

Reho Seeks Advice

Based on 1 Kings 12:3-4, 6-7, 10-11 and Proverbs 13:20 MSG

By Kathryn Higgins

A comedic dramatization of 1 Kings 12 and Proverbs 13:20 as found in the Message. Cast can range from 5-7+ people. Intended for a younger crowd, this piece could be used in place of reading the scripture.

CAST

1. NARRATOR
2. REHO
3. SOLO / THREE/ ENSEMBLE
4. ONE / ENSEMBLE
5. TWO / ELDER / ENSEMBLE

All actors start on stage. Narrator stands center, with Reho and Solo directly to their right and left. The rest of the ensemble upstage, ready to jump in.

NARRATOR *(Points to Reho.)* This is Rehoboam!

REHO You can call me Reho!

ENSEMBLE Hey Reho!

NARRATOR This *(Points at Solo)* is King Solomon.

SOLO *(too cool)* You can call me Solo.

ALL (not Reho) Hey Solo!

NARRATOR Solo was King and Reho was next in line.

They do a secret handshake.

NARRATOR But! Solo died.

SOLO What?

NARRATOR Yah, you died. You're dead in the story now.

SOLO Oh, ok. *(Comedically drops to the floor.)*

NARRATOR Reho traveled to where everyone had gathered to inaugurate him as king.
Hail, King Reho!

ALL (not Reho) *(Kneeling, bowing in a semi-circle around him.)* Hail, King Reho!

Reho gestures for the group to stand. The actor playing Solo joins in as one of the ensemble.

NARRATOR They said to Rehoboam, the new king-

THREE Hey, King Reho, can we talk to you?

REHO Of course, as your king, I will listen.

ONE Well, your father made life really hard for us!

TWO Worked our fingers to the bone.

THREE Can you give us a break?

ONE Lighten up on us and we'll willingly serve you.

ENSEMBLE We promise! *(clasping hands together)*

Reho scratches his chin.

REHO Give me three days to think it over, then come back, and I'll give you my decision.

As the Narrator speaks the following line the ensemble spins around once, dropping the characters, then reappearing as the Elders – standing tall/wise on stage right. Reho stands stage left talking to them-

NARRATOR King Rehoboam talked it over with the elders who had advised his father when he was alive.

REHO Great elders, what is your counsel? How do you suggest that I answer the people?

NARRATOR They said,

ELDER *(Spoken clearly/like an old wise person)* "If you will be a servant to this people, be considerate of their needs and respond with compassion, work things out with them, they'll end up doing anything for you."

ENSEMBLE Be considerate.

REHO *(Scratches his chin...beat...)* Nah.

NARRATOR He rejected the counsel of the elders and left!

Reho walks away from the Elders. All ensemble swirl around to create a new location. They all face the back wall of the stage except for FRIEND. They stand center stage together.

NARRATOR Reho found an old friend he'd grown up with.

REHO Sup? *(They do a cool handshake/greeting.)*

FRIEND What's goin' on?

REHO What do you think? What should I say to these people who are saying, -

TWO from the ensemble turns to the front around and speaks the following line, while Reho mouths the words at the same time. TWO is earnest in their delivery, but Reho mouths the words as though he's annoyed/bothered by it/finds it winey.

TWO Give us a break from your father's harsh ways—lighten up on us man!

TWO turns back to face upstage joining the ensemble again.

FRIEND You're telling me, these people are saying...

THREE now turns to face the audience, speaking the following line with FRIEND mouths the words at the same time.

THREE "Your father was too hard on us; lighten up man!"

THREE turns back again, joining the ensemble facing upstage.

REHO That's what they said.

FRIEND Well, tell them this: 'If you think life under my father was hard, you haven't seen the half of it. My father thrashed you with whips; I'll beat you bloody with chains!

FRIEND and REHO laugh together, do their secret handshake again and go separate ways. Ensemble gathers together sitting/kneeling looking up to Reho.

NARRATOR Three days later, just as Reho said, the people gathered again.

REHO I've made my decision after seeking great council.

Ensemble inhale together, awaiting a grand response.

REHO If you think life under my father was hard, you haven't seen the half of it. My father thrashed you with whips; I'll beat you bloody with chains!

Ensemble gasps together, embracing each other in fear. They freeze in a tableau with Reho standing tall and others cowering away.

NARRATOR Reho turned a deaf ear to the people. He didn't listen to a word the wise elders had said. And the people rebelled –

ONE This king stinks.

TWO They're worse than the last one!

THREE We've had it with you Reho!

NARRATOR And with that, they left.

Ensemble exits, leaving Reho alone center stage, looking sad.

REHO Become wise by walking with the wise. Hang out with fools-

NARRATOR/REHO -and watch your life fall to pieces.

END