

THE MESSAGE

By David J. LeMaster

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There is no set. The seven characters may be played by either men or women.

AT RISE: Lights up on 1, 2 and 3. 1 preaches. HE is well spoken and sincere without being pushy.

1: Truly, truly, I say unto you. A. AB. ABZYD. FGA. VE. CDESNM and P. OZEBD.

(1 exits. 2 and 3 watch him go.)

2: Did you hear that?

3: That was incredible.

2: We have to spread this message.

3: Yes.

2: Write it down.

3: Okay.

2: He said A.

3: Yes. A.

2: And he said B, too.

3: **(writing)** B!

2: And CDE.

3: What?

2: BCDE.

3: No, that's not right.

2: Yes it is.

3: No, no, no. He said ABZIC. I heard him with my own ears.

2: That's ridiculous!

3: Are you calling me a liar?

2: No. I'm calling you an idiot!

3: You're a moron!

(Enter 4.)

2: Did you hear?

3: Did you hear?

4: What?

2: ABCDE.

3: ABZIC.

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- 4: I beg your pardon?
2: You must understand!
3: It's very important.
4: But you said two different things.
2: But that's what *he* said.
4: Who?
2: He.
3: Him!
4: He who?
3: Him. The one who said the words. He said ABZIC.
2: No, he didn't! He said ABCDE.
3: Liar!
2: Heretic!
3: Anathema!
2: Poison-speaker!
3: **(to 4)** Come on.
4: What?
3: We've got to go. We can't socialize with him. He's not one of us.
2: That's not true. You're not one of us. **(to 4)** Isn't that right?
4: I've been thinking about this.
3: Yes?
4: About what you said.
2: Yes?
4: Both of you. I mean, you both said something relevant. You've both got a point.
2: It was *his* point.
3: No. What *you* said was *your* point. What *I* said was *his* point.
2: Blithering fool.
4: But, anyway, I've been thinking and actually, ABZVC makes a lot more sense.
2: Than what?
4: Than what you said.
2: What?
3 and 2: Heretic!
4: I am not!
2: You heard the truth and chose to distort it!
3: You heard the truth and made it your own!
4: But you're both completely wrong.
2: Liar!
3: Liar!

(Enter 5 and 6.)

- 4: ABZVC!

- 2: ABCDE!
3: ABZIC!
5: What are you talking about?
6: Wait! It's brilliant!
5: It is?
6: Didn't you hear the truth?
5: What truth?
6: What they said.
5: What who said?
6: All of them.
5: The entire group?
2: Heretic!
3: Heretic!
4: Heretic!
6: But you're all right!
3: We can't *all* be right.
2: *He's* wrong.
4: No, he's wrong.
3: They're both wrong.
2: You're wrong.
6: But don't you see? All of you have a little piece of the truth.
4: All of us?
6: Yes!
2: You're an idiot.
3: I think we should kill him.
6: What?
4: Yes! He's completely wrong!
3: Telling people such a lie will lead them from the truth.

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