friends. If you ask me they're all creepy. Prolly to much Molly.

Peaches shudders

JESUS

Maybe the problem is you don't respect them. I mean i like top throw down as much as dude over here, but you got to respect your woman.

TYRON

What am I gay you fool? She's my baby mama and that's what's real. I am a serious player so git with me.

peaches and Jesus shake their heads in bewilderment

PEACHES

That's the problem right there. You think the are put here to serve you. To have your babies and do you right at night, while you go stompin around town like you a king or a god.

JESUS

When you just low life thug with a big mouth.

TYRON

Hey, I thought you was on my side?

PEACHES

He's right though. All you are is a shadow of what you were meant to be.

(CONTINUED)

JESUS

Dig

PEACHES

I blame the gods! They are a bunch of misogynistic, narcissistic, sadistic mother fuckers who stopped giving a shit about us ages ago.

JESUS

dig

PEACHES

Shut the fuck up fool. Your just as bad as he is. It's their fault you are all that way.

Text comes through(We hear Gabriel's horns) to Tyron and read out loud on screen

PAGAN (GOD)

Bitches be crazy!

Tyron frantically texts back. Who the fuck is this!!

PAGAN (GOD)

It's me Mano.

PEACHES

I mean if we are made in god's image and if the concept of "as above so below" really does exist, then we are royally fucked! Especially women. Completely and utterly fucked.

They all walk off stage.

Sound Design Notes-street scene fades away, audio moves towards the sky and heaven and night time.

Scene 2-Overture

Opening theme-Overture

Band is highlighted

NOTES for

Budz:GUITAR-Tokai, TUNING-DGDGDBD,

SYNTH

PATCH-OVERTURE

Lyric-Pagan, Pagan

Pagan Pagan I am but a dream In the arms of night. Pagan Pagan But a dream

Dancers begin

Scene 3-The Master

Band is forefront

**NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-JAGUAR,
TUNING-STANDARD, FIREHAWK SYNTH: PATCH-VOCODER**

Sound design Notes-ambiance moves
through the heavens and the hells

prog-gm-dm, c-f#, Dbm-abm

Open up clarinet keys perc.

The Master is played. Rev Sings

LYRIC-Master

***All I know is the pain I feel.
The pain that can only be stopped by death.***

***Inscrutable and crazy are the names I seem to bear. Who
can kill me but the pure? Who can name me but the one?
I live in a place for the immortal, the decrepit and
the unrepentant, all they know is that they are
addicted to sin, addicted to indulgence and narcissism.***

***I banished her from grace because she was better than
me. She understood me for who I was becoming. Me the
great betrayer-the dark star I banished the only thing
that mattered, the only thing that kept me whole. Is
there enough blood in this world to fill my need?***

*Visual-Somewhere in the cosmos/heaven/hell adrift
aimlessly*

Scene 4-the explanation

The Kids are sitting around drinking from a flask.

*Sound Design Notes-Street scene, people talking,
yelling, cars, traffic, bumpin beats...NYC late
august.*

TYRON

So you're telling me that my problems..no the worlds
problems are because God's a dick?

JESUS

Na man, She's telling you that man-as a wholly defined
entity-can only start out as good as it's creator. But

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JESUS (cont'd)

unlike the creator, man has the moral obligation to be better.

TYRON

Bullshit!!

PEACHES

Na listen up. God is so fucked up that he ain't whole no more. He's schizo, gonzo, bong fucking crazy and has gone and split himself into many gods, with many faces and even more fears.

TYRON

What the fuck do you know that shit? You're just spittin out of your ass.

PEACHES

How else do you explain all the gods with the same inherent agenda. All of the faces of god with the same fucked up expression. All the same wrath's and obligations.

JESUS

And all of the same fanatical messengers. Every fucking religion has them. Fucking fanatics who call for blood in gods name. Call for peace through war. Salvation through death. That's some fucked up shit!

PAGAN (GOD)(TEXTING)(GABRIEL'S TRUMPET)

Crush, Kill, Destroy!

PEACHES

But amidst all of the hate and vileness, all of the faces that god has worn through eternity, there is only one that matters, and he's forgotten all about her.

