

MEDICINE SHOW

A tragedy in five acts

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MODOCS

Captain Jack (Kintpuash)
 Rock Dave
 Scarface Charley
 Lost River Lizzie
 Hooker Jim
 Bogus Charley
 Queen Mary
 Old Woman
 Curly Headed Doctor

MILITARY TRIBUNAL

Judge-Advocate (a major)
 Captain Hasbrouck

OTHER MILITARY

Colonel Green
 General E. R. S. Canby
 Lieutenant Boutelle
 Private MacFarland
 Private Swenson
 Private Smiley

CIVILIANS

Miller
 Alfred B.
 Meacham
 Ivan Applegate
 Reverend Thomas
 Chaplain

The play begins at a military tribunal at Fort Klamath, Oregon in July, 1873. This tribunal and the subsequent execution of CAPTAIN JACK bring the Modoc War to a conclusion. Fought in and near the lavabeds of northeastern California, the Modoc War was a decisive moment in the conquest of the West. After the full might of the U.S. Army—comprising five troops of calvary, five companies of infantry, and four batteries of artillerymen—failed to dislodge a band of Indians from their lava stronghold, a "peace council" aimed at making the MODOCS surrender led to the assassination of GENERAL E. R. S. CANBY by Modoc leader CAPTAIN JACK.

Both men had favored a negotiated settlement; both believed that a reservation on Modoc land was the best way to resolve the conflict between the Indians and settlers who occupied their country, turning hunting grounds into ranch land. Yet General Canby's superiors insisted on terms of surrender that were unacceptable to the victorious Indians, while Captain Jack's warriors pressured their leader to kill the general during negotiations.

Their tragedy was a *cause celebre* at the time. This was the first war whose news became known to the public almost instantaneously, thanks to telegraph dispatches and mass circulation newspapers. It is a war that can be seen today without sensationalism or sentimentality, for it left in its wake extensive historical sources, many of which—negotiation records, trial transcripts, and numerous passages in memoirs—are in dialogue form.

The following re-creation of the Modoc War is a work of the imagination, yet it is a documentary play as well, incorporating speeches spoken at critical moments during the war.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Accompanied by COLONEL GREEN, commanding officer at Fort Klamath, members of the military commission enter and sit at a table. SOLDIERS, their rifles ready, stand guard. Bothered by sounds of hammering, Colonel Green closes the window.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

This session will come to order. Guard, bring in the prisoner.

A guard brings in CAPTAIN JACK, whose arms and legs are chained.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

I note that the accused is in attendance. Captain Jack, do you wish to introduce counsel? Do you have a lawyer?

CAPTAIN JACK

No one speaks for me.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Be advised of the charge against you: murder in violation of the laws of war. The specification is that you, who are called and commonly known as Captain Jack, are a member of a band of Modoc Indians and that you, acting as representative of said Modoc band, did meet, at or near the lavabeds situated near Tule Lake in the State of California on or about the 11th day of April, 1873 under a flag of truce and suspension of hostilities, Brigadier General E.R.S. Canby, U.S.A., and did thereupon in wanton violation of said flag of truce, willfully, feloniously and of malice aforethought, kill and murder said Brigadier-General Canby. How do you plead, guilty or not guilty? What is your plea?

CAPTAIN JACK

I cannot talk with chains on my legs. My heart is not strong when my legs are chained. And I hardly know how to talk here. I do not know how white people talk in such a place as this.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Talk exactly as if you were at home. Think of this as a council. Or a powwow.

HASBROUCK

Or a negotiation. You're good at that.

SCENE TWO

The camp at Lost River. Lizzie wears a basket cap but otherwise dresses like a frontierswomen. The MEN wear pants, boots, and wool shirts. SCARFACE CHARLEY enters carrying a basket.

ROCK DAVE

How was it?

SCARFACE

Not good.

ROCK DAVE

I caught rabbits yesterday. Enough to make a blanket.

SCARFACE

These trout are enough for the elders.

CAPTAIN JACK

Hooker's people fear they'll go hungry.

SCARFACE

That's why they're taking Boshtin beef.

HOOKER JIM

(enters)

We have to eat something.

CAPTAIN JACK

Let them keep their cattle. We can't have Boshtin be too angry at us.

HOOKER JIM

We must make them fear us. Curly Headed Doctor says so.

CAPTAIN JACK

Doctor dreams the land will swallow the Boshtin. That won't happen. We have to live with them.

HOOKER JIM

When you led us back to Lost River from Klamath reservation, you said Boshtin will let us live here. They are filthy with lies and greed.

CAPTAIN JACK

Many, yes. But some have hearts.

HOOKER JIM

How do you know that?

CAPTAIN JACK

When I was young, I visited Judge Steele in Yreka. He was Indian Agent then. The judge said he will get us a reservation on Lost River, if we could get along with his people. Judge Steele gave me a pass so I could be among Boshtin and learn their ways.

HOOKER JIM

A pass saying you're a 'good Indian'?

CAPTAIN JACK

The pass let me guide them and trade with them. It said they could trust me. I heard them speak, found out how they think.

HOOKER JIM

They think only of themselves. Their fences cut the land. We have to go far around to hunt.

CAPTAIN JACK

General Canby told the Indian Commissioner to let us live here.

HOOKER JIM

Maybe someday. But how will we make it through winter? You made a mistake bringing our families here.

CAPTAIN JACK

When we left Klamath Lake, what did you expect to find? No one in our country? You know why Meacham took us from here: so Boshtin could run cattle across the land, on Shasti mountain, everywhere. It is hard to accept. But there's no use dreaming with Doctor of them disappearing and old ways coming back. The way we lived when we were young will not return.

HOOKER JIM

We suffer here worse than we did with the Klamath. My people are saying, let's go back.

CAPTAIN JACK

We will stay here, in sight of Shasti Mountain. Here I was born. I will die in this place. When Ben Wright killed my father before my eyes, I swore I will die here.

HOOKER JIM

I want to go before winter comes, before children and elders die of hunger.

SCARFACE

Tomorrow let's hunt near Medicine Lake. We'll find elk there.

SCENE THREE

MILLER is fixing his fence. BOGUS CHARLEY approaches him.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Before you came, we had plenty to eat.

MILLER

Look, Bogus—

BOGUS CHARLEY

Bogus Charley.

MILLER

All right, Bogus Charley. Why don't you take a pig for rent?

BOGUS CHARLEY

A pig. That would be good.

MILLER

I slaughtered one this morning. Cook it in a pit. Let the meat roast slowly.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Give me hay for my horse.

MILLER

All right. Take some hay. Next time you come here, bring my old saddlehorse with you.

BOGUS CHARLEY

She's my horse now.

MILLER

I'll win it back from you. And not playing that stick game of yours. We'll see how you do at five card draw.

BOGUS CHARLEY

I'll get a steer next time.

SCENE FOUR

Fort Klamath. A.B. MEACHAM enters the camp commander's office where GENERAL CANBY is packing his clothes into a dufflebag.

MEACHAM

General, may I disturb you for a moment?

CANBY

What's on your mind, Meacham?

MEACHAM

When do you leave?

CANBY

Immediately. The Department of the Columbia is too vast to oversee, but I do my best. Excuse me if I continue to pack.

MEACHAM

General, I have a petition for you from settlers in the Lost River region.

CANBY

I will not fail to read it. Now, I have a long day's ride ahead of me.

MEACHAM

I would read it before leaving Fort Klamath. The document's signed by forty-four settlers.

CANBY

Stolen fodder. Broken fences. They want the Army to protect their haycocks.

MEACHAM

Some say their lives are threatened.

CANBY

Ah! They're "repeatedly on the verge of a desolating Indian war." But look who endangers them: "a petty Indian chief with twenty desperadoes and a squalid band of three hundred miserable savages". The greater threat comes from the settlers than the 'savages'.

MEACHAM

Some ranchers plan to attack the Indian camps on Lost River.

CANBY

There's no risk in bluffing.

MEACHAM

If the Army does not return them to the Klamath Reservation, those ranchers will take action on their own.

CANBY

That would provoke a war.

MEACHAM

General, I think the time has come for the forcible return of the Modocs to Klamath Lake. The ranchers won't tolerate any more raids. You've got to do something.

CANBY

The Modocs will not return to a reservation where they were exposed to hostilities from the Klamath tribe without protection from the Indian agent. Besides, I've heard you shortchanged them on food and blankets.

MEACHAM

A scurrilous rumor.

CANBY

Even so, it is widely believed. The Modocs may not trust your Indian Department, Mr. Meacham, given their experiences and their imperfect reasoning powers.

MEACHAM

They can't stay where they are. As winter sets in, they'll either starve or steal. It won't just be a few desperadoes. They will all be at it.

CANBY

Change hats with me for a moment, Meacham. Put yourself in my place. Then I will look at the situation as if I were the Indian Superintendent.

MEACHAM

I don't know if our hat sizes match.

CANBY

Allow me to imagine for a moment, Meacham, that mine is comparable to yours.

MEACHAM

O, but General, I meant quite the contrary.

CANBY

As commanding officer, would you think that the forces available at Fort Klamath are capable of taking two armed camps of Modocs to a place they have already found intolerable?

MEACHAM

I would bring in reinforcements.

