

Aaron's Presumptuous Sons Dare Enter God's Most Holy Presence

About 2 minutes, from Lev. 10 and 16

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

Moses

Nadab

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

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

Nadab Uncle Moses, why make such a fuss over this Day of Atonement?

Moses Nadab, your father Aaron is Israel's first High Priest; today he will enter the innermost Holy of Holies of this tabernacle that we have finished building. It is God's tent of dwelling.

Prompter & Echoes God is with us!

Aaron Yes. I, Aaron, must take the sacrificial blood into God's very presence; it glows in the innermost Holy of Holies. I fear to go behind its veil, but I must; the blood will atone for all our sins.

Moses We will celebrate this day every year from now on.

Prompter & Echoes The atoning blood!

Moses Look, Nadab. Your father Aaron has entered. Will he live?

Prompter & Echoes Have mercy, dear God!

Moses Yes! Look! Aaron has come back out, alive!

Prompter & Echoes We are forgiven!

Nadab Uncle Moses, you and our father Aaron think you're so important! Are you the only ones who can enter God's presence?

Moses Be careful, nephew. It is the law of the Almighty, not ours.

Nadab We will see about that.

Prompter & Echoes Watch out!

Aaron Oh no! My two sons are taking strange fire into God's presence! How can they be so proud and presumptuous to enter without the sacrificial blood! Stop them! Oh! It's too late!

Prompter & Echoes Fire! Fire!

Moses Oh, Aaron! Flames have burst out from God's presence!

Nadab Help! Help!

Aaron I can't bear to hear my sons' screams! The fire is consuming them!

Prompter & Echoes They die before the Lord!

Aaron My sons! Oh, my dear sons! Why did you defy God's law? Why did you disobey the solemn edict of the Most Holy One?

Moses God warns us all, "Whoever comes near me will treat me as holy."

Prompter & Echoes Holy! Holy! Holy!