

A SALTY BET

Cast:

The Devil

The Death

The Peasant

The Narrator

The Poor Man/God

The Sick Person

The Labourer

ACT 1

Scene 1

(Street of a village)

Narrator: There were once two friends who descended from the same level, one was called Death and the other one was The Devil. And thus, our story begins.

(Death and The Devil enter the scene pretending to talk)

Death: Well I believe I am far more competent than you.

The Devil: Oh really? Let's find out. We shall bet on the one who'll catch a victim more easily.

Death: Bet? And what shall we bet on?

The Devil: Easy, salt! It's the most precious thing we own!

Death: Salt? That's ridiculous my friend!

The Devil: Ok, so if I win you shall never put salt in your food again!

(The Devil and Death shake hands and leave the scene.)

Scene 2

(Street of a village)

(In a near village The Peasant and The Poor Man enter the scene)

Peasant (in monologue, a little frustrated): Why did my wife have to have so many children? I need to find someone to be my new-born's Godfather. *(The Peasant sees The Poor Man in the street)* Would you like to be my child's Godfather?

The Poor: Yes, I would, but do you know who I am?

The Peasant: I do not care, I simply wish for someone to be my child's Godfather.

The Poor: For I am God.

The Peasant (Angry): Well, you no longer serve me, because you give wealth to ones and poverty to others.

(Death enters the scene. The Peasant walks a little further and finds another poor man.)

The Peasant: Would you like to be my child's Godfather?

Death: Yes, I would, but do you know who I am?

The Peasant: I don't know.

Death: Well, I am Death.

The Peasant: You will serve me well, because you treat everyone the same.

(Everyone leaves the scene.)

Scene 3

(Street of a village)

(After the baptism. The narrator comes forward to the right corner of the stage. The Peasant walks talking with Death in the middle. In the right corner we can see The Sick Person)

Death (to the Peasant): Since you chose me to be your child's Godfather, I want to make thee rich. You will pretend to be a doctor, and go through these lands to cure the sick. Whenever you enter a house and see me at the sick person's head, that person will die. But if I stand to the sick person's feet, the person will be cured. You mustn't try to heal those you are not supposed to, for I will skin you alive.

Narrator (comes to the centre): And so that happened. The man went from house to house and when Death allowed, he would cure his patients. See if he would not gain fame and fortune! *(narrator says cynically).*

(The Peasant goes to The Sick Person. Death goes next to the bedside table of the Sick Person's bed)

Narrator: But once, in a very wealthy patient's house, where Death was at the head of the bed, he moved his head saying no. The family told him that they would give him a fortune if he got rid of Death, to what he responded:

The Peasant: Fine, I will heal you. Just move your head to where your feet are, and you shall live!

Scene 4

(Street of a village)

(The Peasant is walking in the street when is surprised by Death.)

Death: I am here to get you for your betrayal.

The Peasant: Well, then let me pray for my soul before you take me, and then I'll die.

Death: So, you might pray.

(The Peasant laughs and does not pray, instead he goes away. And not to miss her word Death went away. The Devil enters the scene.)

Scene 5

(Street of a village)

The Devil: Well, well my friend, who do you think is closer to win our bet now?

Death *(with a peaceful face)*: This is not over yet.

(They both leave the scene.)

Scene 6

(Street of a village)

The Narrator: A few days later...The Peasant finds Death, dying on the ground.

The Peasant: Oh, dear Death, you were so good to me! Let me pray for your soul! *(The Peasant prays.)*

Death: Good, now that you finally prayed, you can come with me.

The Peasant: *(cries)* Oh my dear *comadre*, please do not take me. *(cries even more.)*

Death: *(laughs)* You bastard, now you cry!? I warned you, but you disrespected me and made me look like a fool! Yes, I'm taking you with me!

The Peasant: *(begs kneeling)* Please, please no. Someone helps me!

(The Poor Man enters the scene)

Scene 7

(Street of a village)

The Poor Man: *(concerned with The Peasant)* What is happening here? Sir, are you ok? Why are you screaming for help?

The Peasant: Oh, my good man, Death is trying to take me with her! Please help me get rid of her!

The Poor Man: Do you remember who I am?

The Peasant: No, should I?

The Poor Man: Yes, you should. I'm that poor man who you once asked if I wanted to be your godfather. I'm God, and I'm here to save you.

The Peasant: *(surprised and relieved)* Oh my God! I should have picked you!