CANBY

That would alert the Indians. Even if we could spare the men. And we can't spare them. Do you know that 10 to 20 percent of our troops go over the hill?

MEACHAM

They're bored. Give them something to do.

CANBY

It's that damn mining. They think they're going to get rich. When you meet miners with names like Poker Jim or Montana Jake, you can bet their real names are on the rolls of the armed forces.

MEACHAM

Even if you can't spare more men, I'd say your current force is adequate for this operation.

CANBY

If I were Superintendent, I'd think that should the Modocs return to Klamath Agency, Klamath Indians will not allow them a livable parcel of land. Not if the past is a guide to the future. Nor are there enough troops to keep the Modocs from leaving again.

MEACHAM

Were I commanding officer I would wonder what good are troops that remain on the parade grounds!

CANBY

If hostilities actually commence or become inevitable, I will take prompt and energetic measures.

MEACHAM

I hope your measures do not come too late.

SCENE FIVE

Scarface and Hooker at MILLER's ranch.

SCARFACE

Have you heard what people say? Bluecoats aim to round us up like cattle.

HOOKER JIM

What do you know about that?

MILLER

This is the first I've heard.

SCARFACE

Queen Mary heard men talking in the Linkville saloon. She says they have a map of our camps.

MILLER

Every one knows she's Captain Jack's sister. No one seriously plotting an attack—

HOOKER JIM

They plan to round us up.

MILLER

It's not going to happen.

HOOKER JIM

The eyes show what the tongue hides.

MILLER

Look, you Modocs get together, decide what you're going to do, and then you do it. You hear men talk about an attack against you and you figure it will happen. But you have to understand how my nation works. My neighbors can't tell the Army what to do. Those bluecoats at Fort Klamath are under the command of Major Green. Major Green has to follow the orders of his tyee, General Canby. And Canby has to obey the head tyee of all, President Grant, who lives in a large white house way to the east, far beyond the mountains.

What people say here or in Linkville doesn't matter because they made President Grant their tyee, and he decides what to do.

SCARFACE

How does he know what to do if he lives far beyond the mountains?

MILLER

He listens to General Canby. Canby says you should have a reservation here on Lost River. So President Grant won't send soldiers to take you away.

SCARFACE

I will tell Captain Jack what you say. But we will be ready.

HOOKER JIM

I say, look twice at a two-faced man. We are warning you settlers: when the bluecoats come, stay home if you like to live.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

The command post at Fort Klamath.
IVAN APPELEGATE enters. LIEUTENANT
BOUTELLE, the officer of the day,
receives him.

APPELEGATE

Where's Major Green, lieutenant?

BOUTELLE

He'll be here shortly.

APPELEGATE

What are your numbers?

BOUTELLE

No change lately.

APPELEGATE

I'll bet boredom's your biggest enemy.

BOUTELLE

Not for me.

APPLEGATE

I mean for the fort. You're far away from the Indian troubles.

BOUTELLE

Trouble can spring up anywhere, Mr. Applegate.

Major Green enters with PRIVATE
MACFARLAND.

MAC

Svenson started it, sir!

GREEN

I heard differently.

MAC

He's a bloody liar!

GREEN

Take this man to the guardpost, Lieutenant.

MAC

You've got to hear me out.

GREEN

I've heard enough from you.

MAC

You don't know how he provoked me, Major.

Boutelle exits with MacFarland.

APPLEGATE

Major—

GREEN

General Canby saw the petition. He made his decision.

APPLEGATE

So did the ranchers. Tomorrow they make their move, with or without your forces.

GREEN

Stop them. I'll contact the general.

APPLEGATE

They will not wait. The savages have pushed them beyond patience.

GREEN

You must stop them.

APPLEGATE

I told them they need your men and guns to succeed. They won't listen.

GREEN

I have my orders.

APPLEGATE

General Canby does not know how bad things are. That medicine man has got the Indians all fired up with mumbo jumbo. They believe they can kill us all and get away with it.

GREEN

They haven't all gone mad.

APPLEGATE

Curly Headed Doctor's followers don't fear settlers, the Army, or anyone. Their medicine is to get rid of us.

GREEN

If settlers plan to attack such crazy Indians, they must have use of some spirit help themselves. Look. Tell them to wait a week. I'll send a report to Portland-

APPLEGATE

The plan is in motion. They'll surprise them at daybreak.

GREEN

Is every Lost River rancher in on this?

APPLEGATE

Almost all. And volunteers from Linkville. I don't know the exact number-

GREEN

That depends on how full the saloon is. You'll be lucky to get half of them on horseback. This is folly, Applegate. You know it.

APPLEGATE

This is overdue. And authorized by the Office of Indian Affairs.

GREEN

Really?

Applegate hands Green a letter.

APPLEGATE

Regulations require you "to render such military assistance as may be necessary—

BOTH

—to enable the Indian Agent to carry out his orders from Washington."

GREEN

Yes, but I can't circumvent General Canby. I could be courtmartialed—

APPLEGATE

Read it, Major.

GREEN

"I have received your report, dated the 17th ultimo, relative to the removal of the Modoc Indians to the Klamath reservation. You state that the leaders of the Modoc Indians are desperadoes, brave, daring, and reckless, who defy the authority of the government with impunity. You are directed to remove them to the Klamath reservation—peaceably if you can, forcibly if you must."

APPLEGATE

You won't be courtmartialed for enabling the Indian Agent to carry out that order.

GREEN

Not if the action succeeds.

APPLEGATE

My assurance comes from the highest authority, Major. Don't forget the election we just had.

GREEN

President Grant campaigned on a peace platform.

APPLEGATE

"Let us have peace." And we will. Influential men are ready to turn the rest of this country into grazing land. Substantial sums of money have been invested to secure the opportunity.

GREEN

Grant's campaign was greenbacked by cattlemen?

Applegate takes a dollar from his pocket.

APPLEGATE

You know, Major, this is the fodder of our country.

GREEN

All I seek is promotion as a soldier, Mr. Applegate.

APPLEGATE

I assure you, you will be serving your best interests as well as those of our nation.

GREEN

Lieutenant!

Boutelle enters.

GREEN

Tell the men to pack their gear, clean their guns, and prepare for inspection.

BOUTELLE

In my opinion, Major, we have enough men to provoke a fight but not enough to win.

GREEN

We will have civilian reinforcements.

BOUTELLE

Sir-

GREEN

Get the men ready. We must reach Lost River at dawn: when it's dark enough for the Indians to be sleeping and light enough to shoot if necessary.

Boutelle starts to go.

GREEN

O, Lieutenant. You'd better release Private MacFarland. We need that extra man.

SCENE TWO

Crickets sound in the darkness
before dawn. Captain Jack stands
outside. QUEEN MARY enters.

QUEEN MARY

What's troubling you, brother?

CAPTAIN JACK

In a vision dream I saw him.

QUEEN MARY

Did he look—?

CAPTAIN JACK

Not like the other times.

QUEEN MARY

He'll never rest.

CAPTAIN JACK

That shock of betrayal when Ben Wright pulled the rifle from
his blanket, the fury when he shot, that's not what I saw
tonight. Father looked stern as when we were young and he
made us go to the river at dawn. He pointed up, and a cloud
crossed the sky, dimming the stars—

A splash followed by a rifle shot
sounds in the distance.

QUEEN MARY

Over by Natural Bridge.

CAPTAIN JACK

Near Hooker's camp.

DISTANT VOICE

God damn it!

Captain Jack and Queen Mary look at
each other, turn, and exit in
different directions.

SCENE THREE

Boutelle, Green, and Applegate
enter the Modoc camp.

GREEN

(to soldiers offstage)

Skirmish line, men. Rifles ready.

QUEEN MARY

(enters)

I see you bring your friends today.

APPLEGATE

Where's your brother?

QUEEN MARY

Find him yourself.

Scarface and other men enter. They
carry rifles.

APPLEGATE

What do you think, Major?

GREEN

There's going to be a fight, and the sooner we open it, the
better.

(to soldiers offstage)

Aim over their heads. Prepare to shoot.

(to Boutelle)

Disarm Scarface and his men.

Captain Jack enters. Boutelle stops
in his tracks.

CAPTAIN JACK

Why do you bring soldiers? Why are men across the river
pointing guns at Hooker's camp? Are you another Ben Wright?

APPLEGATE

We do not come to fight or harm you, Jack. You are to come in
peace to Klamath Agency where by treaty you agreed to live.

CAPTAIN JACK

I will not talk to your guns.

APPLEGATE

We do not want trouble, Jack.

CAPTAIN JACK

When Ben Wright was Indian Agent he too spoke about peace. Some of us remember how he made peace—giving us a feast to thank the Great Spirit, then serving a steer spiced with poison. When we refused to eat, he and his men pulled guns out of their blankets and opened fire. Now you come in the dark and say you want peace. But you did not catch us sleeping.

APPLEGATE

The way to Fort Klamath is long. That's why we came early. Let us not think of Ben Wright or of Bloody Point, the massacre he avenged. Those pioneers traveling the Applegate Trail meant no harm to your people.

CAPTAIN JACK

I opposed the ambush though I was a child and too young for council. My father told me, be silent, but I stepped forward and stood on the rock facing my elders. I told them, "Boshtin are many, like trees on the mountain. We cannot kill them all, we must learn to live with them." Now you are everywhere and we are few. I do not want my people to die fighting. But we will live on our land and not as your captives with the Klamath.

