

Eve Painfully Tells Cain and Abel How it Was, Before

Adapted from a dramatic reading by Kathy Barram, based on Gen. 1–4, about 5 minutes.

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is simply to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Eve

Abel

Cain

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Abel Mother Eve, please tell Cain and me how it was in the very beginning.

Eve My sons. Cain and Abel, every day beautiful!

Prompter & Echoes Heaven on earth!

Eve From sunrise to sunset, from the morning dove's first call
and the evening song of the nightingale,
life was full, always happiness.
Our joy was fierce; our freedom was a continual dawn!
We did not choose all this, as we did not choose our home,
but our life was simply perfect.

Cain So what happened, mom?

Eve Oh, Cain, I cannot bear to put it into words;
I will let your father Adam tell you about that.
Adam and I did not choose each other, but we were a perfect fit.
But then...

Abel Mom, I see by your tears how you suffer to talk about it.

Eve Yes, Abel, but because I love you, I will bear up
and tell you about what once was.
Please listen, and do not repeat my mistake.

Cain Get to the point, Mom.

Eve I am trying, Cain. I hope you will gain a healthy fear.
It is no fault to fear. You will be the wiser for it!

Prompter & Echoes Wise fear brings us to God!

Abel Our father Adam told us you were perfectly beautiful in your innocence.

Eve Once, My life with your father was beautiful, Abel.
What we had does not exist now. You will not ever find it on this earth.
We did not choose it or seek it; we *lived* it. It was ours!
The world was ours!

Cain It sure is not like that now.

Eve That is right, Cain.
 You live now as all men do a shadow darkens every heart.
 We all live in that shadow. It is cool, but does not comfort.
 It is static, but not eternal.
 It is *darkness*, confining darkness in our souls.

Prompter & Echoes Darkness!

Abel Yet in my heart, I wonder about the light beyond the shadow.
 There must be a light. How can there be a shadow without a light?

Eve Yes, Abel.
 Your father and I are the only ones on earth who ever saw that light.

Abel Please, mother, do not weep.

Eve Your father and I knew that light we *lived* in it. It was warm and *alive*!

Cain I cannot imagine any such light.

Eve I will try again, Cain. The light was a magnificent SOMEONE.

Abel Do you mean God?

Eve Oh, yes, Abel! We knew him, my sons!
 By him and for him all things exist the sunrise and sunset, the dove, the
 nightingale, the freedom, the joy!
 We played with him, talked with him and sang with him.
 Our Life glistened!

Prompter & Echoes God's very presence!

Cain Well, it sure is not like that now, mom. Why bother recalling it?

Eve Please listen, Cain. Try to understand.
 Your father and I were paint on the Artist's brush.
 We were the words on the Author's pen, the very breath of His lips!
 Oh! We were His and he was ours!

Abel That was wonderful, mom.
 Hey! Brother Cain, what is wrong? Where are you going?