

The Wall

- Beth Ranjit

Characters A, B, C and D are walking in single-file across the stage, as if travelling through a tunnel. A and B carry torches. A moves just past the centre of the stage.

A: Right, it can't be much further now! Just a few more...ah.

A stops. B collides with A, followed by C and D.

B: Hey! What are you doing?

A: This is a wall. (*presses hand against 'wall'*)

B: (*peers around*) So it is.

A: Look at it! It must be a hundred metres thick, with a steel core!

D: Wow.

C: And s/he can tell all that just by looking at it!

B: So, what are we going to do? We can't stay here.

D: We'll have to go around.

A: There is no way around, it's filling the tunnel.

C: So...?

A: We're stuck here.

General whining and muttering.

B: Okay, okay, nobody panic.

D: Who's panicking? We're just stranded in a tunnel with no food, or water, and the torch batteries can't last forever, can they? Hey, are those walls moving...?

C: Stop it!

A: Quiet! You were saying?

B: I was saying that I may have a solution. (*pulls out 'Map', a scroll/piece of paper*)

C: Ooh, what's that?

B: This is my Map. This won't fail us.

D: What does it say?

B: Well, it's quite long. There are two bits...

A: Give us a summary.

B: Uh...some guy lost his coat...and there were these stone tablets...

D: Stone tablets?!

C: They must wreak havoc on the stomach.

A: What about this second bit?

B: Oh, love...blah blah...peace...blah blah – here it is:

"But after I am raised up, I, your Shepherd, will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee."

C: Are you calling me a sheep?

D: Are we even going to Galilee?

B: It doesn't mean that! Shepherd means guide!

- A: So this Jesus guy is our guide? I hope he speaks English, and he'd better not expect a tip.
- B: I'm not sure it means...
- A: Really, he should learn to hurry up. We could be waiting three days for him to come out of his cave!
- C: How will he even know we're here?
- D: Yeah, it's not like he can see us down here. That would be...weird.
- B: Maybe we should pray. This thing says:
"When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action."
- A: Okay, no problems! Everyone kneel, hands together, eyes closed. We're going to do this **properly**.

Everyone complies, grumbling from C and D.

- A: Everyone ready? Right, here we go. *(takes deep breath)* Oh Dear God, please take away this huge wall so we can pass. *(opens eyes to look)* Huh.
- B: Try again. Um...ask for a key! It says:
"You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door."
- A: Okay...oh Lord, give me a key to unlock this...wall. And swing it not into my face, for that is not good for the shape of my nose. Cheers!

All wait. Nothing happens.

- C: C'mon! This is getting stupid!
- B: Maybe we should try **silent** prayer. We might be giving the old guy a headache.
- A: Right, absolute silence, got it!

Wait.

- D Oh, I'm sick of this! I'm going.

D stands and leaves, returns after a moment with dynamite and a lighter. D kneels back beside C, and nudges him/her.

- D: Hey, look what I found!
- A: Shush! We need silence!
- C: What have you got?

D hands over lighter and holds up dynamite.

- B: Will you two keep it down?
- C: This is pretty cool.
- D: Yeah, some hippie dude in white just pushed it into my hands.
- C: Sweet!

- A: Shut up! How can we receive divine instruction if you keep yammering on?
D: But look, we...
A: I don't want to hear it! Jesus will send this key with just enough silence.
C: But this is...
A: Lalala – not listening! PRAYING!
D: Yeah, that just about sums it up.

Freeze A and B. C and D stand and move forward, out of situation.

- C: God puts no task before us that we can't handle with his guidance and his aid.
D: It's just that sometimes the aid isn't quite what we expected.
C: There is no barrier that we cannot cross with God. Jesus passed the greatest barrier of all, death itself, walking with God.