GREEN

Let's act while we have the advantage.

APPLEGATE

I can handle this. Put down your rifle, Jack. Your men will do what you do.

CAPTAIN JACK

Why should we disarm before you and your men? I've never fought white people. I don't want to.

APPLEGATE

If you sincerely mean that, Jack, hand me your Springfield, and I promise you no one will get hurt.

Captain Jack puts his rifle on the ground.

GREEN

(to the other Modocs)

Put 'em down, one by one, right here.

Scarface puts his rifle down.

BOUTELLE

Take your pistol off and hand it over.

SCARFACE

You got my rifle. This pistol stays. I will not shoot it.

BOUTELLE

Here, Injun, give me that. Damn you, do it quick!

SCARFACE

I am no dog to be shouted at. I am a man and not afraid of you.

BOUTELLE

Son of a bitch! I'll teach you to talk back.

Boutelle and Scarface shoot simultaneously. Both miss. The Modocs grab their rifles and run offstage. Gunshots are heard from across the river.

GREEN

(to his men offstage)

Go after them! Cut 'em off!

BOUTELLE

Charge 'em hard! You are white, they are red: the darker skin gives way.

GREEN

(to Applegate)

The General's going to skin me for this.

(to Boutelle)

Take your platoon, ford the river, tell those idiots to stop shooting. Then check out every cabin from here to Bloody Point.

BOUTELLE

What about the wounded?

GREEN

I'll see to them.

Applegate exits with Boutelle. An OLD WOMAN wearing a blanket enters.

OLD WOMAN

Can you halt the wind? Can you stop the rains? Can you hold back snow or keep the ground from shaking? Nobody can do that, nobody!

SCENE FOUR

A natural fortress in the lavabeds

LIZZIE

Ben Wright camped here.

QUEEN MARY

Do not fear his shadow. Fear brings the enemy into our camp.

LIZZIE

I'll gather branches.

CAPTAIN JACK

(coming out of the cave)

No fire. Not yet. Let everyone get safely here before the bluecoats find us.

QUEEN MARY

Let us free ourselves of Boshtin ways. Starting with our names. Not Captain Jack: Kintpuash. Not Lizzie: Tule Basket Maker. I am Changing Woman from this day.

CAPTAIN JACK

Scarface Charley wears his name on his cheek.

SCARFACE

(enters)

I could not hold my heart down.

CAPTAIN JACK

You stood up to him.

SCARFACE

You were right to put down your rifle.

CAPTAIN JACK

You were right, too, cousin. Sometimes you have to do what's right no matter what comes of it.

SCARFACE

Going round the lake, I saw Boshtin and called out, "Ride for your lives!" They turned around quick.

QUEEN MARY

Why did you warn them?

SCARFACE

Hooker and his men were riding with extra horses—settlers' horses, holding their rifles high. Over by Boddy's place, I saw flames.

LIZZIE

Fire burns fast when the wind blows.

CAPTAIN JACK

Did you see Doctor?

Hooker and Bogus enter carrying a bucket, sacks of flour, and rifles.

SCARFACE

You got that from Boshtin.

BOGUS CHARLEY

When we shot Boddy, his wife came outside, screaming. I held up my hand. "We do not make war on women!"

HOOKER JIM

Then we found Miller.

CAPTAIN JACK

Miller!

SCARFACE

He was our friend.

HOOKER JIM

Boshtin are enemies! Every one of them!

BOGUS CHARLEY

They killed his wife today. And baby.

QUEEN MARY

A great sorrow. How terrible.

CAPTAIN JACK

Who did it?

BOGUS CHARLEY

Ranchers and Linkville men. They'd been hiding behind the big boulder and came out shooting. Massacred my brother's family.

Doctor's mother is dead, and Big Ike's children. They deserved what we did to them.

SCARFACE

Was Miller there?

CAPTAIN JACK

We mourn the ones we lost today. But you should not have killed Miller. Now we can never go back. Bluecoats will make of our people bones and wandering shadows.

HOOKER JIM

Better to fight like men than run like deer. We will take back our country. I am ready to die.

CAPTAIN JACK

It is easier to die than to live. You speak as one man. A man whose grief is great. I feel as you do. But I am the voice of our people. I speak for our ancestors and the not-yet-born when I say, Boshtin will come and keep coming, no matter what we do. We must not submit to them. But I will not say, let us fight and die until I am sure there is no other way.

BOGUS CHARLEY

We can fight Boshtin from these lavabeds. We can tear down their fences and drive their fat cattle into these rocks. They will never take us out of here.

SCARFACE

Even if all Boshtin are enemies, Kintpuash is right: we cannot stand against them all. You know my heart: I am ready to die. But maybe we can stop this fight. We cannot win it.

HOOKER JIM

We are few today. But if we fight, our brother Mowatocknie will come here from Hot Creek. Achumawi and Atsugewi will leave their pitted river to fight beside us. Smohalla's people will come to rid the land of Boshtin!

CAPTAIN JACK

For every band that joins us, another will side with Boshtin men and guns. You know who the Warm Springs will fight for. And the plaikni. Let us clear our mind of foolish hope. When we who stand here fall, no one will stand in our place. Now we choose our path. Where the heart of my people goes, I will go. I say only this: the coyote can't fight the grizzly and live. So will it be with us if we make war.

With an otherworldly scream, CURLY HEADED DOCTOR enters wearing hawk feathers and a bear claw necklace, brandishing a medicine pole from which a hide and feathers hang. He falls and writhes as if possessed, then slowly rises.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

The dead around Shasti peak hovering see and protect us.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Spirit speaks!

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

These rocks are ancestors who will not let us die. No Boshtin will enter this stronghold and live. No Mowatoeknie in here can be killed. Boshtin bullets will bounce back at them. My medicine reaches the sky.

Doctor shrieks. Blood pours from his mouth. He falls and writhes as if possessed, then slowly rises. Doctor removes an ugly object from his mouth and throws it far.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

What do I take from my mouth?

HOOKER & BOGUS

The pain I take from my mouth.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

What do I take out?

HOOKER & BOGUS

The pain I take out.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

What do I suck out?

HOOKER & BOGUS

The pain I suck out.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

What do I blow about?

HOOKER & BOGUS

The pain I blow about.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Pain rises into the sky. I stand on the rim of my nest enveloped in flames. What am I? What am I? I, the song, I walk here.

DOCTOR, HOOKER & BOGUS

What am I? What am I? I, the song, I walk here.

Doctor leads Scarface, Hooker & Bogus offstage.

CAPTAIN JACK

I never thought I would see this day.

QUEEN MARY

You cannot raise the skies.

LIZZIE

Strong words give the heart courage.

CAPTAIN JACK

A stick, once broken, cannot be made whole again.

SCENE FIVE

The ARMY camp near the Modoc Stronghold. Three privates, MacFarland, SVENSON and SMILEY, await the order to march into the lavabeds. Mac is playing a banjo as Applegate enters.

MAC

"We'll cover you with glory,"
Say recruiters for the cause-

APPLEGATE

They say music tames the savage beast.

MAC

I was just tuning.

APPLEGATE

You ready to fight Indians?

MAC

Had I known I'd be running natives off a pile of rocks, I'd a stayed in Ireland.

SVENSON

You shoulda stayed.

MAC

I tired of starving. Being young and full of dreams, I thought to get rich in America.

APPLEGATE

You will when we clear the land of savages.

SVENSON

Land is wealth that lasts. When I get out of the Army, I'm gonna buy me a ranch on Tule Lake.

MAC

You'll be for hire all your life.

SVENSON

The hell! I'll raise cattle. Go duck hunting when I please.

MAC

I'm no thief, to steal land for you.

SMILEY

Don't you want to shoot Moducks?

APPLEGATE

If Ireland had leprechauns like we have Indians, you'd understand that the red man and the white can't live together. By nature's law, the survival of the fittest, the red man must disappear.

MAC

You mean survival of the fattest: the law of bankers and bunkomen.

SVENSON

Watch what you're sayin'.

MAC

I'll say what I damn well please.

APPLEGATE

The strong win the struggle for existence. A deer in the tropics is no bigger than a coyote.

Go north where only the vigorous survive the rigors of winter and you find caribou. Nature selects the breed that will endure and eliminates weaklings.

MAC

The Indians are well suited to this climate.

APPLEGATE

To this climate, yes, but not to civilization; that's the point. Man is the highest form of life. We are the highest form of man. We can raise enough beef in this basin to feed California. Some day we'll ship it across the country on trains. Future generations will be in your debt when you rout the enemy, clearing the way for lasting peace and abundance. God be with you.

Applegate exits.

MAC

(plays)

"We'll cover you with glory,"
say recruiters for the cause,
"and if the fight gets gory,
we'll inter you with applause."

So stand by your glasses steady
the world's a round of lies
Hurrah for the dead already
and three cheers for the next who dies

"Shoot while the battle rages
through lava rocks and mud
and you will get your wages
of greenbacks for your blood."

