

Haam Baba and the
Forty League

by
Seven Pillars of Wisdom.

Cappicade 58

"ADAM BABA AND THE FORTY LEAGUES"

by

"SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM"

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Caste:- 33

The Muezzin
Mr. Mess-tin K.C.
Mr. Spreadwell
Mr. Omay-Zingrab
Liberty
1st Citizen
2nd Citizen
3rd Citizen
4th Citizen
Eastern Ballet (8 men)
Crowd (about 12)
Leagues (6)

---ooo---OoOo---ooo---

SCENE 1

The curtain rises on an Eastern market place, even though this is a Varsity Extravaganza some attempt should be made to capture the Glamour of the East. For example, the stage drapings and sets should be brightly coloured, and so as not to mislead the audience a sign should be affixed to the backcloth carrying in crazy lettering the name "Bagdad". Up stage to the audience's left is an exceedingly Eastern tower. A platform (suitable for meetings) is back centre.

The FAITHFUL are on bended knees with arms and faces lifted towards tower. After the applause of the audience dies down (sic) the MUEZZIN bobs up with a strictly Aunt Daisy "Good Morning Everybody". The FAITHFUL prostrate themselves, and at the same time a 2ZB sign on top of tower commences to flash on and off and continues until the MUEZZIN retires.

MUEZZIN "A man is but a man e'en though
He walks in motly rags from a chain store,
Tis not the silken gown the ribald show
That counts -
A man's a man although however poor
As long as he has kept a smiling heart,
And walks along Bob Semple's better roads
With confidence because his mind is pure,
And he has two bob left to buy four more."

Now I like the thought behind that poem because even although the poems I quote may not appeal to all high-brows still I recite them because I feel that after all a man needs only a smile in his heart and a bottle of Tui in his pocket. And a smile in your heart is of course brought by Bidomak because Bidomak cures heart-burn, conquers indigestion and gives that contented feeling that every man desires - 1/6 a small bottle 3/6 a large bottle and 7/6 family size - white or pink which ever you prefer. And now I'd love to play you a record - "My Canary has circles Under His Eyes" because it has a message that means something, but unfortunately my staff is along the road helping the man in the ditch.

So the man in the Ditch will be Happy and Free
And I leave you to listen to 2ZB .

ENTER MESS-TIN AND SPREADWELL

MESS-TIN Its disgusting Spreadwell, its disgusting

SPREADWELL Dammit, Mess-tin, its un-British bowing down to an idol even though he does get £1500 a year.

MESS-TIN Its not everyone who's paid £1500 a year for being idle.

SPREADWELL To think of such crowds being satisfied to kneel on cold pavements and listen to this sentimental slush, when they could meet all the best people at tea at Adam Baba's garden party. Our dear leader of the Passionalists has such nice garden parties.

MESS-TIN Who will forget those happy hours we spent at that heavenly garden party in Lake Ferry.

SPREADWELL And Takaka

MESS-TIN And Paremata

SPREADWELL And Mangatainoka

MESSTIN As president of our great Passionalist party it gave me such ecstasy to see those simple country folk swallowing the free tea and our party planks.

SPREADWELL How different from my reception at the Varsity visitors' debate last year.

(MORSE) Tap...Tap...Tap...

VOICE 2ZB Sports Flash.....By courtesy of the honorable member for Waitemata, beer will be distributed free at the nearest hostelry.

Tap...Tap...Tap...

The CROWD sits up. ONE OF THE CROWD rises and speaks in Shakespearian style.

You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things
You laggards who would wait when fair chance calls,
How long must you linger by the way
While others far less worthy than ourselves
Partake of all a kindly fortune brings
To worthy citizens of an enlightened day:
The sands of 40 hours have now run out,
And we who work our share are free to live,
Come let us quaff a tankard: shun delays,
And see what counter-lunch mine host displays.

CROWD (In unison) We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.

2ND CITIZEN (Aside to third citizen) Come on, let's go like hell and beat the others.

EXIT CROWD singing "Here's to good old beer
Drink it down...."

Song fades as crowd go off-stage.

