

Brother to Brother

A Pray for Peace

Synopsis:

A long time back, the green fields of Europe were dominated by the kings and the heavy hand of the Catholic Church. The dominion seemed indestructible until the day the dark men from the east came, the desert warriors. The Muslims arrived in Europe, come to conquer the entire continent. Worried by the Muslim's purpose, the Catholic Church started its historic campaign - the Crusades.

From the ancient lands of the French, Pierre Gibeau, a brave noble is sent in the name of his family to take part in this war, to destroy the Muslims and all disbelievers, in the name of God. He is a true devotee, and goes with his army, convinced that the war is virtuous. After a long journey, his army is surprised by a large group of Muslims. They engage in some fighting and the Muslims chase the Christian soldiers away, leaving Pierre and a young Muslim man hurt and alone. In time, Pierre and Ali have to help each other and share things to survive, so they become friends.

After some time, the young men are found by Ali's family who graciously invite Pierre to be their guest. With them the young Frenchman discovers a new culture, and a new family, and the new friends become like brothers. However, this arrangement doesn't last long. Other Muslims in the community don't like the idea of 'harboring' a Catholic. With renewed fighting in the area, the new brothers decide it is best to part, because it is not yet the time for Muslims and Catholics to live together.

Back in his kingdom, Pierre cannot find meaning to his life. He asks Mother Mary when the time will come that there will be no war, no anger between races, and when

all people will worship the same God. An angel appears to show him the future; and she shows him Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi and all the Sahaja Yogis watching the play.

Pierre and Ali come off the stage together and do namaskar to Shri Mataji.

Characters:

Pierre Gibeau

The young noble, around 20 years old, is a strong devotee of the Catholic Church.

The youngest son of the Duke Gibeau is a brave warrior that loves his people, his family and his religion. He believes that is going to a sainted war, he can't see that this is just a way for his father to get more lands and favors with the Church.

Ali

He comes from a special family of sages and virtuous men. 25 years old. He left his family seeking for a direct war against the others religion, he joined the Abu Jahl army. He has a good heart, but from outside he is hard like a rock.

Akbar

Ali's father, he is an old man of the desert that learned how to live with nature, how to understand the Prophet's words. He is the leader of his family and a truly and humble sage.

Duke Gerard Gibeau

The Duke is in a great trouble, he has financial problems with the king, other nobles and the church itself. His only way is to send his second son, Pierre Gibeau, to fight against the Muslims. With this decision, the church is going to help him with his financial problems.

Abu Jahl

This devil man is the head of a terrible army that lives running the desert to assault and kill small groups of Christians.

The Priest

A terrible man that controls the life of everyone and is running after prestige in Catholicism. He is a good actor, a business man living like a priest.

Fatima

She is Ali's wife, a good woman that understands her husband's choice, but waits that one day he will come back to live a peaceful life at her side.

Jean

Pierre's friend, Jean is also a noble, but he is going to the war with other ideas. He wants to find some lands to him, he doesn't have anything in Europe. This war doesn't mean religion or anything else, but a chance to start his life.

Pascal

An old noble that lost everything in Europe, and wants to start everything again. He sees this war with good humor, and he doesn't have anything against the Muslims, but he doesn't like the kings.

Mohammed

Ali's uncle, he tries to preserve the peace inside his family, and control any problem. He knows the beauty of the Koran and follows all the advice given by the old Akbar.

Said

He is a friend of Ali's family, an old warrior of Abu's army. He is just trying to find a way to become rich and important, for that, he tries to use Ali's family.

Angel

1o Scene:

Curtain closed

Soundtrack: something that reminds us of that time (Middle Ages)

Narrator (V.O. / Voice Over)

A long time back, the green fields of Europe were dominated by the kings and the heavy hand of the Catholic Church. This dominion seemed indestructible, until the day the dark men from the east came, the desert warriors. The Muslims arrived in Jerusalem, come to conquer the entire European continent. Worried by the Muslims' purpose, the Catholic Church started their historic campaign - the Crusades.