So stand by your glasses steady
the world's a round of lies
Hurrah for the dead already
and three cheers for the next who dies

And so I go to battle
because an order's given
but rather would skedaddle
than send the reds to heaven

So stand by your glasses steady
the world's a round of lies

Hurrah for the dead already
and three cheers for the next who dies

SCENE SIX

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

We call on you, ancestors
In the shadow world.
Come to these rocks
so your children may live!
We call on all our relations,
Dance in our circle,
Free the land of Boshtin.

When you arrive and when we come together,
no longer can Boshtin carve the land like a carcass.

In the morning when the Earth resounds
a fog will blind and confuse all the Boshtin.
Darkness of day will fall across their eyes
As the spirits of Earth and Sky
move with us here,
spirits of our ancestors
spirits of our not-yet-born
moving with us in our circle.

On this rock the tree blossoms.
In the dark vision comes.
With one mind we are praying
For the power to live!

SCENE SEVEN

As Major Green speaks to his
troops, fog rolls across the
battlefield.

GREEN

Atten-tion!

BOUTELLE

(enters)

Sir, we took their canoes.

GREEN

Did Bernard signal?

BOUTELLE

He's in position.

GREEN

Then we're ready. Listen closely. For every Indian, there are seven of us. Follow the battleplan and we'll run them out of the lavabeds. First, a personal note. I fought Apaches for five years, and I have never seen troops in better condition for a movement against hostile Indians. Now, B and G companies are in position east of the Stronghold. You will line up in the west, with California volunteers on the left flank by the lake, the 21st infantry next, the Oregon militia here, and H Troop cavalry on the right flank. When the howitzers fire, Bernard and Jackson's men will attack from the east, meanwhile swinging south. You infantry are to advance until you engage the enemy. When you do, the cavalry will pivot, meeting B and G companies south of the Stronghold and clamping them in our vise. We will then march northward, driving Modocs into the lake so you boys can shoot them from the shoreline. Is that clear?

VOICES

Yes.

GREEN

What did you say?

VOICES

Yes, sir!

GREEN

Are you ready? Speak up, all of you.

VOICES

Yes, sir!

GREEN

Now move to your positions and knock those Indians out of their goddamn rocks. Good luck and good shooting.

BOUTELLE

Forward on the line.

VOICES

Forward on the line. Forward on the line.

BOUTELLE

Keep moving.

GREEN

I can't see a damn thing. Goddamn fog!

The sound of gunfire.

GREEN

Who the hell is that?

BOUTELLE

Bernard's opened fire.

GREEN

Too soon! He exposed his position.

VOICES

My leg's broke. Get me out of here!

GREEN

Give him cover.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Don't shoot! You're firing on your own men!

GREEN

Hold your fire!

BOUTELLE

Major, that's Bogus Charley's voice.

GREEN

Blasted bastards!

SCARFACE

What do you want boys? How long you gonna fight us?

(He fires his pistol)

What's the matter, can't you hear? Ain't you got ears?

(He shoots again)

Can't you talk? Ain't you got a mouth?

(another shot)

BOUTELLE

They got my shoulder. Jesus! That hurts! Damn it!

QUEEN MARY

You come to fight Indians and you make noise like that?

HOOKER JIM
(mocking)

Ow, ow! I'm hit!

GREEN
Knock them off that rock and get up there. Come on, men, keep moving. Go ahead, hit me, you bastards. Just try, just try it. Forward, damn you, keep moving.

A volley of fire fails to hit him.

VOICES
I'm losing blood. Come get me. Don't leave me to their knives. Get me out of here! Litter bearer, over here! Get me out of here!

SCARFACE
All you soldiermans what ain't dead yet, go home. Go home! I don't want to kill you all in one day.

ENTR'ACTE

A. B. Meacham, wearing a white bandage wrapped like a turban, pushes a cart carrying bottles of "Modoc Indian Oil."

MEACHAM
Impressive, is it not? The nobility of a Scarface Charlie and the ability of his tribe to defeat a much larger and well equipped Army. This does not surprise those of us who know the American Indian. For many years he has stood as the epitome of physical manhood. Why is this so? Why was no Indian ever known to have rheumatism, decayed teeth, or dyspepsia? It is simply because the Indian race, knowing nothing of the thousand and one drugs physicians give to their patients, employ none but Nature's remedies in the treatment of disease. In the Spring of the year when flowers bloom, trees bud, and green grasses cover the hillside, Indian women gather roots, herbs, flowers and barks. These are boiled down, and the entire tribe, young and old, drinks a potion which purifies their blood and invigorates them with the full glow of strong, healthy man and womanhood. The Indians believe it to be the Great Spirit's medicine. It has no equal. And now that Science has learned to preserve its virtues with alcohol, the civilized world can have the benefits of this wonderful medicine. Every family should have a bottle. It is a doctor in the house. Here is safe, sure, and speedy relief for all nervous and inflammatory pains.

If you are suffering from diarrhea, dysentary, or any pain of the stomach and bowels, take Modoc Indian Oil. It is certain to cure toothache in one minute, headache in five minutes, neuralgia in ten minutes, and sore throat in one night. Use it internally or externally. So if you suffer from a sour stomach, a coated, swollen tongue, a fatty covering of the eyeballs, susceptibility to chills, a constant ache midway down the backbone, a frequent headache over the eyes, a blurring of the vision, and great depression of spirits without known cause, take the Great Spirit's own cure, only eight bits a bottle: Modoc Indian Oil, the greatest medicine on Earth.

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE

The tribunal is in session.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

The proceedings will reconvene. You will now come to order! I said, 'order!' We will hear from the next witness.

Meacham enters, his head wrapped in a white bandage. Captain Jack is astonished.

CAPTAIN JACK

Meacham! He came back!

MEACHAM

Why, Jack, you surprised? Thought I was dead? You know that Jesus Christ came back, and Our Lord's wounds were more severe than mine.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Mr. Meacham, your miraculous recovery notwithstanding, we will require you to take the oath.

MEACHAM

Yes, of course. Forgive me my moment of levity.

Meacham puts his left hand on a Bible and raises his right.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Do you, sir, promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MEACHAM

I do.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

For the record, will you state your name?

MEACHAM

Alfred B. Meacham.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Are you a citizen of the United States?

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

I am.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

What position did you hold in connection with the late war with the Modocs?

MEACHAM

I was a peace commissioner.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

At the time of the event now in course of investigation, who were your associates?

MEACHAM

General Canby, of course, and Reverend Eleazer Thomas.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Did you have meetings with the Indians in the month of April last?

MEACHAM

We had two meetings: on the third, if my memory serves me correctly, and on Good Friday the eleventh.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

And where did those meetings take place?

MEACHAM

In the lavabeds in front of a tent we had pitched there in case of rain.

SCENE TWO

The lavabed negotiation grounds.
Applegate enters with General Canby
and A.B. Meacham.

CANBY

I want to express to you my regret that you have to withdraw from the Commission. It seemed to me only fitting that you take part in it.

APPLEGATE

Whoever serves the public is exposed to the sharp tongue of slander, General. And I cannot afford that. Fortunately the Commission will not suffer any lack of experience due to my absence. Mr. Meacham has a thorough understanding of the Indian character, and as a former Indian agent he knows the Modocs particularly well.

MEACHAM

I know it costs less to feed an Indian than to fight him.

CANBY

I am glad you are available to take Mr. Applegate's place.

MEACHAM

I am gratified, General, that our government, heeding the call of Christian humanity, seeks to make peaceful accommodation with those heathen savages. I am hopeful that justice and right will temper the power and might that you command.

CANBY

I applaud your sentiments, Meacham.

APPLEGATE

And I must go. I hope that Providence will shine upon your undertaking.

CANBY

Thank you, Applegate.

Applegate exits as Captain Jack,
Scarface, Hooker, and Bogus enter.

CANBY

Now we lack only Reverend Thomas. Oh, here he comes.

THOMAS

(enters)

How do you do. I have come a long way to see you and make peace.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Very good. Me no want to fight.

THOMAS

You will be a good Indian, will you not?

BOGUS CHARLEY

Yes, bully!

THOMAS

You won't lie to me and I won't lie to you.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Yes. You no gas, me no gas.

REVEREND THOMAS turns smiling to the other Commissioners. There is vigorous handshaking all around.

CAPTAIN JACK

We can make peace quick, General, if you will meet me half way. My word is good and solid as a big rock. But if your word is more than words, I will be surprised, for it will be the first time a white man stood up to his words with us.

CANBY

You will see that you are negotiating with a man of his word.

CAPTAIN JACK

Then two men have met.

CANBY

Now hear my plan for peace.

CAPTAIN JACK

You want to lay out a plan and have me agree with you?

CANBY

Why, yes.

CAPTAIN JACK

It takes two or more to agree. If you will agree to half of what my people want, we can get along fine.

CANBY

Captain Jack, I want you to understand that you are not to dictate to me. I am to make peace with you, nothing else.

CAPTAIN JACK

You should be aware of the fact that I am not your prisoner or your slave, so do not try to dictate to me either. Give me a reservation on Lost River. That's all I ask.

CANBY

Jack, I am not empowered to give you land.

CAPTAIN JACK

Then let us live in these lavabeds. White men would never want to make homes here.

MEACHAM

Jack, we cannot promise you anything until we make peace.

CAPTAIN JACK

I will not agree to anything until you agree to give me a home in my country.

MEACHAM

You could never get along with the white people in this country. There has been blood spilt by your people, Jack.

