

The Bumper Harvest

Characters

Greedy Graham. (GG)

Worker 1 (W 1)

Peasant 1 (P 1)

Worker 2 (W 2)

Peasant 2 (P 2)

God (over mic)

GG is sitting central stage on a chair.

GG: (Yawning) Ah, harvest time at last. (Yawn) such hard work, such hard work. Gathering in my harvest, storing it in my barns. Making sure that my cupboard and my bank balance are bulging. (Yawns) Such hard work.

W1: (Rushes on excitedly) Master master.

GG: (Loudly) Er-hem!

W 1: Master, master, I've got ...

GG: (very Loudly) Er-hem. How dare you just burst in. You've disturbed my hard work, it's harvest time you know. Go away and knock.

W 1: (Makes way to side saying) Oh yes, I'm sorry master, so sorry, I forgot. (Stands at side and knocks)

GG: Err.... yes? Come in.

(W 1 enters),

GG: and what do you want?

W 1: (excitedly) Master, master! I've just come from the harvest field and there is great news. It's a great harvest! There's more grain than I've ever seen.

GG: Well that is good news, very good news. It must be all my hard work! Tell them to gather it carefully. Let not even one grain be wasted. Bring it all into my barns!

W 1: Oh yes master. Yes master. I'll tell them. I'll tell them right away.

(W1 exits)

GG: (Settling in his chair once again). Right back to work. Harvest time is just so busy. (He starts to snore gently)

(There is a knock. GG takes no notice. Knock comes again and GG starts).

GG: (Waking up with a start) Er... er... come in!

P 1: (Enters slowly clearing his/her throat)

GG: Yes? what do you want?

P 1: Well your lordship I'm Jim. I've got a little bit of land that runs alongside your north field. I've got quite a good harvest to bring in this year...

GG: Not as good as mine I'm sure.

P 1: Oh no sir, no. Not as good as yours I'm sure. The trouble is though that I had to sell my scythe earlier in the year to buy medicine for my little boy and so

now I haven't got anything to bring my harvest in with and I wondered if you could lend me one of your scythes for a day as I know you have so many.

GG: Pardon?

P 1: I wondered if you could ...

GG: I know what you said man. I just said pardon because I couldn't believe you said it! Haven't you noticed that it's harvest time, and haven't you noticed the great harvest I have to bring in? All my scythes are busy, very busy. I couldn't possibly spare one for you. Now go away.

P 1: But master, what about my family? We need our harvest.

GG: Huh! What about *MY* family, we need *OUR* harvest. All of it! Now go away and stop bothering me.

P 1: But...

GG: Clear off.

(P1 exits)

GG: Honestly what cheek! (Settles in chair) Now back to my work. (starts to snore)

W 2: (Enters excitedly) Master, master.

GG: (Waking with big start) Wha ... wha... What's happening!

W 2: Master, master I've got great ...

GG: How many times do I have to tell you lot. Knock! Don't burst in and disturb my work! (Points to side)

W 2: Oh err.. yes, errr.. sorry, I'll... (goes to side. knocks)

GG: Yes, come in.

(W2 enters)

W 2: Master, master, I've got great news. We've brought in the grain. Your barns are full to bursting but still there is more. We can't possibly fit it in. There's plenty for everyone.

GG: Sorry, what did you say?

W 2: I said your barns are full and can't get any more ...

GG: Yes I heard that bit, it was the last thing you said that I didn't catch.

W 2: I said your barns are full, we can't get any more in and there is plenty for...

GG: Er-hem?

W 2: Err... per ... per ... plenty for err..... you?

GG: Ah yes that's what I thought you said. Now if there is more grain than my barns can hold I need bigger barns! Tear down the old ones and build bigger ones. Make them twice as big. Get every last piece of *MY* grain into them

W 2: Oh yes master, right away master, of course master.

(W 2 leaves the stage).

W 2: (Off stage) The greedy old fool wants bigger barns!

GG: This is wonderful truly wonderful. Now back to my hard work. it is harvest time you know. (Settles in chair and snores again).

(There is a knock from the side) GG doesn't stir. knock comes again. GG starts).

GG: Oh who could this be . All this disturbance, it's making it hard to concentrate!
Come in!

(P 2 enters carrying bundle that is a baby).

GG: Yes?

P 2: Oh Sir I'm sorry to disturb you at such a busy time with the harvest and all that. But I've heard what a great harvest you have brought in this year and how full your barns are (GG stares intently and menacingly at her) and ... (getting nervous) Well you see sir, (more nervous) my baby and me have nothing to eat and (hard swallow and more nervous) I wondered if you could...err...spare a little of your great harvest for us?

GG: So you want some of, as you say, *MY* harvest?

P 2: Well, just a little sir. Just to keep us alive. So little you won't even notice it has gone.

GG: Well let me think about that. Ummm.... I wonder what my answer will be. Can you have some of *MY* grain? Grain that is from *MY* fields and stored in *MY* barns? Can you have some of *MY* harvest that is the result of *MY* hard work?

P 2: Just a little sir, just a little.

GG: No! Clear off. Go and find your own food. Why should I give you any of mine?

(P 2 exits)

GG: (Settling in chair again) Honestly, people! Disturbing me with this and that, and at harvest time when things are so busy! At least I won't have to work so hard in the future with this wonderful harvest. I'll have all I need for years to come. I can eat and drink and be merry! Now where was I? Oh yes ... (he settles in chair and begins to snore).

God: (Over mic) You fool! Do you not know who gave you this harvest?

GG: (Stirs and groans in sleep).

God: This very night your life will come to an end! Then who will get all the things you have stored up for yourself?

Moment of silence.

(GG remains motionless in chair)

W 1: (Off stage. Knocks) It's a bumper harvest master!

P 2: (Off stage. Knocks) Just one Scythe, just for one day.

W 2: (Off stage. Knocks) There's plenty for everyone master, plenty.

P 2: (Offstage. Knocks) Just a little bit sir, for me and my baby, to keep us alive.

W 1, P 1, W 2, P 2: (Together) This is how it will be for anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward god

Copyright (c) John Beauchamp/Kingdomstory.net 2010 All rights reserved.

Please refer to www.kingdomstory.net for copyright restrictions and permissions.