Death: Hey hey hey! Nobody is here to save anyone, he's coming with me!

The Poor Man/ God: No, my dear Death! This man has now my protection. You can no longer take him.

Death: *(stutters)* No...but...I-I... *(has no reaction)*

(The Poor Man and The Peasant leaves the scene)

Scene 8

(Street of a village)

(The Devil enters the scene laughing)

The Devil: My friend, you have just lost the bet!

Death: No, no I haven't! I may not take him, but you haven't won yet!

The Devil: But I will my friend, I will! *(gives an evil laughter)* Let's see, who will be my victim!

(They both leave the scene and the first act finishes)

ACT 2

Scene 1

(Agricultural land with The Labourer's house behind)

(The Devil enters the scene along with The Labourer who is asking for money)

The Devil: I just found my victim! *(To the Labourer)* I know you!

The Labourer: Do you?

The Devil: Well of course! You're so poor! You know what? Remind me to give you a big field for you to cultivate, but there is one condition! Everything that grows under the earth shall be mine and everything that grows up shall be yours.

The Narrator: The labourer accepted the contract and went to work the field and sowed it with wheat. Soon the field was filled with wheat, which the Labourer reaped. He then called the Devil and told him to pick up his gains. When the Devil showed he recognized that he had been deceived.

The Devil: Our contract is no longer valid, and if you want it to be, let's put it the other way round. Everything that grows up from the land will be mine and everything that grows down will be yours.

The Labourer I accept!

The Narrator: The farmer accepted the condition and sowed the whole field of potatoes. He told his *compadre* to come and get what he had grown up, which was the potato root, and then took many bushels of potatoes and made a lot of money. When the Devil came he saw that he had been deceived again and wanted revenge of his *compadre*.

The Devil: You rogue! You tricked me again, but I won't let you go like this, we shall fight, and I'll scratch you all!

The Narrator: The Labourer knew very well that the Devil had fearsome claws. He was afraid so ran home to ask his wife some advice. But on his way home he found his good friend, **The Peasant**.

Scene 2

(Agriculture field with The Labourer's house behind)

The Peasant: Oh, hey my friend Labour! How are you?

The Narrator: **The Labourer** told him everything about his deal with the devil. They both noticed that they had passed by identical situations and decided to take revenge on the Devil and Death for all they had done to them in the past.

The Labourer: Revenge!?!? And what should we do as revenge?

The Narrator: The Peasant told him everything about his revenge plan, and what a great plan I must say! They combined everything for the next day and when the time came everything was ready to start!

Scene 3

(The Labourer's house)

(The Devil and Death knock at The Labourer's door)

Knock... knock... knock

The Labourer: Come in, it's open!

(The Peasant and The Labourer were cooking around a cauldron when The Devil and Death enter the house. Death gets confused and surprised by seeing The Peasant there)

Devil (to The Labourer): Ha! My big rogue, you cannot escape from me now! I'm going to scratch you!

The Labourer (pretending to be regretted): Please my good **Devil**, please do not scratch me! Look I even cook to apologize to you! Please eat the soup!

Devil (confused but hungry to taste the soup): Hum... a soup sounds good right now. And this smell...please serve me a little bit and my friend Death too *(they sit around the table and The Labourer and The Peasant take the soup from the cauldron).*

Death (with a cynical expression): So is the soup coming or not? I'm so hungry!

(The Labourer comes back with two big bowls of soup which he places in front of them. The Devil and Death grab a spoon and start to eat.)

Devil (gives a first bite and tries to chew and swallow. But suddenly we hear a crack and he spills out a stone along with one of his teeth): What the hell is this? This soup has stones inside! I broke one of my teeth! *(goes to a mirror and starts to cry about his tooth).*

(The Peasant and The Labourer try not to laugh)

Death (*Almost fall of his chair laughing*): Haha, my friend you were tricked! (*grabs his spoon and eats a bite, but immediately spills the soup out*) Are you kidding!?!?! This soup has no salt! This is horrendous!

The Labourer: Would you like more soup? (*says holding the cauldron on his hands*)

(*The Devil and Death get scared and leave the scene running. Behind there are the Peasant and The Labour laughing*)

Scene 4

(Dark stage)

(*The narrator is the only one on stage*)

Narrator: The Devil and Death never came back. And so, we reach the deadline of our story, about two friends and their glory.

The end