CAPTAIN JACK

And blood spilt by your people, Meacham.

CANBY

We are not here to talk about what happened in the past. We are here to talk of peace.

MEACHAM

Yes, but after what they did to innocent settlers, people around here are afraid. We've got to consider that.

CANBY

No matter what has happened, the point is this: you Indians have got to come under the white man's law. Our law is for all people. So get your people together and lead them out of these rocks holding a white flag-

MEACHAM

A white flag means peace.

CANBY

-and no one will hurt you.

THOMAS

We want to help you so we can all live in peace.

CAPTAIN JACK

If you want to help us, let us live here in our country. We will harm no one.

THOMAS

Brother Jack, God sent me here to make peace with you. We are going to do it, I know. All we have to do is trust God, who sees and hears everything, and everything will come around all right.

CAPTAIN JACK

Brother Thomas, what good does it do to trust God when I can't trust these men in brass buttons?

CANBY

What have these brass buttons done to you?

CAPTAIN JACK

They came to our camp at night. At dawn, they fired at us.

MEACHAM

Your men killed settlers, innocent settlers.

CAPTAIN JACK

Do you say we are not to live in our country because our men killed some settlers?

CANBY

If you give up the men who murdered the settlers, we might make arrangements for you to stay in your country. I can't promise, but-

CAPTAIN JACK

Will you give up to us the men who shot our people?

CANBY

Jack, you have no law. Only one law can live at a time.

CAPTAIN JACK

Here's what I'll do. I will give up my men who killed settlers to be tried by your law if you will try the men who shot our people by your law.

Hooker and Bogus look at Captain Jack with astonishment, then at each other. Bogus is about to speak, but Hooker quiets him.

CANBY

I'm afraid that what you suggest is impossible. Your people were killed in a military engagement; that doesn't come under civilian law.

CAPTAIN JACK

My men killed settlers after your men attacked us. If in time of war you can do anything, so can we. Only one law can live at a time, you say.

MEACHAM

It is getting late. I think we had better quit for the day. Maybe in our next council we will come to terms.

THOMAS

We will surely reach an agreement, with God's help.

SCARFACE

And brass buttons. I see you move in troops and supplies while you pretend to talk peace. Your soldiers are not here for a good purpose.

THOMAS

Oh, don't let them scare you, brother.

SCARFACE

Don't worry, preacher man, I ain't scared. But next meeting, there be no soldiers, just peace talkers, unarmed.

CAPTAIN JACK

Yes, or there will be no meeting.

CANBY

Agreed.

General Canby and Captain Jack shake hands.

CANBY

When you are ready for our next council, let us know.

The Commissioners go into the tent. The Modocs argue as they leave the council grounds.

HOOKER JIM

You know they'll hang us!

CAPTAIN JACK

I won't give you up. I said, if they tried those men who fired on your village, who killed your family, then I would let my men be tried for killing Boshtin. Do you think they will ever try a white man who killed an Indian?

BOGUS CHARLEY

Then why did you say it?

CAPTAIN JACK

To show the lie. To show them I see the lies they hide behind.

HOOKER JIM

You'd give us up to end this war.

CAPTAIN JACK

I could give up a horse and I wouldn't cry about it. I can't give up my men. I won't.

Scarface exits with Hooker and Bogus. LIZZIE enters to escort Captain Jack back to the Stronghold.

LIZZIE

What happened?

CAPTAIN JACK

They want us to surrender.

LIZZIE

What will you do?

CAPTAIN JACK

I thought Canby and I could talk. But he spoke with two tongues. It's easy to make war. Making peace is what's difficult.

SCENE THREE

The lavabed stronghold

BOGUS CHARLEY

There's nothing to talk to them about. We'll fight until they go away.

CAPTAIN JACK

We must show them we're not leaving these rocks. They don't want this. They don't want more of their men to die.

HOOKER JIM

They want us to die. They want you to give us to their ropes.

CAPTAIN JACK

I said I'd do that only when Boshtin who killed our people got punished. That will never happen.

HOOKER JIM

You'll deal with Canby and let us be hanged.

CAPTAIN JACK

I will not. They must let us all live or we will keep on fighting them.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Bluecoats move big guns with fireballs the size of a man's head as near as they can get to our Stronghold while they say they're making peace. That strengthens them and weakens us. That's what we get by talking to them.

CAPTAIN JACK

General Canby didn't want this war. He wants peace. We have to show him that letting us live here is the price of peace.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Your father trusted Ben Wright. Now you trust General Canby. Have you learned nothing? Are you too afraid to do what you have to do?

HOOKER JIM

No more talk! Let us kill them in council.

CAPTAIN JACK

I cannot agree with you.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Next time you meet Canby, kill him. I will shoot Meacham.

HOOKER JIM

And I that crow in preacher's clothes.

CAPTAIN JACK

They will destroy us if we do that. You see how many men they have out there.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Shoot the first goose of a flock, does the flock not scatter? Shoot General Canby and his men will run. Then they will know we walk without fear. Our dance protects us all. My medicine turns their bullets into air; yes, even their fireballs will bounce back, so powerful is my medicine. You saw how none of us got killed in battle, but still you do not see. These rocks are our ancestors. They fight beside us. They will not let us be driven from the land!

CAPTAIN JACK

I say to kill General Canby in council is a coward's act. I will not do to Canby what Ben Wright did to my father.

HOOKER JIM

A coward talks when it is time to fight. It is brave to show you dare do anything. Be a man. Kill Canby!

CAPTAIN JACK

I cannot promise—

HOOKER JIM

You coward! You fish-hearted woman!

Hooker grabs Lizzie's basket cap and puts it on Captain Jack's head. Bogus wraps him with a shawl as they fling him to the ground. As Captain Jack tries to rise, they trip and taunt him.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Look at you. Just like a woman.

HOOKER JIM

Kill Canby or be killed yourself.

Scarface intervenes and helps Captain Jack to his feet.

CAPTAIN JACK

We will not attack the commissioners until they do something wrong. They promised no one shall be hurt in time of council. I promised we would commit no war act. Let us show that we hold to our word. Do not make me act in fear and shame.

If you love our people, think what killing Canby will bring down on us.

SCARFACE

Your talk is good, but it is too late for talk.

CAPTAIN JACK

Who wants me to kill him?

Every warrior except for Scarface
steps away from Captain Jack and
toward Doctor.

CAPTAIN JACK

I see you do not love life or anything else. Then hear me: if Canby refuses to let us live in our country—and I will ask him again—only then will I commit the coward's act. But if he says here we may live, or by Lost River, or near Hot Creek, I will not kill him. Do you hear me?

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

As lightning strikes and fire devours the hillside, we will fight 'til all the Boshtin flee. Then we will leave these caves where our children freeze. Surely as the stars turn, the way that has been chosen is the best.

All but Captain Jack exit.

CAPTAIN JACK

I feel lost and among strangers. My heart tells me I might as well talk to the wind, and I cannot keep my heart down. Life is sweet, life is strong. Man fights to save his life; only with a clear heart should he kill. The heart must be pure to shoot deer on a hillslope. To kill a man, one must walk right in the eyes of men. That is our way. Is it better to kill a man than to trust a man and take a chance he may kill you? Father, tell me. If you had killed Ben Wright, would you be alive today? Would I? Would any Mowatocknie? Was it not better for us that you were killed than that you killed him? But how can I as leader say it is better to die than to take life wrongly?

Lizzie and Queen Mary enter.

QUEEN MARY

Brother.

CAPTAIN JACK

I have thrown away my country.

QUEEN MARY

Do not let them think you are a coward. Do not let Curly Headed Doctor lead us. Show that your heart is with his. Tell Doctor you want to be with our father, that you want to ask him what to do.

CAPTAIN JACK

I told them I would give Canby one more chance to change his mind. Then, if he still refuses... But he will, I know it.

QUEEN MARY

And then...

CAPTAIN JACK

I have to kill him.

QUEEN MARY

Tell Doctor to help you find Father's spirit. Tell him you're preparing yourself for that last council. Doctor will believe you are getting ready to avenge Father's death. Then he and the others will let you lead us.

CAPTAIN JACK

To destruction.

QUEEN MARY

Not if Canby is afraid to meet with you. Or if he decides he'd better do what you say.

CAPTAIN JACK

How do we bring fear inside his camp? He doesn't fear us. He wants us to give up without killing more bluecoats.

QUEEN MARY

Wild Gal was in the bluecoat camp. You know what one man gave for a feel of her flesh? Balls to blow his heart out! That man thinks the war is over. Canby must think we are afraid and don't believe we can win. He has to know he's wrong. Let the commissioners find out we won't surrender, that we'll kill Canby if he won't let us stay in our country. Maybe then they'll give in.

CAPTAIN JACK

How will they find that out?

QUEEN MARY

Convince the men you're ready to kill Canby. I will turn the Boshtins' heads. I can do it.

She exits.

LIZZIE

Don't talk to Doctor. You won't fool him. His medicine is powerful.

CAPTAIN JACK

Do you believe he brings spirits back from the dead? Do you believe these rocks were fighting beside us? That a medicine shield kept bullets away from our stronghold?

LIZZIE

He has powers.

Captain Jack takes a spent bullet
from his pocket.