MESS-TIN (indignantly) Look at that! They're giving free beer and even worse than that, they're spending money on education.

SPREADWELL (significantly & loudly) Yes, but they haven't built a New Students' Union Building yet.

MESSTIN Our hopes are fading! Since this other party has educated the people we can't get away with the simple unkempt promises we used to.

SPREADWELL That's the past! what can we do in the future? It's all very well Adam Baba parading his personal charms at garden parties - that's all right for the cow cockies, they'll swallow anything - but what about the cities. Do you think the great Omay-Zingrab will find a way.

MESS-TIN To my legal mind, it appears that we must wait for the next depression and go to the country with a daring policy of national reconstruction and retrenchment, and in the meantime we must continue our present well-known policy.

SPREADWELL (Loud) Ah yes ! Muddlin through !!

SONG - "MUDDLIN THROUGH"

As song concludes orchestra plays opening bars of "The Persian Market" the two Passionalists start, walk to-

wards L. A Men's burlesque eastern ballet enters to the strains of the music, and the Passionalists retreat. At the conclusion of the dance the ballet advances on Passionalists, who prove their name. This is done to soft music.

FLOURISH OF TRUMPETS AND ROLL OF DRUMS !

ENTER OMay-ZINGRAB. He is a go-getter and as such will be in morning dress (Perhaps with Eastern pants) with a bowler hat and cigar. He is horrified at what he finds.

OMAY (Sternly) What are you two doing?

MESS-TIN (nervously) Nothing! Omay-Zingrab

OMAY Nothing?

SPREADWELL Nothing yet.

OMAY (Angrily) That's the trouble with the Passionalist party they don't know how to make the most of their opportunities. I'm going to change all that. From this day forward we cease to be Passionalists and become (raising hand in Fascist salute) Fascionalists.

ALL (raising hand in salute) Fascionalists.

OMAY (addressing women) Woman's place is in the home. Go to !

(TWO WOMEN detach themselves from crowd and advance sinuously upon Omay.)

1ST WOMAN Oh ! Ossie -

OMAY (indignantly) What do you mean - Ossie?

1ST WOMAN That's what they call you, don't they? Its short for Oswaldtwaistle!!

(OMAY breaks away and comes down stage - crafty smile appears on his face.)

OMAY (Aside) But wait - we may have use for these wenches

(OMAY goes back to women and is now affable)

OMAY Gather round girls, I have a little proposition to make to you.

GIRLS All of us?

OMAY I'm talking politics

GIRLS (sinking back in disappointment) Oh !

OMAY This country needs a new leader, and we have the very man - Adam Baba.

ALL THREE (saluting) Adam Baba.

OMAY Past governments have not realised the importance of the ladies; in Adam Baba we have a ladies man of the first water. No garden party is complete without him - he has become the hero of the Women's division - for months your country sisters have yielded to the impassioned pleadings of this Don Juan, this Cassanova, this Clark Gable of the cow cookies. Isn't he the man for you too?

GIRLS And what a man.

SPREADWELL Do you know what he proposes to do?

GIRLS No !

SPREADWELL He's going to take everything off women, including their wages tax.

(Cooing "Oohs" from the Girls)

MESS-TIN Do you need your vices guaranteed?

GIRLS No - we believe in living dangerously.

OMAY That's the spirit, girls, is Adam Baba your man?

GIRLS You're telling us !

OMAY Right, you must form a ladies Auxiliary and elect your President right away. Your entrance fees are payable immediately. Away, and spread the news of the great Fascion-
alist revival meeting to be held here this evening.

(EXIT WOMEN - gaily)

(OMAY, SPREADWELL & MESS-TIN come together rubbing their hands with sinister laughter.)

MESS-TIN We have the women - and I'm the words of our leader.
(Salute) where Eve is, there will Adam be also.

OMAY My dreams come true - my life's ambition - Attorney General !

MESS-TIN And me-a judge !

SPREADWELL Oh you think so Mess-tin? There will be only one political appointment to the bench and that's going to be me.