Tyron looks at his cell phone and curses

TYRON

Damn fool is texting me again!

PAGAN (GOD)(TEXTING)(GABRIEL'S TRUMPET)

Crush, Kill, Destroy!

JESUS

And he be fighting and waring with all of the other gods, and mankind for no other reason then.... the dude is lonely?

Scene 5-Missy/War Drums

We see scenes of war. Dancers are fighting. We meet the General, the greatest warrior and servant of God.

Sound Design Notes-War in ancient times. Swords clashing, grunting, gory audible death and pain.

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-JAGUAR, TUNING-STANDARD,FIREHAWK

LYRIC-MISI

White face, you come to me, Singing songs of sovereignty. How can you blame me when I Spit in your face? How can you blame me when you kill my race?

Pale face, you've lied to me. Never did we talk of anarchy, tell me tales of great success when all you've done is remove my breast...

But the cancer grows and your loathing shows of your hate for me and my moral authority.

Your great empire, will fall in time. Bringing an end to the bloodied rhymes. How can you blame me when I cheer the news, of your impending death and the hangman's noose.

But the cancer grows and your loathing shows of your hate for me and my moral authority.

In final thought, I'll see you die. See your gods ripped from the sky. How can you blame me when my people are free from your reign of terror and authority. Keep your tales of god sent needs of moral corruption and disloyalty.

But the cancer grows and your loathing shows of your hate for me and my moral authority.

WAR DRUMS PLAY

War
chant:

The General surveys the carnage and takes pride that he, is God's true servant.

Scene 6-Gaia brings forth Rashelum*am c g fg**LYRIC-Cold Sun*A section*I woke up this morning to a cold sun.**Still blinding, but furnishing none of its hope.
Another night in exile, hard beds of fear,
the tasteless food of hypocrisy.*B Section*I would love to be back in the arms of you,
back where I belong. Back in the graces of your
tolerance.**But I, I am just the wind.**Just the motion behind all that you break, all of
those whom you fail.**Just the motion behind all that you break, all of
those whom you fail.*C section*Betrayal, I have tried all that I know, to win
back your graces.**To bequeath to the world my everlasting love, but
this has not been the my truth.**Just a hard sleep every night haunted by your
face, and a cold sun every morning to greet me.**But here in this vanquished state, I am freed of
the yoke that you made me carry.**Of the bane that is you, Your terrible anger and
your passive sufferance.*b section*Not knowing what to do or who to be, I bring forth
my savior, my answer.**The destroyer of the gods. The bringer of my
justice.*

(CONTINUED)

*Not knowing what to do or who to be, I bring forth
your savior, your answer.*

The savior of the gods. The bringer of all justice

She who heals.

D section

Here I create what is beautiful and new.

Here I create what is exotic and true.

*All that is left of me, I will give to her. All
that was best in him will be true*

*Rashelum my child, you are the sword of peace and
the light of this world.*

*Rashelum my child, you are the sword of peace and
the light of this world.*

Scene 7-Sunshine Raga

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-12 string 2, TUNING-GGDGBD,

Sound Design Notes-New morning sounds,
peaceful glades, war in the distance
fades.

*We see Rashelum walking around the world in a
peaceful warm setting . People coming up to her
begging her to stop the wars.*

*We see the general confronting his positions and
coming to terms with the existence of Rashelum and
what it means for him as a General.*

We see the birth of the prophet.

Kids come up to front of stage.

TYRON

So what your saying to me is that god is so crazy that
he has divided himself into many creatures?

PEACHES

that's what I'm saying. And what's worse is that the
only only one he ever loved is Gaia and he banished her
from his sight for all of eternity.

(CONTINUED)

JESUS

Man that is fucked up! So what happened to Gaia.

PEACHES

well Gaia, she's no ones bitch, after all she is a goddess, so she went ahead and created Rashelum.

TYRON

who?

JESUS

Rashelum dude, you never heard of her?

TYRON

Huh....?

PEACHES

Rashelum was Gaia's sword of peace. Wherever she went people stopped fighting. She didn't have to preach, or talk. no nothing. She just was.

TYRON

So how did god take that?

PEACHES

Not so well, How would you if the women you banished for all times, because you couldn't stand that she was right, just created the ultimate weapon against you?