The Pope himself called all the nobles to engage in this war and kill all the 'barbarians' in the name of God. Many nobles attended the Pope's call, not because of faith or devotion, but with hopes of conquering more lands, or getting their hands on the precious products from the East. But, from the ancient lands of France, a special boy was ready to go and purify the way to Jerusalem.

Soundtrack turned off / Soundtrack of Church comes in

Curtain opens

The Priest and Duke Gibeau come in. They walk very calmly through a garden (*we can imagine that the garden is there or we can use a large bouquet of flowers in the front of the stage, the actors should walk in zigzag, to fake a path*).

Duke Gibeau

Holy Father, the Church is really beautiful now. It almost looks like a cathedral. Look at this garden, all these flowers!

The Priest

It is really nice. We are very pleased with the help you have given us, Duke Gibeau.

But you still can do much more, can you not?

Duke Gibeau

Yes, I need to. Did you speak with... with... you know!!!

The Priest

I do not understand?!

Duke Gibeau

About my problems.

The Priest stops walking.

The Priest (irritated)

Duke Gibeau, I do not spend my time roaming around speaking about material things with everyone. What do you think that I am? I am a priest, and with respect.

Duke Gibeau (so sorry)

I am truly sorry. It is just that this subject is disturbing my mind. And you know, it is difficult to pray with all these preoccupations.

The Priest fetches a deep breath, starts to walk very calmly again.

The Priest (good actor)

Be calm my son, I did speak to them. The nobles are all ready to forgive your debts, and the Catholic Church has reserved a place in heaven for you and your family. They are just waiting for the youngest Gibeau to go and engage in this war.

Duke Gibeau (guilty/horrified)

Is there no other way?

The Priest

What?!

Duke Gibeau

No... It's just... Pierre is my youngest and most beloved son. I am afraid.

I do not want to lose him forever.

The Priest (trying to comfort, like an angel)

Duke, you are not in any condition to support two sons; you have debts to pay, and you still owe the church money as well. Beyond that even, the Pope is calling for this war, and must be followed by the devotees of our Lord.

Duke Gibeau

I know... I know... but.

The Priest (nervous)

Be quiet, he is coming.

Pierre Gibeau comes in, he salutes his father and the Priest. The Duke is sad.

Pierre Gibeau

(To father) Sir.

(To priest) Father.

Duke Gibeau

My son.

The Priest

Pierre Gibeau, are you ready?

Pierre Gibeau (with devotion)

I am always ready to fight for the sacred church.

The Priest

That's right, my son. That's right. Duke Gibeau,
you have a great devotee in the family.

Duke Gibeau (sadly)

I know... I know.

The Priest

You should go. It is almost time for the ship to leave. Pierre Gibeau,
you are protected in the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit.

(Priest makes a sign of the holy cross over the boy.)

The Priest and Duke leave the stage, Jean and Pascal are in the middle of the stage waiting in soldiers' positions (*there is a space between them and Pierre; and the flowers, if they are in the front of the stage, should be removed*). Pierre goes marching to his friends and stands like a soldier.

Pierre

Jean, Pascal. Ça va mès amis?

Jean

We were just waiting for you, Pierre. Where have you been?

Pierre

I had to say goodbye to my father and to the Priest.

Pascal (sarcastic)

The good boy of Gibeau's family.

Jean (more sarcasm)

The wonder boy. Pascal, Can you imagine that he has already been
to Chartres and St Micheal?

Pascal

Oh, no?!

Pierre (a little upset)

Hey Jean, this is no laughing matter. We are all fighting the same war,
but it seems that we defend different sides.

Four boys or girls, two on each side of the characters, come in and stay shaking a large
piece of blue cloth, to represent the sea. Maybe the actors can move their bodies to
the sides a little bit, like when you are in a ship.

Pascal

And indeed we are. (he and Jean start to laugh) You are fighting for the church; Jean
and I are fighting for lands. Oh no, the ship is departing, I'm feeling seasick already.

Pierre (surprised)

What?! You came here to receive lands?! But it was a Pope order!

Jean

Pierre, you are the only one in the whole of Europe that is fighting with faith.

