

Worthy

By Stephen Walkiewicz

Phone: 352-424-0394

Email: swalkiewicz@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 10500 Rockville Pike, Unit 1018, Rockville MD, 20852

Synopsis: A man's soul is on trial by the Egyptian god Osiris

Characters: Osiris- Any gender- Charismatic and energetic. He has green skin with ancient Egyptian eyeliner. He is wearing a white cloak and has a tall white pharaoh hat.

Jethro- Male presenting- 50s-70s. He is gruff and guarded. He wears a flannel shirt tucked into his jeans. Possibly facial hair and is conservative presenting

Ammit- Puppet- If performed by tech, they should get actor pay. Ammit has a crocodile head with a lion's mane and front feet. Back should look like a hippo. Cute and terrifying looking.

Props: Crook, Flail, Scale, Feather, Scroll and Box with heart on each side. Small black barstool table.

*Osiris stands stage left holding a crook and flail.
There is small black bar table
upstage center with a scale, a small
box with a heart on it and a feather.
Jethro walks in confused from stage right.*

Jethro

Hello? Is anyone here?

Osiris

(Booming) As life was birthed out of the chaos of Nu, Ra oversaw the creation. Now, Jethro Anderson before you move to the afterlife, your final judgment awaits!

Jethro

What the hell are you?

Osiris

Isn't it obvious? I'm Osiris, god of the dead. This is your trial to the afterlife.

Jethro

Trial? What are you talkin' about?

Osiris

Why aren't the pharaohs explaining this? It's like the eighth time this week!

Jethro

Pharaohs? Look pal, I'm from Pennsylvania. We don't got pharaohs!

Osiris

Then how are you worshipping the gods?

Jethro

Gods? There's only one brother, and his name is Jesus.

Osiris

Okay, this is a bigger problem than I expected. Without pharaohs explaining the trial, you don't know how you are to be judged!

Jethro

You an alien?

Osiris

I just told you, I'm-

Jethro

The green skin, fruity robe, the sex toys you're holding. You're one of them drag queen aliens! Are you trying to probe me, pervert!

Osiris

I am the god of the dead! Not the god of sex, though if you ask my wife Isis, wait maybe you shouldn't-

Jethro

You can't be God! God's not some queer freak!

Osiris

You dare speak blasphemy?

Jethro

Free speech, pal!

Osiris

(annoyed) Alright, Jethro. Let's get started on your trial, shall we?

Jethro

(aggressive) Take your damn spaceship back to my house and drop me off!

Osiris

Jethro, what are you not understanding? You're dead and now we have a trial to see if your actions justify living in the kingdom of bliss or having your soul be devoured by Ammit, the demon. You with me so far?

Jethro

(squares up) No! What's an armpit got to do with my soul, you little sex pest.

Osiris

Ammit. It's a cross between a hippo and a croc- you know what? It's just easier to show you. Ammit!

Ammit appears downstage left. It is a puppet and it is chomping at Jethro. Jethro recoils in horror as Osiris tries to calm it down

Jethro

What the hell is that!

Osiris

This is Ammit, oh he's hungry today! (*baby talk*) Yes you are. You're a hungry little fella aren't you?

Jethro

Get it away from me!

Osiris

Depending on the trial, you might get even closer! (*baby talk*) Who's gonna eat some souls? You're gonna eat some souls! Yes you are! (*to Jethro*) Shall we begin?

Jethro

I don't want to die!

Osiris

You're already dead-I really got to fix this pharaoh thing. One thing at time. A moment please.

Osiris tells Ammit to go offstage left. As he talks he brings the table with the scale

Osiris

Jethro, all of your actions and thoughts are contained in this box that holds your heart. See?

Jethro

(*Puts his hand on his chest*) My heart?

Osiris

Yes. Your heart holds everything you've ever done or thought. Now in a moment I am going to put your heart on the scale and then weigh it against the feather of Ma'at the goddess of truth, harmony, and justice. You with me so far?

Jethro

No!

Osiris

How can I make this simpler? Okay, if the heart is lighter than the feather you live with me. If your heart is heavier. Chomp chomp. Got it?

Jethro

I- I don't- wait I'm dead?

Osiris

(*Shocked*) That's what you don't understand?