JESUS

The sword of peace. Dig it.

INTERMISSION

ACT 2Scene 8-Prophet declares Love

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-1ST HALF 12 STRING,TUNING-STANDARD,
GUITAR 2ND HALF LES PAUL-TUNING-STANDARD
FIREHAWK

We see the Prophet admitting to god that he no longer wants to fight. He no longer craves the blood and wants to run away from all of it with his love Rashelum.

God gets pissed!!

LYRIC-Prophet Declares Love

*It's all I'll ever have and all I'll ever hope to be
It's all I'll ever want and pray I'll ever need to be free
Lie me down in the cold arms of your love
Lie me down and give me comfort from above.*

*I yearn to be what I can be I suffer the truth of what I am
I cannot give up the ghost of who I loved most
The one who made me who I am*

*But who is that, the image is not mine Just another envy,
I'll have to fight for all time I can't give up the ghost of who I love the most
Is it you I feel when my eyes are closed*

Scene 9-Toccatà in 5- God is pissed

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-TOAKI,TUNING-STANDARD,SYN PATCH TOC 5

Sound Design Notes-a Melange of horrible guttural sounds. This is the sound of God unraveling.

God begins to rant and rave to his minions about the Prophet and the ungrateful actions of humankind. We see the many faces of the God/Devil, the many wrath's he employ's on humanity in his name. God swears vengeance on the Prophet and Gaia.

Kids come to the front.

PEACHES

But yo, god, mano.... he was royally pissed. He was Pissed at the General, He was pissed at Rashelum, pissed at all those who decided peace was better than war. And when I say pissed I mean royally, godly,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEACHES (cont'd)

mother fucking pissed! Most of all he was pissed at Gaia. So pissed that anything she created, he tore down, anything she loved, he killed. burnt it down to a cinder like it was never there.

TYRON

Bullshit, like you know??

PAGAN (GOD)(TEXTING)(GABRIEL'S TRUMPET)

Go mano, tell her she don't know shit.

Tyron looks oddly at his phone

PEACHES

You See, God never wants to be reminded of his foibles and mistakes. God only wants to be remembered as power and grace. But he and we...are far from it. He began chasing them down all over the earth. But that wouldn't stop Rashelum from spreading the word of Gaia and it would never stop her from loving the prophet, for the prophet represented all that was best in god. And she loved him for it. So they ran. They ran for their lives and the lives of all humankind.

Scene 10-Majik

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-JAGUAR, TUNING-STANDARD, FIREHAWK

Where Rashelum goes the world is healed.

We see armies laying down weapons.

We see Rashelum and the Prophet running from place to place, healing what they could of the bloodied earth.

We see God's minions chasing them down. We see God as manifest on earth in the form of Pagan-The jealous God.

Scene 11-Rashelum declares love

**NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-TOKAI,
TUNING-STANDARD, SYN PATCH-HARP. GUITAR 2ND
HALF 12 STRING-TUNING STANDARD**

LYRIC-Rashelum declares Love

*The angel kisses you twice Once for your
acceptance Lips beginning to touch Once for your
love.*

But death sits on her breath

(CONTINUED)

*It's an ephemeral taste, the kiss of an angel All
of the passion with none of the blood Lips finally
entangled.*

*Death looks a lot like me. Once more before I fall
asleep.*

*Once more before I am kissed again. Once more
before I fall asleep. Once more before I am taken*

*But death sits on her breath Death looks a lot
like me.*

*My breathing is just so hard, Cause he sits upon
my chest. Where he makes his final stand Death
moves into my heart.*

Death lives in the breeze

*Maybe I can just see if he's is there. Venture a
peek from under his stare. Nothing is clear but
the touch of his lips.*

The angel who loved me twice.

*Once more before I fall asleep Once more before I
am kissed again Once more before I fall asleep*

*Once more before I fall asleep Once more before I
am kissed again Once more before I fall asleep*

*We now see multiple funeral pyre's from around the
globe from when Pagan chased Rashelum.*

Scene 12-Processional funeral

(Funeral chant:

*Waking the dead
Our boots stomp on your graves
Fodder for our fields
Our swords sing the song of blood
that fertalize our fields.
Nesteled beside the dead our petrified bodies
Waiting to be called up for more.
The Mortars return*

Scene 13-Kids explain-Pagan is revealed

TYRON

Damn fool is at it again!