Pascal (kidding)

You and Peter (he and Jean start to laugh)

Pierre

I will not hear this.

Jean (serious)

Pierre, your father is influential and successful, and when you return, you will have a good life with prestige and honors. Europe does not treat all so well. There is no room for Pascal or me. I am going to find a place to start my own life.

Pascal

Jean is right. I am also not returning. My desire is to march south. I hear that the Muslims there just want to commercialize their products. This war is nonsense; they just want to survive, like us.

Pierre

But they blocked our way to Jerusalem. This is not right.

Jean

Who gave Jerusalem to us? If it is a sacred city that belongs to the church, then send the Pope himself to fight for it!

Pierre (defiant/excited)

You don't know what you are saying. These Muslims are animals. They want to destroy our families and our world, and we should stop them!

“The sea” moves off the stage. They start to march in place. They all look to the right side, and see a “destroyed village” (just imagination/ video screen image?). The scene seems to be horrible for them.

Pierre (surprised)

Oh my. What's that?!

Jean (sarcastic)

Your 'justice'. The “Divine justice” on a small Muslim village.

Pascal

The smart boys destroyed the “animals’ place”.

Pierre

No... it can not be.

Now they all look to the left, still marching in place.

Pascal

And this. What do you call this? Purification?!

Does it look like a fortress?

Pierre

No, but...but...

Pascal

This is enough for today, let us rest here.

Jean turns back, and shouts to the back of the stage.

Jean

Okay men, we are going to stay here for the night.

They sit down to rest. You can have pieces of wood for them to sit, ‘cause if they sit on the floor they will be out of eye’s line.

Pascal

So my friend. Did today’s sights change your mind?

Pierre

I... I didn’t see enough, Pascal. I must see the other side, then I will be satisfied and I will understand what the Pope wants us to do.

Abu Jahl, Ali and Said come in, on the side of the stage.

Jean

It seems that the other side has already arrived.

They stand up very fast, ready to fight.

Abu Jahl

Christians! How many more do I have to kill to convince you that this land belongs to Allah? This is just the beginning! In a few years, your home will be our home too. Don't you know the Koran? It says that if you don't believe in Allah, you should die. This earth must be just for the Muslims. Sons of Allah, be ready. If you have faith, come with me, Abu Jahl, and purify this land.

Soldiers of both sides meet each other in the middle of the stage. Some boys and girls come on the stage with a huge piece of cloth in a red color, to symbolize a war. Soundtrack of battle. They all came out of the stage fighting with swords and shields. Soundtrack turns off.

Pierre and Ali stay on the floor. Pierre has hurt his arms, Ali his legs. They wake up at the same time, very slowly, they are hurt and tired. They look at each other very slowly, look down feeling tired. Then, realizing that they are enemies, they look at each other very fast, defiantly.

Ali tries to stand up and move towards a sword to grab it, but he can't. Pierre stands up and tries to take the sword, but he can't use his arms.

Pierre (looking up to Heaven)

Oh, no. God! Why can I not use my arms? How did I get hurt fighting for You?
Where is my army and friends? Why do I stand alone with my enemy?

Ali (annoyed)

Be quiet. Why do you ask so many questions? There is no one else here.

Pierre (annoyed/dismissive)

I am speaking with my God.

Ali (humor)

And where is he?

Pierre (lost)

He is... he is... (*look up*) he is up there.

Ali

He must be very far. I can not see him. That is probably why he can't hear you.

Try shouting a little louder.

Pierre

And who are you to ask me about God? Where is yours?

Ali (like a sage)

Everywhere.

Pierre (sarcastic)

Really? (looking around)

Ali (with wisdom)

In my sword, in my hands, and in my heart during battle.

Pierre (sarcastic)

He just forgot your legs. (*laugh*)

Ali

Oh, you.. *(very angry, try to stand up, and fall down)*

Very funny, you can laugh, but very soon my brothers will return with news of our victory. I will go home and you will be dead.