CAPTAIN JACK

Look at this. I found it over there. The bullets hit all right. Bluecoats couldn't aim them because of fog. That's why none of us was killed. No man can turn bullets away. No man brings back the dead. The spirit people leave among the living is all that remains. And I know my father's spirit. I will not follow it. He wanted to kill Boshtin at Bloody Point. He brought Ben Wright against us. Vengeance is a plague. I will not spread it further.

LIZZIE

Then don't tell Doctor you seek your father's spirit.

CAPTAIN JACK

I will show that I walk within the circle.

LIZZIE

You say where the heart of our people goes you will go. But where is that heart taking us?

CAPTAIN JACK

You said enough.

Lizzie goes back into the cave.
Captain Jack starts gathering
stones and putting them into a wide
circle. Doctor enters.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

What are you doing?

CAPTAIN JACK

Bringing back the spirits of those who died at Ben Wright's deadly feast.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Why do you want that?

CAPTAIN JACK

Only then can I do what I must do.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Good then. Make yourself ready. I will help you.

Doctor pulls a feather from the
medicine pole and holds it between
them.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Here I stand in this valley of many voices
by bones and wandering shadows.
Feather of Medicine Hawk,
skin of white deer,
come into our hearts.
Enter our heads and help us think.
Enter our eyes, help us see.
Enter our ears so we may hear.
Enter our arms and make us strong.

Doctor hands the feather to Captain
Jack. He gathers sticks and places
them at the center of the circle of
stones.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Bones, come to life
and dance a spiraling path
toward Shasti mountain.
What, you would rather be bones?
The spirits of bones and not the bones of spirits?
Ha, I have you now! Stop struggling.
With you I will people the upper world.

Doctor throws the 'bones' in the
four directions.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

You are Shasti, people of the sacred mountain.
You are Klamath, people of the sacred lake.
People of the Pitted River, you are warriors.
Mowatocknie, you are bravest of all.
Here by the lake of tule reeds

when many and many enemies oppose you
remember: the power is here!

CAPTAIN JACK

What must I do?

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Go past the stronghold ridge into the pit where that big-horned ram skull stares through its sockets. Speak there to your father. You will find him. He will give you vision. You will see the earth roll into a ball and swallow the Boshtin. You will feel the heart of our people pounding through your ribs. You will know the power is here, the power to live!

SCENE FOUR

APRIL 11, 1873. THE ARMY CAMP IN
THE LAVABEDS. GENERAL CANBY ENTERS.
REVEREND THOMAS GREETES HIM.

THOMAS

General, I have good news. As this Good Friday dawned I was kneeling on a crevice praying for peace when-

CANBY

You were out in the lavabeds alone?

THOMAS

One needs no escort to pray, General. The rising sun cast radiance like the blood of Our Lord on clouds so high above the mountains and our humble struggle here below that I could not but marvel. I knelt then and prayed when suddenly Bogus Charley appeared as if to answer my prayer. He said his people will meet with us today. They ask only that to show our good faith, we come unarmed.

CAPTAIN JACK

Today is fine with me. Of course we'll have to see what Meacham says. Lieutenant.

BOUTELLE

(enters)

Yes, sir.

CANBY

Tell Meacham to join us.

BOUTELLE

Right away, sir.

Boutelle exits.

THOMAS

Do you know what Bogus told me, General? "God has put a new fire into our hearts."

CANBY

I hope it's true.

THOMAS

The redemption of one sinner matters more to Our Lord than the salvation of a multitude of righteous men. For their fate is ordained, while-

CANBY

From a layman's point of view, Reverend, this Modoc change of heart, if they mean it, shows that our strategy is paying off: talk peace but keep the pressure on; move in more men, more guns; let them see the new tents, the nearly thousandman force, the mortars, the howitzers. Little by little they realize we are strong beyond their power to resist. So without invoking Providence, I have reason to hope they have seen the light and will come to terms with us. Whatever the state of their souls, it is in their interest to give in.

THOMAS

I have always believed, General, that one man with faith is stronger than a hundred with interest only.

CANBY

Yes indeed. Ah, here comes Meacham.

MEACHAM

(enters)

Don't tell me: they want to "make peace." I know all about it. I was informed that they mean to kill us all.

CANBY

Who gave you that information?

MEACHAM

A squaw who was very frightened but had to tell me.

CANBY

That was a threat. Anything that may make us lose our nerve and back down, they're sure to try.

MEACHAM

I really don't think she would-

CANBY

Consider the possibility that I am right.

MEACHAM

Of course, General. Did the Indians ask that we arrive unarmed?

THOMAS

Why, yes. We already agreed-

MEACHAM

Well, there I draw the line. I'm not going without a gun. General, don't you see? It's so obvious what they intend.

CANBY

I understand how they must feel with our forces half a mile away. They don't trust us, and going with open hands is the best way I know to win them over. But you have nothing to fear. Look over towards Signal Rock. That fieldglass has been watching the trail all morning; it will keep strict watch over our council. Our men are prepared to move at once if necessary.

MEACHAM

Gentlemen, my cool, deliberate opinion is that if we go to talk peace today, we will be carried back, cut to pieces, tonight.

THOMAS

Our agreement is to go unarmed. We must be faithful to our compact, Meacham, and leave the outcome in the hands of God.

MEACHAM

God does not drop down revolvers just when you need them.

CANBY

Do you really think a handful of men will attack us when they're surrounded by a thousand soldiers?

MEACHAM

They beat us in battle; they are not going to surrender. They are desperate and they are dangerous.

THOMAS

Brother Meacham, we are going to make peace, not war. God did not send us to do so noble a work with so evil an end in prospect.

MEACHAM

Promise me this at least: if they appear threatening, agree to their demands. Say anything rather than give them cause-

CANBY

Mr. Meacham, I have had more or less connection with the Indian service for thirty years, and I have never made a promise that could not be carried out nor have I ever acted contrary to my word. It is because of false promises that Indians have no confidence in white men. Besides, to go armed contrary to our compact might jeopardize our lives. If they became aware in any way that one of us concealed a weapon, they would assume treachery on our part, and even if we remained unharmed, our mission would surely fail. Well, Captain Jack must be getting tired of waiting. Let us go before he changes his mind.

SCENE FIVE

THE COMMISSIONERS MEET CAPTAIN JACK, BOGUS, HOOKER, AND SCARFACE ON THE COUNCIL GROUNDS. MEACHAM REMOVES HIS COAT AND PLACES IT WITHIN REACH.

CANBY

My friends, my heart feels good today. I know you better every time we meet. When I was a young man, I moved a band of Mikasuki from their old home in Florida to a new one. They did not like me at first, but when they got to know me, they made me a chief and gave me a name that means Friend of the Indian. Many years later when I visited them, they were glad to see me. I have no doubt that someday you people will like me as those Indians did and receive me as kindly.

CAPTAIN JACK

Take the soldiers away and then we will thank you.

CANBY

Those soldiers won't shoot you. But if you act mean and won't listen to me and these men, maybe the Great Father will say, "My soldiers, get Captain Jack and all his people out of the lava beds". And if you kill those soldiers, the Great Father will send more. Now, best thing you can do is come out of these rocks with me. What do you say, Jack; you understand everything now. What I say is law; that is, if you and I can agree.

Captain Jack draws a line with a stick.

CAPTAIN JACK

General Canby, the agreements you make are straight as a rattlesnake. We made a compact to commit no war act while we counceled. Have I made any act of war?

CANBY

No, nor have I.

CAPTAIN JACK

You moved troops closer to our stronghold. You brought howitzers and many more soldiers toward our camp. You steal our horses. Is that peace? Your word is no good. Take away your soldiers; take those big guns away; then we talk peace.

CANBY

The Great Father will send them away once we make peace.

THOMAS

Much trouble and blood would be saved if we opened our hearts. We are all children of one Father. He sees all we do. Our hearts are open to Him. We are good men. We do not want more blood shed. Let us be your friends.

Hooker Jim grabs Meacham's coat.

HOOKER JIM

Me Old Man Meacham now. Do I look like Old Man Meacham?

MEACHAM

Here, Hooker, put my hat on. Then you'll be Meacham.

HOOKER JIM

I get hat purty quick, you keep awhile.

MEACHAM

Well, give me the coat for now. I'm feeling cold.

CAPTAIN JACK

General Canby, do you agree to what I ask or not? Take your soldiers away or promise me a home in my country. Now is your chance, Canby.

MEACHAM

General, for heaven's sake, promise him!

CANBY

I'm sorry, I am not authorized-

CAPTAIN JACK

Let us go back to Lost River. Let us live by Hot Creek. Give us these rocks for our home. Canby, these rocks!

CANBY

I'll tell you what: I will ask the Great Father-

CAPTAIN JACK

Do you think we are so fearful we will surrender for a promise? Treachery will not work for you, lying Boshtin! Ot-we-kau-tux! [All ready]

CANBY

Jack, what does this mean?

CAPTAIN JACK

No more words!

Captain Jack shoots Canby. Bogus fires at Thomas.

THOMAS

Bogus, don't shoot any more.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Why doesn't God help you?

THOMAS

Have mercy, have mercy on me.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Your medicine's weak, preacherman.

Thomas expires. Bogus takes his coat. Meacham pulls a pistol from his coat pocket, but it doesn't fire.