(CONTINUED)

PAGAN (GOD)

Don't listen, bitches be lying!

JESUS

What's he sayin'?

TYRON

Here read it yourself. This is all he ever really says!

PEACHES

It's pagan dude.

JESUS

Pagan-Who the fuck is that? Some biker dude?

PEACHES

Pagan is god's name/image on earth. You see in religion they think he's just some entity, some shadowy form that has no real tangible shape. But they're wrong. God walks us on the earth in human all the time. Changing shape, sex, attitude. But he always goes by the name Pagan.

TYRON

Why the fuck would he bother? he's fucking god, doesn't he have better things to do?

PEACHES

Ask him dude, ask him his name.

Tyron types in a question as we hear it out loud.

TYRON

Hey, Who is this? Tell me your name. You come up as blocked on my cell? Tell me or I say fuck it.

PAGAN (GOD)(WE HERE GOD SPEAKING AS WELL).

It's me Tyron, It's Pagan. Your friend....always.

TYRON

Shit!!!!

PEACHES

Told you. Dude is crazy proud cause he knows no one will believe anyone who says they talk to god.

JESUS

Some sick ass mind games!

PEACHES

So the only one place left for Rashelum and the Prophet to go to, where Pagan couldn't touch them and this place was called Sawtell. Gaia created it out the image

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PEACHES (cont'd)

in her mind of when she came into being. Warm and peaceful, full of love and beginnings. It was a place of peace. A hole in the fabric of eternity, just for them.

Scene 14-Sawtell- Prophet and Rashelum last moment together.

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-LES PAUL, TUNING-STANDARD, FIREHAWK
LYRIC-Sawtell

*My place in the world is small Smaller than I ever
could have imagined it*

*But there it is. What should I do? There are no
crowds, no medals.*

*Just the quiet thrumming of my nerves and the
breathing of those about to die.*

*Just the quiet thrumming of my nerves and the
breathing of those about to die.*

*I wait on her because she is the last thing I
loved. Till her breath stops and she sings no
more.*

Who am I to decide the time of passing

*Who am I to declare the ax be thrown It still s
life worth living.*

*The roses I thought would line my path are wilted
onions left to die,The roses I thought would line
my path are wilted onions left to die*

*I wait on her because she is the last thing I
loved. Till her breath stops and she sings no
more.*

*Of the fruit that has been weighed against me
from my foes and enemies alike.*

*I wait on her because she is the last thing I
loved. Till her breath stops and she sings no
more.*

Kids talk over end of Sawtell-beginning of the 7

JESUS

So they just/still live there, hiding from Pagan?

PEACHES

Naw. God found a way to burn it down, just like he always does. He snatched up Rashelum from this world, right in front of the prophet and wiped her memory of him. Crushed him like dirt. He then took her to another time and place.

TYRON

fuckin' A

We see the Prophet alone in his grief. Looking at the stars and curing gods name knowing it will do no good. The hopelessness of the situation bears down on him like the weight of those he killed. His life was spent in service of betrayal.

Scene 15- Slouching towards Bethlehem.

NOTES for Budz:GUITAR-12 STRING,
TUNING-DGDGBD, GUITAR-LES PAUL, TUNING-DGDGBD,
LYRIC-Slouching Towards Bethlehem

*I'm slouching towards
Bethlehem
run dry,
this time and place,
grasp of iron*

*and the Jordan's All
I am stuck here I'm
In perdition's*

*I am drifting through
eternity,
cursed my name.
to immortal grace,
mire..*

*Cause the heavens
They've tossed my keys
into the flotsam and the*

Riff

*I believe I fight thIS losing
tale, One the world will soon
forget.
the distant shore,
endless void.*

*I can see my hope on
Across the great and*

*I'm slouching towards
Bethlehem,
run dry.
this time and place.
grasp of iron.*

*and the Jordan's All
I am stuck here I'm
In perdition's*

Riff

(CONTINUED)