Pierre (worried)

No... I will be ready for that *(he stands up, waiting for something in the left side of the stage to appear)*

They stay waiting, nothing happens, they keep waiting, nothing happens, they look at each other, nothing happens. Pierre sits down.

Pierre

I am tired.

Ali

Be ready, they are coming.

Pierre

I know, I am just resting.

Ali (excited)

Don't you believe me? I tell you that they are coming! What are you doing sitting like a lazy boy? Stand up and be ready to fight. Now, I can see them. Do you see them there? I know that camel, and Abu Jahl, and the big swords cutting the air...

Pierre (worried)

Where? I can't see them! Where? Tell me.

Ali

(starts to cry) It is merely a vision. They are not coming... not today. They forgot me.

Pierre (so sorry)

I am sorry. Here, there is a handkerchief in my pocket, take it.

Ali

Thank you ... some dust got into my eyes, that's all.

Pierre (almost crying)

I know... I know how you feel.

Ali (guarded)

I do not feel anything. They are not coming today, but tomorrow they will be here.

I don't need your help at all. Get out of here.

Pierre (also angry)

Very well, stay by yourself. I was thinking about leaving you anyway.

I am hungry and going to find something to eat.

Ali (worried)

No... wait, you can't leave me here... alone.

Silence between both

Ali

How will you find food here?

Pierre

The Pope said that in these lands honey and milk comes out of the rocks.

Ali

(starts to laugh) I can not believe it. He told you that?! What a donkey! *(laugh)*

Pierre (very angry)

What?! Farewell my friend, I can walk and find water or ask someone for food, but you will be here forever. Ask your God for food.

Ali (so sorry)

No, please. I know where us.

Pierre (still somewhat angry)

Where?

Ali

I would not tell you. What guarantee do I have that you will return?

And you can not even use your hands.

Pierre

So, how will we go there?

Ali (humor)

You must carry me on your back... like a camel.

Pierre

No... you can not be serious!

Ali

I am. Do you have a better idea?

Pierre

No... but first you must apologize for calling the Pope a donkey.

Ali

... Very well, sorry. But, you must apologize twice!

Pierre

And why?

Ali

...because ...because you insulted Allah and called me friend.

Pierre

Oh, sorry... sorry.

Ali

Alright then. Let us go.

Ali holds Pierre's neck, Pierre carries Ali. They walk a little bit. (*Project image of an oasis onto a video screen, they just have to go to the direction of the video screen and stay under it.*)

Ali

Here, this is it, an oasis. Almost like a paradise. Water, coconuts,
and small fruits everywhere.

(*You can show something like a coconut tree on the side of the stage*)

Pierre

How beautiful! I am going to walk around.

Pierre leaves the stage. Ali sings a song and eats some fruits. Sound of a snake.

Ali stops singing.

Ali

Hey, enemy! Where are you? (*Ali sees the snake; it can be made and pulled with a string*) Enemy... you... friend... where are you?

I don't have a piece of wood or anything.

The snake comes very close.

Ali

Well, if I must die, I will die like a man, without shouting.

Pierre jumps over Ali, who starts to shout,
and Pierre starts to kick the snake and stamp on it.

Pierre

All is well. The snake is dead.

Ali (very angry and scared at the same time)

All is well?! Well?! You almost killed me! And you left me here to die.

Pierre (apologetically)

Be calm. I didn't want you to die.

Ali (trying to be calm)

I am just a little bit nervous, you know, I never believed that
this kind of thing could happen to me.

Pierre

Me neither.

Ali

But you seem very strong, and this makes me feel like a coward.

Pierre

Me, strong? No, I am shaking from inside.

Ali

Really!

Pierre

Yes!

Both start to laugh

Pierre

I was thinking about why God put me through this. Maybe He wanted me to find a friend among my enemies.

(Pause)

Ali (looking down)

I am sorry for insulting your God.

Small silence

Pierre (looks up at Ali)

Pierre... and you?

Ali

Ali.

