



## Performance Notes for A Turkish Judge

### THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



### COSTUMES

- HORSE — Brown clothes, a headband with horse's ears and a tail made of brown yarn.
- KING HAROUN — Light gray shirt, dark gray trousers and black boots. He has a neutral-colored traveler's cape over his clothes. In Scene 3, he dons a red satin or otherwise royal-looking cape underneath the neutral-colored cape. He reveals this at the end of the play to indicate his kingly status.
- BEGGAR — Tattered clothing, neutral in color.



- NARRATOR or NARRATORS — can wear anything. Perhaps nice shirt(s) and slacks and/or a nice skirt(s) and blouse(s), or a nice dress(es).
- JUDGE — Big black robe.
- OIL MERCHANT — Brown robe with a red belt, with a white turban on his head.
- PORTER — Plain light-colored shirt and folded brown or black trousers.
- SOLDIERS — Black short open-fronted jackets with red shirts and red knee-length baggy trousers. They wear a red fez on their head.
- WRITER — Light brown shirt, black baggy pants, black vest, black knee-length socks and black shoes. Optional would be black hat with a feather.
- TAILOR — Plain shirt and trousers.
- WITNESSES — Plain shirts and dull-colored trousers for boys. Light-colored shirts and long flowing skirts for girls.



## PROPS

### Scene 1

- A silver coin for KING HAROUN to give to BEGGAR.

### Scene 2

- A gavel made out of carton or Styrofoam, painted dark brown.
- A real gavel can also be used if available.
- A gold coin for PORTER to hold up.
- A hardbound book that looks old to represent *The Book of Learning*.

### Scene 3

- Same as scene 2.



## SETS

- **Scene 1** — Paint a backdrop showing a forest scene with trees, flowers and bushes. If you do not have performers who can play as FOREST ANIMALS, animals can just be painted on the backdrop. Another suggestion is to make gray rocks made of cartons and papers to be placed along the painted backdrop.
- **Scene 2** — The courtroom has a raised table for the judge and seats for the witnesses. A wooden teacher's desk that is about 1 ½ meters wide can be used as a judge's table. This can be raised by creating a small platform made of wood. The platform should be big enough to fit the teacher's desk and a chair, and should be the same color as the teacher's desk.

On the left side, arrange 12 chairs in four rows. These are for OIL MERCHANT, PORTER, WRITER, TAILOR and WITNESSES.

If you have the appropriate carpentry support, put up a wooden freestanding double-entry door on the right side which will serve as the entry and exit points for characters. Please ensure that it is firmly secured to the floor to prevent any accident from happening.

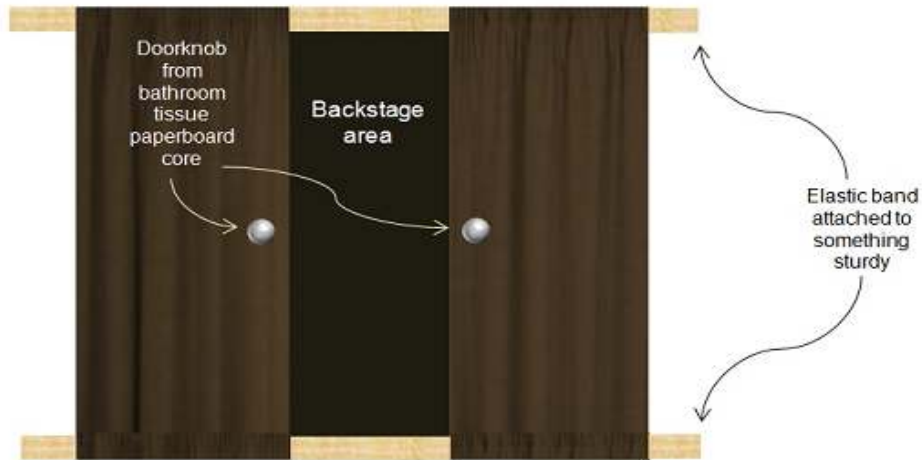
A second option for the doorway is to simulate one by using two pieces of dark fabric. The length and width of the fabric will depend on the size of the doorway that you want to create. Make sure to add an extra 18 inches for hemming. To create this effect:

- 1) At the top and bottom edge of the fabric panels, sew 2-inch hems which should look like curtain rod pockets. No sewing is needed for the finished edges along the sides.
- 2) Slide an elastic band right through the pockets you have sewn on both fabric panels. Do this for both the top and bottom edges. (Note: It will be easier to slide the elastic band through the rod pockets if you tie its end around a screwdriver. The screwdriver will serve as your guide.)
- 3) Stretch the elastic bands and attach their ends on to something sturdy which will serve as the frame for the doors.
- 4) To open the doors, simply slide the fabric panels to the side.

Slide them back to the center to shut the doors. Add a doorknob by



securing bathroom tissue paperboard core on fabric panels with duct tape. You will need two cores covered with silver foil.



Since the doorway will only be used in ACT 2 and ACT 3, make sure that you put this up quickly after the end of ACT 1.

A third option is to have two actors stand facing each other about two feet apart, and raise their hands so that all hands touch. This forms an overhang that can suffice for a door.