MEACHAM

Blast! Half-cocked!

Hooker shoots him. Meacham falls. Hooker strips Meacham down to his red flannels.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Bluecoats! Hurry!

The Modocs run off. Meacham staggers to his feet.

MEACHAM

Don't shoot! Don't shoot! I'm a white man!

ACT FOUR

SCENE ONE

AT FORT KLAMATH BETWEEN SESSIONS OF
THE TRIBUNAL.

GREEN

We could hang him today. The scaffold is almost done.

HASBROUCK

The structure won't hold yet. There's a piece missing.

GREEN

It's perfectly well built.

HASBROUCK

But our case isn't.

GREEN

Our case is complete. No one doubts that Captain Jack killed Canby. He has no defense.

HASBROUCK

I overheard him asking Meacham to be his advocate.

GREEN

Meacham refused of course.

HASBROUCK

Of course.

GREEN

Were he to defend Jack, everyone would think Meacham was scalped of his brains.

HASBROUCK

Yes, but in effect Meacham gave Jack a defense whether someone argues the Indian's case or not.

GREEN

His testimony—

HASBROUCK

—was completely unconvincing. For one thing, Meacham said he only heard the shots that killed the general. He was too busy fumbling for his revolver! So we have no witness who saw the fatal moment. And even had Meacham witnessed it, we must take into account that story about Hooker Jim and Bogus Charley forcing their chief to assassinate the general.

GREEN

That doesn't exonerate him. What are you driving at?

HASBROUCK

How do we explain the fact that Hooker Jim and Bogus Charley are walking unguarded around the fort, free to come and go as they please, even though they are accused of murdering settlers, even though they were among those who attacked the Peace Commissioners? If we're going to hang Captain Jack, we should hang them as well.

GREEN

We won't do that.

HASBROUCK

Why not?

GREEN

Let's just say we're honoring an agreement.

HASBROUCK

You know, I think Canby really wanted to help those savages.

SCENE TWO

DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF APRIL
12, 1873, MORTAR SHELLS BOMBARD THE
STRONGHOLD.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Stay in the cave, people. Don't let those bluecoats frighten you. They cannot hurt us in these rocks. My medicine makes the thundergun balls bounce back at them.

SCARFACE

You said they would scatter like geese.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

They will, but not right away. Boshtin are people who don't act like people. They have things that tell them what to do. When they see that their things can't help them anymore, they'll be too frightened to fight and will run away.

LIZZIE

What are you talking about?

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Three things control them: the cross, the book, and the gun. The cross is the god who told them to take the land; the book holds their ancestors who tell them how to live; and the gun makes those who do not do what they say disappear. But their god cannot help them here; their book does not tell them how to live with us; and their guns do not hurt us. Thanks to my medicine, they are the ones who must disappear.

QUEEN MARY

You do not know why they came or what they will do.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

I know better than to be afraid of Boshtin.

HOOKER JIM

(enters)

They've blocked our way to the lake.

LIZZIE

How will we get water?

SCARFACE

If they got men this close, they're coming in here.

The loudest explosion yet frightens everyone but Doctor.

CAPTAIN JACK

(enters)

We can't stay any longer. We must leave this stronghold. Let's gather food and weapons and go south through the crevice.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

They can't hurt us in here. Don't let your fear control you, Kintpuash.

CAPTAIN JACK

I fear nothing now. I'm not afraid of death or your medicine, Doctor!

SCARFACE

I'll take men to the north and make noise. Bluecoats will think we're defending our people there.

BOGUS CHARLEY

(enters)

Shacknasty got killed.

HOOKER JIM

What happened?

BOGUS CHARLEY

He tried to get the powder out of a fireball. With an axe. His body's in the big pit.

QUEEN MARY

(to DOCTOR)

You said no Modoc would die. These rocks no longer protect us.

SCARFACE

Anyone who wants to make noise at the bluecoats, come with me.

Scarface goes, followed by Hooker and Bogus.

CAPTAIN JACK

Whoever wants to walk out of here now, come with me. We're going to head up the canyon near Willow Creek. We'd better be careful no one gets hurt or lost.

Captain Jack leaves with Queen Mary
and Lizzie.

CURLY HEADED DOCTOR

Where are you, my power?
Why do you not come?
My heart dries up.
I cannot get rid of this bitterness.

Through the wind I call you.
Answer my heart.
I run down the mountain
like howling wind.

Where are you, my power?
I am a head only.
I remember everything
But know not what to do.

Doctor goes. Hooker and Bogus
enter.

BOGUS CHARLEY

What are you going to do?

HOOKER JIM

We can't stay here. Now that we killed that general-

BOGUS CHARLEY

Kintpuash killed him. Our leader made us do it.

HOOKER JIM

Why do you speak like that?

BOGUS CHARLEY

The bluecoats want his head. They will need trackers to find him.

HOOKER JIM

Are you not a warrior?

BOGUS CHARLEY

Bluecoats can save our lives.

HOOKER JIM

Bluecoats will hang us high for what we've done.

BOGUS CHARLEY

Remember what Miller said? Their people do what people on top of them say. The general's death is what they care about now. They'll hang Kintpuash for killing Canby. And they'll help us if we turn him in. You'll see. We pay their price and live.

HOOKER JIM

I will fight and die.

BOGUS CHARLEY

I followed you to Lost River. I will not follow you this time.

HOOKER JIM

Bluecoats will be here soon. You do what you want.

Hooker goes. Hearing soldiers nearby, Bogus follows him.

SCENE THREE

SOLDIERS ENTER THE STRONGHOLD.

VOICES

Watch out! Do you see them? Careful, they might be in ambush. Look out! Hold your fire, it's me. Stay where we can see you, stupid ass!

BOUTELLE

They're not playing possum. They're gone. Not an Indian in sight.

GREEN

The Stronghold is ours. Take that weird stick with feathers down. No, wait.

SMILEY

Don't that beat the Devil and the Dutch?

Green ties a flag to the medicine stick.

MAC

Those Indians sure are superstitious.

GREEN

Let's hear it: For General Canby and the flag!

SOLDIERS

For General Canby and the flag!

GREEN

Remember General Canby!

SOLDIERS

Remember General Canby!

BOUTELLE

This is his victory.

GREEN

Where do you think they went?

SVENSON

You don't suppose they're in one of those lava tubes?

MAC

Those things have no way out. They're not fools.

GREEN

I bet they're still in the lavabeds. Tell Captain Matson to lead E Company southwest to that butte to see if there's any sign of them.

BOUTELLE

Yes, sir.

GREEN

I'll set up camp here. Last thing we want is to let them come back between these walls. Cochise would still be fighting if he had this place. I chased Apaches all through Arizona, but this whacks anything I ever saw.

SCENE FOUR

THE LAVABEDS. SOUNDS OF BATTLE.
PRIVATE MACFARLAND IS ON WATCH.

MAC

In truth it is a gallant sight
To see a thousand men of might
With guns and cannon, day and night
Bombard a band of Indians.

For every foot of lavabed
We throw a pound of hissing lead
A ton for every Modoc head
We blast in battery

God bless us if we kill them all
The men and women, great and small
And not a babe is left to squall
Its hatred of our victory

For we're the true Americans
Inheritors of all that's grand
We've conquered Freedom's native land
O say, can you see?

SMILEY

(enters)

E Company's going to need some help. Warriors were at the
butte waiting in ambush. One of our men got away.

MAC

One man? And the rest?

SMILEY

Dead or wounded.

MAC

Bloody hell!

SMILEY

I've got to report to the lieutenant. You're on extended
watch.

MAC

Is the Army deserting me? I always thought it would be the
other way around.

SMILEY

Here's extra ammunition. Keep an eye on the big pit. They might come back for the cattle they stole.

MAC

Don't worry. They won't steal any cows out from under me.

Smiley exits.

MAC

Chief Captain Jack got off his back
And let the Modocs through a crack
And now they're making rapid tracks
Across the lava flow

The Army saved the day again
The night belongs to Modoc men
And now there is no telling when
The savages will show

At least we've got them on the run
And soon the rule of ball and gun
Will make the Modoc Indian
Submit to state control

For we're the true Americans
Inheritors of all that's grand
We'll conquer Freedom's native land
O say can you see?

For we're the true Americans
Inheritors of all that's grand
We'll conquer Freedom's native land
The home of the braves!

SCENE FIVE

ARMY FIELD HEADQUARTERS

APPLEGATE

Look at this headline, Colonel: ARMY ROUTED, MODOCS STILL AT LARGE. Never have I known such an ignominious enterprise.

GREEN

We lost one company on reconnaissance, a terrible loss, but there was no rout of the Army, I assure you-

APPLEGATE

It's been six months and a half million dollars, and you have lost sixty lives, including General Canby, while the Modocs have the run of the countryside. If this goes on much longer, we will have a conflagration to contend with, an Indian uprising throughout the Northwest.

GREEN

Don't worry, Applegate. The Indians have won every battle, but they'll lose the war. They can't keep hiding, feed all those people, and fight at the same time.

APPLEGATE

Indians are used to living on little food.

GREEN

Had they been fed adequately, they would still be at Klamath Agency, and none of those lives—

APPLEGATE

Now that you have so brilliantly dispersed them into the hills, they are surely dining with the Paiutes and the Pit Rivers.