Curtain closed

2o Scene:

Curtain closed

Narrator (V.O. / Voice Over)

After a long time of being lost in the forest, Pierre and Ali had to learn how to live together to survive. One day... (you can include something else here, to give you time to prepare things behind the scenes)

Curtain opens

Ali and Pierre are sitting on the floor, resting. Ali's family comes on the stage very slowly, walking in the back (*his father, uncle, wife, Said and maybe some other people to make a group*)

Akbar (surprised)

Ali?! Ali, my son?!

Ali (jumping up)

Father?!

(Pierre stays seated, quietly looking down.)

Akbar (shouting)

We found him! I knew, I knew that we were going to find you.

Ali

I thought I was lost forever.

Akbar (hand on son's shoulder)

Allah hu Akbar, my son. You can never lose faith.

Fatima

My husband.

Ali

Fatima, you were always in my dreams.

Fatima

And I was with you all this time.

Mohammed

She is right, Fatima was praying for you every day.

Ali

Uncle Mohammed, you look very good.

Mohammed

Not so, a little bit fat but that's alright.

Ali (surprised)

Said! What are you doing here?!

Said (he is a bad guy)

When we lost you in the desert, I decided to return and help your family find you. Abu Jahl understood my position. But, I can see that you were not needing any help at all, you have a prisoner with you.

Ali

No, he is not a prisoner.

Mohammed (curious)

So, who is he?

Ali

He is my friend. Father, this is Pierre. He is from Europe.

Akbar

Welcome young man. I think we can find him transportation back home. I am sure your family will be very happy to see you again, as we are to see Ali.

Can't we do that Mohammed?

Mohammed

I suppose. But, I must remind you Akbar, that the travel situation is not so good.

We are going through difficult times with the war, and no one wants to travel so far to those lands.

Akbar

You are right Mohammed. Pierre, I would like to invite you to stay with us for some time, if you do not object.

Pierre

Not at all. Please, I just do not want to be a problem for you.

Akbar

A friend of my son, is a friend of the family.

(Pierre does a small bow with hand on heart in thanks.)

Curtain closed

3o Scene:

Curtain closed

Narrator (V.O. / Voice Over)

One month passed like a desert wind, without troubles. Pierre learned about a new culture, a new way of life, and discovered a new family.

Curtain opens

They can be inside a tent. Pierre is sitting on one side, Akbar, Ali on the other side and Mohammed is propped up. We can have nice pillows and carpets.

Fatima can be sitting with other ladies.

Mohammed

So, Pierre, after all this time here with us, what have you learned from our culture?

Pierre

I have really changed my mind about the Muslims.

But now I am so confused about the meaning of this war!

Mohammed

Jerusalem is the birthplace of three religions. But God is everywhere. The Prophet told us that we can worship God everywhere, in Jerusalem, in Europe, in your castle or here. But we are fighting for a land that belongs to no one but the Almighty.

The Prophet never told us to kill the Christians. But He spoke about Christ, Abraham and Moses. There is no difference between them. They all came from God, because they are incarnations of God. They speak of the same thing, about the power of “ruh”, that you know as the Holy Spirit.

Fatima

He told us about the sanctity of Jesus’ Mother, how She was His power, a great example for humanity. Should not all men be Muslims at heart?

Pierre

How can I be a Muslim? Do I have to renounce all my Catholic past?

Mohammed

To be a Muslim, is not to live in the desert, read the Koran or go to Mecca, it is just surrendering to the Divine. This war should not be happening outside, but inside of us, to kill our six enemies and enlighten our spirit forever.

Pierre

This is wonderful, but difficult to believe at first.

Fatima (smiling)

I know why, because you are hungry and you can not listen to your heart if your stomach is shouting.

The ladies laugh quietly together and leave. Said arrives with Abu Jahl on the side of the stage, and they stay there. Pierre is behind Ali, or somehow not in the line of sight of the two men.

Said

Greetings my friends. We were passing through so I thought to come and enjoy your company.

Ali (suspicious)

I see. And to what do we owe the honor of your presence Abu Jahl, great war leader that you are?

Abu Jahl

Ali, my friend, don't you enjoy my presence?

Akbar (arms open in welcome)

Of course he does; as do we all. Sit down my friends and join us for some food.
Fatima arrives (*with the other ladies*) bringing the food. Ali speaks very close to her.