MESS-TIN I am a K.C., Mr. Spreadwell

OMAY Allah il Allah ! We've forgotten one thing.
(Paces thoughtfully across stage.)

BOTH What's that?

OMAY (Despairingly) We have nothing to tell the people.

MESS-TIN I hadn't thought of that.

SPREADWELL We are undone!!!!!!

OMAR I have it

BOTH Have what?

OMAR The solution

BOTH Yes ! Yes?

OMAY We can't gain the support of the people with the Fascion-
alist policy, but we can fool them some other way.

BOTH Yes ! Yes !

OMAY (in voice of triumph) They formed Unions, we'll form leagues.

(SONG "Let's form a league")

SPREADWELL We've got one or two old Leagues already - the Gravy league.....

MESS-TIN And Bill Jerry's Offence League.

OMAY And the nice Smellfare League

SPREADWELL But how do we form some more?

OMAY Since we can't use the Radio, we must use the Press - every one believes what appears in the newspapers.

MESS-TIN Let's start with a freedom league

SPREADWELL What mug can we get to lead it?

OMAY Oh, Professor Growlgie from the Queen City will do that, he only gets 8 or 9 hundred a year as a University Professor.

SPREADWELL Oh, he shouldn't be hard to get.

MESS-TIN And as a K.C. I must insist on a Constitutional League.

SPREADWELL We must be careful not to model them on the League of Nations - dammit, sir, half the blighters there are foreigners.

MESS-TIN And a purity league

OMAR And a health League

SPREADWELL And a ship on Mount Victoria League

MESS-TIN And a Cook Strait Swimmers League

OMAR And a keep our Pine Trees League

SPREADWELL And a drunken drivers league

MESS-TIN And a keep to the white line league

OMAR And a 22B suppression league

SPREADWELL And a keep the party clean league

MESS-TIN And a populate Somes Island League

OMAR Well there's a few to start with, we'll get plenty more.

MESS-TIN (Jokingly) yes, 57 varieties !

SPREADWELL 66 different sizes.

OMAR (In triumph) I have it - what a catch cry.....
"ADAM BABA AND THE FORTY LEAGUES."

BLACK OUT AND CURTAIN.

SCENE 2

Scene as before. Large barrel on platform, labelled "The Press - Highly intoxicating."

On stage: The THREE FASCIONALISTS

(CLOCK STRIKES SIX)

VOICE (Offstage) Time Gentlemen please.

(ENTER FAITHFUL & WOMEN. FAITHFUL wiping mouths, They seat themselves in front of platform)

MESS-TIN (who presides) Friends -- I know you are friends for I know no others have admission tickets. We launch today a new phase of our Fascionalist campaign. We know how Adam Baba's work with the ladies in the country is already bringing results and with what great strides the membership of our party is growing. Today, we introduce the campaign for Leagues. Since the terrible fall of the Pas-ionalists in 1935 we have reorganised and with our backs to the wall, our hands to the plough, and our noses to the grindstone, we confidently face the country with a new name, a new policy, a new leader.

VOICE (Significantly) but still no new Students' Union Building.

(BOOS FROM CROWD)

MESS-TIN It is with regret that I announce that our leader (salute) is still with the ladies. In his place I introduce Omay-Zingrab, who but for the partisanship of the Eastern Electors for Bob would undoubtedly have filled the position of Grand Vizier for the party.

(APPLAUSE)

OMAY (Rising) Ladies and Gentlemen, unaccustomed as I am....

(Enter FIRST MESSENGER bearing message from Adam. He delivers message and EXITS)

MESS-TIN (Rising sharply and interrupting. He reads) A message from Adam Baba. "EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN IS LOVELY. ADAM."

OMAY Ladies and Gentlemen, unaccustomed as I am.....

(Enter SECOND MESSENGER bearing another message EXITS)

MESS-TIN Another message; "NO GARDEN PARTY AT PATEA. IT IS STILL RAINING IN TARANAKI. ADAM"

OMAR Ladies and Gentlemen, unaccustomed as I am

(Enter FIRST MESSENGER)

MESS-TIN Another message "JUST OPENED QUEEN CARNIVAL IN KING COUNTRY. THE LEADER."

