

**DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**

A Short Play in One Act by Taavi, Dixie & M. Ryan Taylor

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King Darius  
Advisor #1 / Angel  
Advisor #2 / Daniel

PRE-SHOW

ANGEL

(to the audience)

I invite each of you, dear audience, to help us. Today, you are a den of fearsome lions, and when I give this signal, I invite you to roar and snarl with ravenous hunger.

She thrusts a fist into the air and encourages the audience to roar.  
She then puts a finger to her lips.

Shhhh. Now, please enjoy *Daniel in the Lion's Den*.

SCENE 1 - PALACE

KING DARIUS

(addressing the audience)

We are in the land of Babylon. My advisors secretly meet to discuss their rival, Daniel the Hebrew. They are upset because I prefer Daniel above them in everything.

ADVISOR #1

Daniel is always in our way. We need to get rid of him!

ADVISOR #2

But he never does anything wrong!

ADVISOR #1

We must find a way to discredit Daniel using the law of his God against him.

ADVISOR #2

But there is no Babylonian law against his God.

BOTH ADVISORS

Hmmm ...

ADVISOR #1

I've got it! We should advise King Darius to make a law that says no one may pray to anyone except the King for a month. That'll flush him out!

ADVISOR #2

That's a good plan, but we'll have to be careful about how we present it to King Darius.

SCENE 2 - THRONE ROOM

The advisors approach King Darius.

ADVISOR #2

King Darius, your advisors have counseled together and think we should make a royal decree. For the next month, all your subjects must submit their petitions to thee, O king. Whoever asks a petition of any other man or god shall be cast into the den of lions.

KING DARIUS

I do want to be consulted about matters in my kingdom. I will sign the decree.

King Darius signs.

SCENE 3 - BALCONY

The advisors move to the balcony and point as if out a window.

ADVISOR #1

Look at that. Daniel still prays to his God as he usually does! We have caught him!

ADVISOR #2

We should go and tell the king.

## SCENE 4 - THRONE ROOM

The advisors go back to King  
Darius.

ADVISOR #1

O king, according to your decree, all your subjects must submit their petitions to only thee this month. Otherwise they are to be cast into the den of lions.

KING DARIUS

This is true. It is the law and cannot be altered.

ADVISOR #2

But Daniel does not regard the law, O king, that thou hast signed, but makes a petition to his God every day.

KING DARIUS

(said to himself)

Oh no. I forgot Daniel prays to his God three times a day.

Daniel enters, bound in chains.

KING DARIUS

Daniel, I would repeal the decree that I signed this morning, but the law cannot be altered.

DANIEL

I understand that you are not to blame, O king. At times we must endure trials set in motion by devious and evil men.

KING DARIUS

Thy God, whom you serve continually, he will deliver you.

Daniel is led away.

## SCENE 5 - LION'S DEN

KING DARIUS

Daniel was put into the lion's den and a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den. I sealed it with my own signet.

ANGEL

As Daniel tumbled to the floor of the den, he searched for a shadowy spot to hide and pray.

The signal is given for the audience to roar. The angel then lifts a lantern and approaches.

ANGEL

(with a finger to her lips)

Shhhhhh ...

(Addressing the audience)

All the lions became as quiet as lambs. Daniel continued to pray.

SCENE 6 - PALACE

KING DARIUS

I went to my palace and dismissed my musicians. I stayed up all night fasting and asking myself, "Why did I sign that decree? Daniel hasn't done any harm in praying to his God." I was so worried for him.

SCENE 7 - LION'S DEN

ANGEL

King Darius came to the lion's den before the sun arose. The royal seal was broken and the stone was rolled back just as the first rays of sunlight peaked over the horizon.

KING DARIUS

O Daniel, servant of the living God, has thy God, whom you serve continually, delivered you from the lions?

DANIEL

God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions so that they have not hurt me.

KING DARIUS

I am so glad you are all right. Take Daniel out of the lion's den and throw in those evil men who laid a trap for Daniel.

The advisors are thrown toward the lion's den and the angel signals the audience to roar again.

(shouting over the roar)

I make a new decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom shall not be destroyed;

his dominion shall be even unto the end of the world. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.