GREEN

Those scattered tribes won't unite any more than the Chinese will join the Mexicans in Sacramento Valley.

APPLEGATE

Why aren't your Indians tracking them down?

GREEN

They tracked them into the mountains. But some warriors fired on them and made them retreat. I have complete confidence in my scouts, but it will take time.

APPLEGATE

We don't have time! Don't you realize, correspondents from London and New York are telling the world about the martyr General Canby and that cunning warrior Captain Jack.

GREEN

I know. They're on me like flies.

APPLEGATE

How do you think that looks in the War Department, in the White House? Do you think your superiors are saying, don't worry about losing a battle, we'll win the war?

Do you think President Grant is touting the success of his peace policy? Colonel, if you fail to bring this war to an immediate and successful conclusion-

Boutelle enters with Hooker and Bogus.

BOUTELLE

They want a word with you, Colonel.

SCENE SIX

IN THE MOUNTAINS NORTH OF THE LAVABEDS.

LIZZIE

Listen: water. We're near Willow Creek.

QUEEN MARY

At the canyon of many caves we'll rest.

LIZZIE

And gather roots and piñon seeds. We've not had piñon seeds for months.

Scarface enters with ROCK DAVE

QUEEN MARY

You got here quickly, cousin.

SCARFACE

We hurried after you.

CAPTAIN JACK

(enters)

Was anyone caught or killed?

LIZZIE

Doctor went off on his own.

SCARFACE

What about Hooker and Bogus?

QUEEN MARY

Aren't they with you?

SCARFACE

Who's covering the trail?

HOOKER JIM

(enters with Bogus Charley)

The bluecoats say they won't hurt us if we make peace.

CAPTAIN JACK

You made me kill General Canby. Now you talk like him.

BOGUS CHARLEY

We are protecting our people.

QUEEN MARY

You have turned on us, bird-hearted men!

LIZZIE

May dogshit cling nastily to you!

BOGUS CHARLEY

Be glad we have not left this work to the bluecoats. You still have a chance to live if you do the right thing.

CAPTAIN JACK

I am no fool. Your word is as crooked as theirs. I could have given you up but would not betray my men. Who now are slaves for the bluecoats!

HOOKER JIM

That's no way to talk to your friends.

CAPTAIN JACK

Sometimes a man gets blind and shoots his friends. But I am not blind today.

BOUTELLE

(Boutelle enters, his rifle aimed at Captain Jack)

Surrender, Jack, and no one will get hurt.

CAPTAIN JACK

Go ahead, shoot. A bullet kills quick.

ACT FIVE

SCENE ONE

THE TRIBUNAL ROOM. THE JUDGE-
ADVOCATE ENTERS.

GREEN

Are you ready to wrap it up?

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

We have one more witness.

GREEN

There is no other witness.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Colonel, we don't want the non-hostile Indians in camp to think our legal procedures are a mask for naked force.

GREEN

Who will you put on the stand?

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

One of their own.

HASBROUCK

All rise. Everyone rise.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

This session will come to order. Bring the prisoner in.

A GUARD brings Captain Jack into
court.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

I now call our next witness to the stand. Come forward,
Hooker Jim.

CAPTAIN JACK

Now you come to talk against me. I see you're learning to be
Boshtin.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

If the prisoner does not hold his peace, he will have to
leave the courtroom.

CAPTAIN JACK

Dear are his kin, but nearer is his neck.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Guard!

CAPTAIN JACK

I'll hold my peace. I've been holding it a long time.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Step forward, Hooker Jim. Help him with the oath, Captain.

Hooker looks puzzled as CAPTAIN
HASBROUCK puts his left hand on the
Bible.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and
nothing but the truth, so help you God?

HASBROUCK

Say, 'I do.'

CAPTAIN JACK

Watch out. That's what Boshtin say when they get married.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

I won't warn you again, Captain Jack. If you want an
opportunity to speak, you will be recognized in due course,
but not before. Let the witness be informed that the oath,
which is required by law, ensures the truthfulness of
testimony. With the left hand one swears on the Book because
the Book was written by the Great Spirit who watches you and
will punish you if you do not tell the truth. With the right
hand one swears before the law because the law is also
watching you and will punish you if you perjure yourself. Is
that clear? Now you must swear.

HASBROUCK

Swear!

HOOKER JIM

God damn it!

HASBROUCK

Say, 'I swear.'

HOOKER JIM

(confused)

Okay.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Good. You will now answer truthfully the following questions.
What is your name?

HOOKER JIM

Hooker Jim.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Very good. Were you present when General Canby was killed?

HOOKER JIM

Yes.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Did you know that he and the other Peace Commissioners were
to be killed?

HOOKER JIM

Yes.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

How did you know that the Peace Commissioners were to be
killed?

HOOKER JIM

I heard Captain Jack talking about it.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Where were you when you heard this?

HOOKER JIM

At Captain Jack's cave in the Stronghold.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

And you heard Captain Jack advocate the killing of the Peace
Commissioners?

HOOKER JIM

Yes.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

That is all. The witness may step down.

CAPTAIN JACK

I have questions for him. Why did you force me to kill Canby?
Why did you hunt me down?

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Captain Jack—

CAPTAIN JACK

Why do you give him freedom for treachery?

JUDGE-ADVOCATE

Captain Jack, the case against you has been presented in full. You have the right to speak if you choose to do so.

CAPTAIN JACK

No white man can say I objected to their coming to my country. I was always willing to let them live here. When I was young I considered myself the same as a white man and had a few friends who gave me passes and good advice. But my white friends are not here today. I have always dealt upright and honest with everybody. When soldiers came to Lost River and started the fight, I did not know why they were mad at me. After the attack I went into the lavabeds. I did not think Hooker and Bogus would kill settlers when they went around the lake. I never told them to kill anyone. They wanted to fight white people, not me. I am not like one of your leaders who makes his men do what he says. My people would not listen to me. Yes, I shot Canby. I was forced to do it by those men who gave themselves up and ran me down. I see no crime in my heart. I thought I would die fighting you. You drove me from mountain to valley, from valley to mountain like a wounded deer. Now you got me here. Do not treat my young people badly because of what I did. The government ought to care for my young people. See the good land and the size of the country you have taken away from us. If I wanted to talk more I could open the eyes of all of you to the murders of our people by white men. Not one man was ever punished for those killings. You can shoot any Indian any time you want to whether we are at war or living in peace. I charge you with murder, not once but many times. When Ben Wright killed over forty of my people, he was praised for his crime. We were holding a peace meeting, and he killed all those people, my father was one of them, and Boshtin in Yreka gave Wright a fine dinner and a big dance in his honor and named him Indian Agent. Now here I am. Killed one man who was pretending to talk peace with me. My own warriors forced me to do it, I did not want to. The law says, hang him. He is nothing but an Indian anyhow. We can kill them any time for nothing, but this one has done something, so let him hang. I see that I have no chance. My days are gone. So now I quit talking.

SCENE TWO

A DRUMBEAT BEGINS. CAPTAIN JACK IS LED TO THE GALLOWS. SOLDIERS FORCE THE MODOCS TO WITNESS HIS EXECUTION. APPLGATE, MEACHAM, AND GREEN ARE AMONG THE SPECTATORS.

APPLGATE

Congratulations, Colonel.

GREEN

We fought hard for this day.

APPLGATE

Especially you. It's not official yet, but you're up for a Congressional Medal of Honor.

GREEN

I'm overwhelmed!

MEACHAM

Congratulations! This is a great day for all of us, a red-letter day as it were. May history record that from this time forth we had peace with the Indian.

APPLGATE

That could be, if the other tribes see the writing on the wall.

MEACHAM

I hear the Indians will be marched to the train station.

GREEN

President Grant ordered that the Modocs be scattered, their name no longer heard. By merging their members into other tribes he intends to teach all the other hostiles a lesson.

MEACHAM

Poor devils.

APPLGATE

People naturally have sympathy with the savages when they live far away from them. Considering what you've been through, Meacham, your feelings are quite admirable. We need sympathy, God knows, but channeled in the right direction. We must win public opinion to the justness of our cause.

GREEN

There is only one way to make peace, Meacham. Only one way.

SCENE THREE

AS CAPTAIN JACK REACHES THE FOOT OF
THE GALLOWS, A CHAPLAIN MEETS HIM.

CHAPLAIN

Christ came for his red children as well as for his white children, Captain Jack. If they refuse to accept Him, the Great Spirit will send them to a bad place. But Jack, you need not fear to die. I believe that you are going to a good place.

CAPTAIN JACK

Is that so?

CHAPLAIN

If you accept Christ as your Savior, you will never want for anything. God will provide.

CAPTAIN JACK

Do you like your heaven, preacherman?

CHAPLAIN

Oh yes, it is beautiful.

CAPTAIN JACK

I tell you what: you can take my place.

CHAPLAIN

Oh no, I couldn't!

CAPTAIN JACK

Yes you could. Go for me to your good place and I will give you twenty head of horses to go with you. I don't want to die today.

CHAPLAIN

My time will come soon enough, Jack. Peace be with you.

A soldier places Captain Jack on
the scaffold.

CHAPLAIN

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Captain Jack is hanged. The funereal drumbeat resumes as soldiers march the Modocs, who are chained, offstage.