

NOAH BUILT THE ARK

A Poem for Choral Speaking

by
James Weldon Johnson



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(If desired, this poem may be divided into two poems, the first one, entitled "The Garden of Eden", may end with the line, "And that's how sin got into the world.")

ALL: In the cool of the day--
 God was walking--
 Around in the Garden of Eden.
 And except for the beasts, eating in the fields,
 And except for the birds, flying through the trees,
 The garden looked like it was deserted.

*MEDIUM MAN: And God called out and said: *"Adam,
 Adam, where art thou?"

ALL: And Adam, with Eve behind his back,
 Came out from where he was hiding.

*SOLO: And God said: *"Adam,
 What hast thou done?
 Thou hast eaten of the tree!"

LIGHT MAN: And Adam,
 With his head hung down,
 Blamed it on the woman.

MEN: For after God made the first man Adam,
 He breathed a sleep upon him;

DUET--MEN: Then he took out of Adam one of his ribs,
 And out of that rib made woman.
 And God put the man and woman together
 In the beautiful Garden of Eden,
 With nothing to do the whole day long
 But play all around in the garden.

ALL: And God called Adam before him,
 And he said to him:

SOLO: "Listen now, Adam,
 Of all the fruit in the garden you can eat,
 Except of the tree of knowledge;
 For the day thou eatest of that tree,
 Thou shalt surely die."

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