(ALL salute)

OMAY Ladies and Gentlemen, unaccustomed as I am

(Enter SECOND MESSENGER bearing further message.)

MESS-TIN (Reading) "HAVE SIGNED UP 50 NEW MEMBERS YOUNG FASCIONALIST PARTY AT STRATFORD BABY SHOW, EXPECT MORE ANY TIME. ADAM".

OMAY Ladies and Gentlemen, now that I am accustomed to public speaking, I wish to state that at long last our party has formulated a policy that I am sure will meet with your approval - your approval, ladies and gentlemen, which is, I know, not given lightly. Therefore a sane programme formulated by sane economists like Adam Baba and ah - hm - - myself cannot but appeal to citizens of such a worthy intelligence. We have bought the best assistance that the country can offer. With the aid of the Press (Indicates barrel) we shall produce Leagues, leagues in which lies the salvation of the country and the protection of capital and vested interests.

(OMAY then proceeds to produce leagues by waving newspaper over barrel. This is done to the tune of "The Music Goes Round and Round".)

OMAY I wave my paper so
And around the Presses go .

CROWD Round and Round - round and round
And the Leagues appear.
He waves the magic spread
And the presses throb ahead
Oh-oh-oh---oh-oh-oh
And the next is here.

OMAY I get into my stride
Wave the Daily Muck Rake right
Above below below below
Watch the little puppets dance.

CROWD He waves the Daily Rag
And he's got it in the bag
Oh-oh-oh---oh-oh-oh
And the Leagues are out!

(As the music concludes Half a league emerges from the barrel in shirt tails. The leagues stand three on each side of the barrel and display their notices to the audience; Gravy League, Smellfare League, Freedom League Unconstitutional League, Offence League and Half a League. OMA Y bows to the crowd and clasps hands above head.

CROWD applauds enthusiastically

OMAY Now all we have to do is to hand over the administration of the country to the leagues (CHEERS)

1ST CIT Then we don't need guaranteed vices?

OMAY No!

2ND CIT Then we won't need to spend money on Education?

OMAY No!

3RD CIT Then we won't need the South Island Main Trunk?

OMAY No!

4TH CIT Then we won't need state housing?

OMAY No!

1ST CIT Then we won't need to have Unions?

OMAY No !

2ND CIT Then we won't need any leagues.

OMAY No !

LEAGUES &
FASCIONALISTS (quickly) Yes!!

CROWD (Playfully) Oh no we won't !

OMAY Oh, yes we will !

CROWD Oh, no we won't !

OMAY Oh yes we will !

CROWD (Laughing uproariously) Of course we will.

OMAY Of course it must be emphasised that these Leagues have no political significance, whatsoever.

SPREADWELL Oh no !!

MESS-TIN Oh no !!

CROWD Indubitably no !

OMAY Of course it must be emphasised that these leagues have no party ties whatsoever ! (During this speech LIBERTY enters from opposite side (left of course) and stands scornfully down stage)

MESS-TIN Oh no !

SPREADWELL Oh no !

CROWD Incontrovertibly no !!

OMAY But believing as they do, in the principles of sound Government, they will, of course, support the Fascionalist Party at the next election.

SPREADWELL Indubitably

MESS-TIN Incontrovertibly

CROWD Instinctively !!

LIBERTY You fools ! You poor misguided fools ! The Fascionalists produce these Leagues, these puppets of the Press that promise great things - freedom, security, happiness. But whose freedom? whose security? whose happiness? It is freedom for the Landlords. It is security for the vested interests and Happiness for the few. You've let yourselves be fooled by outward show. In a little while you will learn just what is behind these leagues. (Produces revolver and menaces Leagues) Turn round ! (Leagues turn round, displaying swastikas on backs CROWD (starts back, angry murmur commences)

1ST CIT Down with them

2ND CIT Down with them

3RD CIT Down with them

(They seize leagues)

1ST CIT What shall we do with them ?

2ND CIT Boil them in oil - Taranaki Super Plume.

3RD CIT And what shall we do with the Fascionalists?

