

084 NICHOLAS  
(to the people)  
I didn't... It was the Lord who  
calmed these waters, just as He did  
on the Sea of Galilee.

SHIP CREAKS GENTLY ON CALM WATERS. MARCUS TURNS  
TO NICHOLAS, AWED.

085 MARCUS  
Who are you, young man? Really?

086 NICHOLAS  
I'm just a pilgrim.

REVERENT, PEACEFUL MUSICAL TRANSITION.

12 EXT. PORT - MORNING

PORT NOISE. GULLS. CARTS ROLLING. A SHIP CREAKS  
AS IT DOCKS. WALLA: SHOUTING SAILORS.

087 CAPTAIN  
(calling out)  
The port of Jaffa! All passengers  
disembark! And watch your step!  
Stone's slick from the tide!

PASSENGERS DISEMBARK. NICHOLAS STEPS OFF THE  
SHIP.

088 NICHOLAS  
(lowering voice)  
At last... The very land where  
Jesus, my Lord, walked.

MARCUS HURRIES TO CATCH UP WITH NICHOLAS.

Side 1  
START >>> 089 MARCUS  
(calling out)  
Nicholas of Patara!

NICHOLAS STOPS AND TURNS TO MARCUS.

090 NICHOLAS  
Marcus?

091 MARCUS  
I knew you looked familiar! You are  
the son of the merchant lord. And  
don't deny it, because the Captain  
let slip who you are. But now that  
the veil has lifted, I have a  
proposal!

MARCUS steps in front of NICHOLAS, suddenly energized.

092 **MARCUS** (CONT'D)

A business partnership! With your resources and my trading experience, we could dominate the jewel market from here to Rome!

093 NICHOLAS

Marcus, I appreciate your offer, but that's not why I'm here.

094 **MARCUS**

At least think about it. I have three young daughters, Nicholas! I must prepare for the time they are ready to marry and this could secure their dowries!

095 NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I understand your concern for your daughters, Marcus. But I'm not here for trade. I came to walk where Jesus walked. To understand what it meant for God to be... like us.

096 **MARCUS** (CONT'D)

So, no deal?

097 NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Not that kind of deal.

098 **MARCUS** (CONT'D)

I see, I see... your pilgrimage...  
(enthusiastically)  
But... You need a guide!

099 NICHOLAS

A guide?

100 **MARCUS**

I've been to Jerusalem many times. I know someone perfect: Eleazar ben Malchi. A local jewel cutter. He knows all the right people because of his craftsmanship with jewels! And speaking of hidden jewels and treasures, Elazar knows the hidden sites of your Jesus. The places the locals protect from the crowds.

101 NICHOLAS

Well... That would be valuable.

102 **MARCUS**

And I could accompany you! A young man with your potential is best kept safe. Especially if there's still a chance for us to forge a partnership. Come with me!

**<<< END**

EXOTIC HEBREW MUSIC TRANSITION

NICHOLAS and MARCUS walk together through the crowded port.

DISTANT, FAINT SOUND OF SHEEP AND DONKEYS. THE GENTLE, SOUND OF A DISTANT BELL. FADE OUT.

13

**INT. CAVE OF THE NATIVITY - AFTERNOON**

ECHOING DRIPS OF WATER WITHIN THE CAVE.  
NICHOLAS, MARCUS AND ELAZAR WALK IN.

103 ELAZAR

Watch your step, Master Nicholas.  
The entrance is low.

A FEW MORE STEPS.

104 ELAZAR (CONT'D)

This is it. Tradition says that this cave is the very place where Jesus was born.

MARCUS SNIFFS.

105 MARCUS

Smells like wet hay and donkey sweat. You sure his God started here, Elazar?

106 ELAZAR

This cave is no palace. It's narrow, cold... Even back then, it was no place for a child.

AS THEY SPEAK, SOUNDS OF THE PAST BEGIN TO SOFTLY LAYER IN: BLEATING SHEEP, THE RUSTLE OF STRAW. A LOW, PROTECTIVE MOTHERLY VOICE WHISPERING TO CALM A NEWBORN (ADDENDUM 2-A). THE SHUFFLING OF HOOVES. THE SOUNDS BECOME MORE PRESENT.

107 NICHOLAS

He came into the world with no bed.  
No silk. No gold. Born in a manger,  
a feeding trough for animals.  
(MORE)