Jethro

I'm not dead, I can't be!

Osiris

What's the last thing you remember?

Jethro

Started to watch the news, saw something about Christmas. I got into an argument with my daughter about it.

Osiris

What's a Christmas?

Jethro

I saw Santa Claus, but something was-

Osiris

I'm losing you. What's a Santa cows? Am I pronouncing that correctly?

Osiris looks confused as he explains

Jethro

You don't know Santa Claus? He's the jolly fat guy with a beard and red outfit. Kids sit on his lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. It's a holiday at the end of the year.

Osiris

Did Christmas replace Wepet-Renpet? (*Gutted*) You replaced my festival?!

Jethro

It was- they had a- Oh my god! I remember! They had a black Santa!

Osiris

I don't understand.

Jethro

Exactly! How can they have a black Santa?

Osiris

No, what's a Santa? Can it not be black? What's the problem?

Jethro

I said, "They can't make Santa a ni- (*pause and gets angry*) and then my daughter started screaming at me!

Osiris

(pause) Ammit is going to eat good today.

Jethro

They can't make Santa black! He's always been white. He lives in the north pole for Christ sake! How would you feel if someone made an image of you but instead of green they're black?

Osiris

I'm from Egypt.

Jethro

That's the Middle East! Big difference.

Osiris *blankly stares at Jethro*

Jethro

You see no problem in it whatsoever?

Osiris

Should I? Look, I see this means a lot to you but I have a lot of dead people who are waiting to be judged so if we can move this along-

Jethro

No! She then starts explaining why this is all bad. She was too triggered to hear the truth so now I'm the bad guy?

Osiris

People want to change things. That's the problem?

Jethro

You can't make Santa black because you want to. You can't go and change things because you're upset. That's just how things are!

Osiris

Good to know. Now can we please get on with the trial? It would help me tremendously.

Jethro

Lord pray for these fools.

Osiris

That's *(pause)* a statement.

Osiris *grabs the box with the heart and feather.
He prepares the scales.*

Ammit slowly comes out to watch.

Jethro

Even through I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will-

Osiris

You're not in the shadow of death, you are dead. You're past that point. *(sighs and gets into booming voice)* As Anubis ushered you to this moment, this box containing your heart shall be placed on the scale for your actions!

*Osiris places the box on the scale
it weighs down.*

Jethro

My daughter would always yell at me, saying that I was ignorant. That's what we called them. I didn't come up with the word! It used to be father knows best, now my kid is telling me what to do?

Osiris

With the feather of Ma'at, Ammit's maw anticipates the verdict!

*Jethro faces downstage
As Jethro begins his monologue, Osiris looks over and shrugs at Ammit.
He places the feather on the scale and
it's heavier than the box. Osiris is shocked. He looks to see
if Jethro has noticed. He picks up the feather and examines it. He smells it.
Tastes it. He puts it up to his ear and shakes it. He is convinced it's authentic
and places it back on the scale and stares at it. Ammit leaves.*

Jethro

I'm trying to explain why this is bad and she says *(mockingly)* "Don't say that word. It's bad!" Well who the hell are you to tell me, your father what's good and bad! After she berated me, I took that picture out and ripped it right in her smug college face. I had this picture she made of us when she was five. I kept it in my wallet. It was the two of us holding hands and in big letters said "Dad is my hero". She didn't say anything. She just stared at me. How could she be so cold to just stare at me? How could she not understand the pain and hurt she was doing to me? When I proved to my family that turning Santa black was immoral, they didn't call me a hero. They called me a bigot, a fascist and-

Osiris

Worthy.

Jethro

(shocked) What?

Osiris

Yup. You are worthy. See the scale? The heart's lighter. You're free to go to paradise.

Jethro

Oh? Well, good. I knew I was right.

Osiris

Congratulations. If you'll proceed this way, you will enter eternal bliss.

Osiris gestures upstage left

Jethro

Eternal bliss.

Osiris

That's what I said.

Jethro

See! I told you I was a good person!

Jethro walks upstage left and looks off

Osiris

Okay. Please have a wonderful afterlife.

Jethro

Eternal bliss. It's eternal. Forever.

Osiris

That's what the word means. I know we are beyond time and space, but it's getting late. I'm hoping someone will be unworthy so little Ammit can eat.