2ND CIT Boil them in oil.

1ST CIT There's not enough oil in Taranaki for that.

3RD CIT Very well, we'll take control of the Press and without
that the Fascionalists cannot form Leagues and are
helpless.

2ND CIT And then we'll cast them forth into the Political
Wilderness.

(LIBERTY leads LEAGUES & FASCIONALISTS back stage covering
them with revolver. CROWD bursts into song.

"DRIVE ALL YOUR LEAGUES etc."

CURTAIN SLOWLY FALLS.

Scene: The political wilderness (in front of tabs) No scenery except a palm tree (optional) and a large sign-post bearing arms pointing to FRANCE, GERMANY, RUSSIA, AMERICA, NEW ZEALAND.

MESS-TIN and SPREADWELL are on stage, - very despondent.

MESS-TIN A pretty kettle of fish this is. Before we know where we are, we'll be working for our living

SPREADWELL (Peevishly) Well, I must say, I think Adam might have come with us instead of accepting a pension from the Taranaki Women's Institute.

MESS-TIN It's all due to this new-fangled Fascionalism of Omay-Zingrab's. The Old Policy of "Muddlin' Through" was good enough for our fathers and should be good enough for us.

SPREADWELL Well, this ought to be the finish of him, anyhow. I always thought the fellow was a bit bumptious.

MESS-TIN I suppose he's ashamed to show his face.

(Enter OMAY ZINGRAB. He is quite unashamed and as bumptious as ever and leads a camel - size left to discretion of producer. He might be followed by half a League laden with his personal effects topped by a miscellaneous collection of loot - tennis racquet, alarum clock, hot water bottle, camp-stool and anything ridiculous and portable that the Producer may find lying about backstage.)

OMAY (Bumptious and Oily as ever) Oh well! Just a simple little hitch. We didn't get away with it there, but Bagdad isn't the only place in the world.

MESS-TIN That's all very well, but we didn't go across there, you know.

OMAY (Grandiloquently) We'll find another place. All we need is to brush up the old Policy and give it a new name (meditates) Er- Fascionalist - Passionalist - Bashionalist - (breaks off) Oh! anyhow it son't be hard to think of another name something like that.

SPREADWELL It's all very well to say there's another place, but what place would you suggest?

OMAY Well, here's a sign-post, let's see what places there are (Reads) Germany. Well, now, what about Germany?

MESS-TIN No. It wouldn't do at all! Hitler has decreed that shirts are to be two inches shorter. Think of our poor friend here. (Pointing to HALF A LEAGUE whose shirt is only just adequate.

SPREADWELL We can't please everybody . What about Russia?

OMAY Too risky. Stalin might have us purged. (This can be made more or less obvious, as required e.g. Garter's Little Liver Pills a la 2ZB)

SPREADWELL All right then. We'll go further afield. Suppose we try Chile? I'm sure we'd get a warm reception there.

MESS-TIN Oh dear! Oh dear! Do hurry up and decide. If only I had my Legion of Frontiersmen here. They'd know what to do. (Proudly) Why only last week they tracked a Varsity student from the Grand to the Carlton just by his finger prints on the footpath.

SPREADWELL You're quite right Mess-Tin. We must get out of this desert (With feeling) Saharrible!

(Hoots and jeers from audience)

(When audience recovers)

No comforts, nothing! We might as well be at the end of the earth!

OMAY All right! If you want to go to the end of the earth (indicating signboard) Here's New Zealand - things can't be All Black there. In fact we'd probably do well - The popularity of the Plunket system suggests a nation of suckers.

SPREADWELL Yes, and due to the Five Million Club, there's one born every minute.

MESS-TIN Its going to be awkward, you know. They've got a 40 hour week there, and the people have time to think!

OMAY Oh-ho! We'll soon put a stop to that. We'll settle these Public Works Scamps, and get the Nash out of National Affairs. We'll show them that we're men of Adam's Breed. Onward! If we hurry we'll just get there in time for the elections in November!

As they set off, chorus with orchestra crash into the last two lines of GOD DEFEND NEW ZEALAND.

THE END