

ACT I

Scene 4

Between the Lions Trafalgar Square early morning fog. As Norris is frozen like Obi-Wan Kenobi in his robe plus now holding a broken toy lightsaber that has been duck taped back together. Shell and Reese Anne enters behind him, but Reese Anne stops to watch Norris.

SHELL

Come along.

Shell points at Norris

SHELL

Ignore the numpty fella, bent as a nine-bob note that one.

Norris pulls back his hood.

NORRIS

Well, Well, look whose back Mr. Know about history, late again.

SHELL

As I said, don't pay him any attention.

Reese Anne sets up Shell's chair for him.

NORRIS

What's wrong old man? Don't like my new idea? Got to go with what's hot.

SHELL

And what's hot?

Norris makes the lightsaber sounds some more as he swings the toy.

NORRIS

The force! Use the force baby.

A refugee dressed as a tourist walks by and drops a coin in his hat. He points to a hat with the money in it.

NORRIS

I have already been making a killing all morning. Not some old Honest Abe bit. Hell, they don't even know who you are. (To Reese Anne.) It's the truth. The other day this little boy came up to

him and was begging his, mother. "Please mummy, can I get my picture with Captain Ahab. Ahab, too funny!"

REESE ANNE

Well, I don't think it's funny.

SHELL

Reese Anne, ignore him.

NORRIS

Reese Anne, is it? Well, my little girl, just what are you doing with that old man anyway? Shouldn't you be in school?

SHELL

Mind your own business, monk.

NORRIS

The name is Norris, and I'm no longer a monk, Mr. Shelby Moore.

He goes back to waving his lightsaber to the crowd.

REESE ANNE

This old man knows more than you can imagine in that little head of yours. So, I suggest you leave him alone.

Norris starts to taunt her with waving the toy in her face. Changing his voice almost Yoda like.

NORRIS

Oooh! Feisty one, this Reese Anne. Just what are you going to do about it, Love?

Reese Anne snatches the toy Light Saber out of his hands and threatens to break it over her knee.

REESE ANNE

Or I will use the force.

Norris makes a move to snatch it back, but Reese Anne is too quick and is now walking around waving it at the tourist.

NORRIS

Now, I've had about fucking enough of your little girl.

SHELL

Reese Anne, Give it back to him!

She taunts Norris a little as she reluctantly obeys Shell and hands it back to Norris.

SHELL

Now ignore him!

NORRIS

Fuck You!

Shell chooses to ignore Norris and starts working the crowd for money and Norris goes back to his frozen statue pose.

SHELL

Pick a year, any year, and for Just a quid my friend and I will tell you a fantastic tale of history from the date you choose. Yes, my friend just a quid and you will get the education your mother always dreamed you'd have. Any Date! Any Year!

Shell starts to draw in some more refugees dressed as tourist, one onlooker has drops a pound in his hat.

SHELL

Eighteen Eighty-nine. Uh-huh, Yes, Eighteen Eighty-nine. April twenty-second, eight eighty-nine, at eleven fifty-nine over fifty thousand people were lined up at once. All are waiting for the clock to strike high noon. The Oklahoma land rush was on. The mad dash for over two million acres of land, which each man was able to claim up to 65 km². Could you imagine that today?

REESE ANNE

Today, we have fifty thousand refugees a week pouring in from Syria. With no land to grab they come with nothing. But they still want the same thing - a stake in their future.

Norris breaks his pose.

NORRIS

Fuck them!

His outburst makes the tourist scatter away.

REESE ANNE

What?

NORRIS

Fuck them! Life is hard enough on these streets. They keep coming, and the streets have changed. They make life harder for all of us, so Fuck them!

REESE ANNE

You mean to say you have no compassion for what these people are being put through?

NORRIS

Compassion? I once had compassion, But I lost it back in 2003.

SHELL

Twenty-O-three. The year of the initial invasion of Iraq.

REESE ANNE

But Why? Why did that make you lose compassion?

NORRIS

Billy Conroy.

REESE ANNE

Who?

NORRIS

Billy Conroy. He was so young and trusting. We were on foot patrol when we entered a small street with a boy holding a football. Not kicking it but holding it. Billy loved the game. He walked right up to the boy and Bam! Alpha Mike Foxtrot.

REESE ANNE

Alpha Mike Foxtrot?

NORRIS

Adios Mother Fucker!

SHELL

Crazy world we live in. I would not have guessed you were a war veteran.

NORRIS

Yeah, I'm a veteran like many on these streets. We did our service for, God and country only to end up on a corner hand out needing a hand up. It's 2015. Seems like yesterday when I lost Billy, and here we are years later, and people are still blowing themselves up. Why can't they see that's no way to make a point? Why can't they see?

REESE ANNE

The parable of the Elephant.

NORRIS

Elephant?

REESE ANNE

The parable of the Elephant. A man leads an elephant into a village of blind people. One by one, each blind villager comes up and feels a part of the elephant. One man walks up and feels the leg and says it feels like a pillar. Then the next man feels the tail and says it feels like rope. Another man feels the trunk and says it feels like a branch of a tree. The men begin to argue amongst themselves about what the elephant must look like. When the man who led the elephant in says, "You're all right. For you, each touched a different part of the animal and are telling what you're believing to be the truth."

NORRIS

So, you're saying I'm blind?

REESE ANNE

No, we all have different systems of belief. The trick is not believing yours is the only correct one. Follow the parable of the elephant, and you will believe in a world living in harmony.

SHELL

We're not all blind my dear.

Norris packing his stuff up shakes his hat full of money.

NORRIS

Yeah, we're elephants. We work for peanuts.

REESE ANNE

No, you're blind.

Blackout

The band of refugees in two groups walks side to side from different sides of the stage and swaying like an elephant as they walk and meet in the middle. They then reach out and feel the elephant in front of them and accept and embrace them. Then they come together to configure a giant elephant. Then it walks side by side off stage humming and singing in rhythmic patterns the word peace. A flog starts to build behind them as break apart and peel-off to lay on the ground in scattered areas around the stage.