Jethro

Makes you wonder what's out there in that eternal bliss-

Osiris

You can walk through and find out. (*annoyed*) So why aren't you doing that?

Jethro

Oh, well I just wanted to- hey, can I keep my heart?

Osiris

No, we have to keep these for records-This pharaoh situation is absurd!

Jethro

I'll go but maybe uh, maybe fix that pharaoh thing before it becomes a bigger mess.

Osiris

I have too many- I can't believe I'm saying this, but you're right. Again, hope you enjoy everlasting paradise!

Osiris walks offstage right

Jethro looks and then steals his heart.

He looks stage right and tries to call out Ammit

Jethro

Here, uh croc, dog, monster, thing. Come here!

Ammit slowly comes out

Jethro

That's right. Hey you want this heart, don't ya? Yea you do. You're hungry aren't ya?

Jethro sticks out the heart Ammit stares at it and him.

Jethro starts smug, but becomes enraged.

Jethro

Guess this proves I was right. You heard the weirdo, I'm worthy. What? I'm too worthy for you to eat my heart now? Your fangs were showing just a minute ago, what happened? You get scared? You dumb animal, You don't want this heart anymore? You were about to rip me apart but now my heart is pure? Well good! You know, I wish my daughter could see this. She's the one that should feel bad about ripping the picture! It's her fault, not mine! I'm not the ignorant one, she is because I'm worthy! That was the point of the trial? I was right! I didn't want to do it, but she made me do it! If she wasn't so stubborn, the picture would (*It starts to click*) still be together. It's just a picture, I'm still the hero! I'm her hero, right? Answer me! Am I still her hero? Why are you ignoring me?

Jethro begins to ugly cry. He falls on his knees, and cradles himself into a ball.

He is like a small child with his crying.

Ammit continues to stare, but slowly begins to lick and comfort him.

Jethro

I don't want to go to paradise! I want to be the hero! Why did I have to rip it up? I don't deserve this! I don't want to go to paradise!

Osiris enters stage right reading a scroll

Osiris

Ammit, it turns out pharaohs have been dead for over two thousand years! No wonder this has been an absolute (*pause*) mess. Jethro what are you still doing here?

Jethro

I should't have ripped that picture she made me! I don't care about Santa! I-Just-Want-Her!

Osiris

Jethro, there's nothing to feel bad about. You get to go to paradise-

Jethro

But I destroyed it!

Osiris

The scale says-

Jethro

I don't care what the scale says! I'm not worthy!

Osiris

Well, that's the beautiful thing about the trial. You don't judge yourself.

Jethro

I don't understand. Why am I worthy?

Osiris

You just are.

Osiris lifts Jethro up he dries his eyes and stops crying

Jethro

How can you call it paradise if I'm away from my family? From my daughter?

Osiris

How do you know what's on the other side? No one has heard what the pharaohs should have been saying.

Jethro

But wasn't I wrong to do it?

Osiris

Now you have eternity to make it right.

Will I see her again?

Jethro

If you want.

Osiris

*Jethro is confused, but Osiris nods that it's okay.
He smiles turns to leave upstage left*

Hey! Aren't you gonna say goodbye to Ammit?

Osiris

Jethro runs back and hugs Ammit

You're a good, er, uh. You're good.

Jethro

*Ammit licks him. Jethro waves goodbye
as he walks upstage left. He pauses, then walks offstage
Osiris walks over and grabs the feather*

The point of the pharaohs is to prepare people for the trial. I wanted to give them a fair chance before your verdict to devour their souls. *(pause)* So why did you pick the heaviest feather?

Osiris

Because they are good.

Ammit

(Smiles) Alright. Soulferky again tonight!

Osiris

*Osiris plays with Ammit
lights fade.*

*Some notes about the feather. To make the box lighter than the feather,
it could be a heavier piece of wood that could be painted
to look like a peacock feather plume. The box could be a light
plastic box that would have a heart on each side.
In terms of Ammit puppet, Pooch Patrol from Tonka
a toy from the '90s could be used as base mainly to
show expression of the puppet with flipping a cover
to convey either sad or angry eyes, as well as covering
the teeth to give the character depth.*