Ali (aside to Fatima)

Fatima, take Pierre out of here. I don't feel friendship in the face of these two.
Fatima puts a long piece of cloth in front of Pierre and takes him out off the stage.

Abu Jahl

I have heard that you have a Christian here with you, is this true?

Mohammed

Abu Jahl, who told you such a lie? This liar must be the worst company in this world
to be walking with. Be careful, or the snake will try to bite your feet.

Said becomes nervous. Stands up and goes off the stage.

Abu Jahl (impatient)

I do not care. Is this true?

Mohammed

Who is a Christian and who is a Muslim in Heaven's eyes?

Abu Jahl (excited)

I am not kidding old man!

Akbar

Abu Jahl, what Mohammed is trying to say is that we receive whomever comes with
the same hospitality. You must share your things with whomever needs it, as we share
our food with you now.

Mohammed

Do you know the story of the Prophet and the traveler?

Abu Jahl (angry)

Well, I don't believe in this Prophet and I don't believe we are meant
to shelter the infidels.

Said comes in running and shouting

Said (excited, out of breath)

They are coming! The Christians have found us.

They all stand up.

Ali (motioning to father and uncle)

Father, uncle, please wait!

Abu Jahl

These Christians must learn that this land belongs to the Muslims.

Let us fight in the name of Allah.

Soundtrack of war comes in.

Christians and Muslims come fighting, the red piece of cloth comes in front of them,
shaking, symbolizing a strong battle. They involve Said and Abu Jahl. Ali tries to
protect Akbar and Mohammed but the cloth passes over them and they stay in the
middle of the war.

The warriors and the cloth come out on the other side from which they have arrived.

Ali is holding Akbar, on the floor, Mohammed is watching behind Ali.

Ali

Father... no please. Don't leave me.

Akbar

Don't cry, my son. Inshallah. As God wills.

Pierre comes in, looking at the "destruction" all around.

He sees Akbar and runs to them.

Pierre

Akbar?! Ali, what happened?!

Mohammed

Leave your father, I will take care of him.

Mohammed holds Akbar in his arms (*maybe with someone else, that comes in just to help*) and they get out off the stage.

Pierre

I'm sorry, I didn't...

Ali

No, it is not your fault.

Pierre

My presence here is a problem for all of you. Catholics and Muslims are not ready to live together yet. We must learn much more.

Ali

Who knows? Perhaps our sons...?

Pierre

Perhaps. The Catholics must be close. Your family will be safer if I leave.

Ali

You are part of the family now, wherever you go, you will be in our heart... brother.

They give a bear hug

Ali goes off the stage, Pierre looks at the sides, walks to center of stage, dragging feet, with drooping head and shoulders (*soundtrack of a church and church background to indicate that he is back in Europe*). He kneels to pray.

Pierre

Mother Mary, since I came back to Europe, I did not find the happiness that I had in the past. I should call this place home, but I think I left my home and my family in the desert. I can not find any meaning to my life here.

Mother Mary, I am not forgetting the love of my father and mother, and how they received me on my return. But I would like to share with them a new world. I would like to live in a place where there is peace between the religions.

When is it going to happen? When will the words of Christ and Mohammed come out of the same mouth, and bring joy to the hearts of the multitudes? When will Christians and Muslims live together, sit at the same table, share bread without anger?
When will we worship the same God?

Angel appears

Angel

Pierre Gibeau, your desire will come true, not today, not for you or for your sons, not for the generation after the sons of your sons. But, the day will come. I will show it to you now because the vision will bring peace to your heart. Come forward... and you will see the future. What do you see?

Pierre (with wonder and surprise)

I do not believe my eyes.

Angel

You see Christians, Muslims, and so many others, all together, sitting at the side of Mother Mary. And by Her grace, they can see the whole drama in front of them.

Pierre

May I go there?

Angel

Go, and worship your Divine Mother, because you are the witness of a new world made with love and joy.

Ali comes on the stage, both come down off the stage and do a namaskar to Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi.

The End