

Simeon the Grumpy Shepherd

By: Debbie Derderian (2012-2013)

Cast: Simeon, Suren, Stephan, Shushanik, Child, Angel 1 & Angel 2, Shepherd, Groups of Sheep, Angels, Shepherds

Props: Large rock, Large sign (the S Family Shepherd Shop)

Opening Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Narrator 1:

Long ago and far away in the fields that surround the ancient city of Bethlehem, people were a-buzz about a big event that was predicted. Most of these people were the descendants of the mighty King David and considered the faithful people of Israel. This was the long awaited event that had been talked about for centuries. Everyone was working and preparing...They were even conducting mandatory practices to teach the shepherds how to properly exclaim the appropriate greeting: "Glory to God in the Highest"!

Narrator 2:

Everyone was ecstatic - well, ALMOST everyone. There were a few skeptics that believed all the hype was just another way to make the shepherds, who were the watchmen, work overtime in the fields. One of these problem shepherds was Simeon—the eldest son of Stephan and Shoushanik. He never wanted to follow in his family profession...he was sick and tired of being called names and thought that it was high time that one of his younger brothers took over as shepherd instead.

(Simeon, enters, obviously agitated. He stops at the front of the stage and addresses the congregation.)

Simeon: That's it! I am going to tell my father once and for all that I am not going to be responsible for these smelly old sheep. I am resigning my position as the lowly family shepherd—I am sick of being known as one of those 'crazy sheep people'!

My family has gone completely nutz—and I mean Nutz! Bad enough we have to take care of these smelly, stupid sheep but now we have to be on the look-out for angels, -- and some Baby? And on top of that they expect that I am going to go to shepherd's practice and work overtime! I don't think soooooo!!!!

(Stephan, Shushanik and Suren enter the scene)

Stephan: Simeon my beloved son, you must be going or you will be late for rehearsal. It's an absolute must that everyone attends practice, and there will be extra work hours in the field for us too!

Simeon: Look Dad, I am not going to work overtime! I think it is time that you understand that I am the oldest son...it is not fair that every year I am put on night watch...nothing ever happens anyway! Send one of my brothers!

Shushanik: Simeon—do not be disrespectful! Do as your father says...you are the oldest son and you have to run the family business.

Suren: Papa...I'll go...don't worry. I love our fluffy little sheep! And I believe that this year our Messiah is coming...I just know it. Mama, can I please go? Please, please, please. I've been practicing the greeting...listen..."Glory to God in the Highest."

Shushanik: No, Suren, no.

Suren: Mama, please let me go!

Stephan: Enough! I have heard enough!!! Simeon go and get your winter cloak and staff. And don't give me any more backtalk! You will tend the sheep and you had better keep watch for the Star...I too feel confident that this is the time for the birth of the Messiah!

(Stephan turns to walk off the stage...but turns to give one last command to Simeon)

Stephan: And, take Suren with you too...just watch him carefully!

Simeon: Oh Great! Just Great! Now I have to babysit this squirt too...this is going from bad to worse!

Shushanik: Simeon, just do as we ask, and please take good care of your brother, Suren is so young and innocent, he could easily get hurt. I am depending on you, son.

Suren (overjoyed): "Glory to God in the highest!"

Narrator: Evening quickly approached and it was time for Simeon and Suren to leave for night watch duty. Suren talked up a storm, asking all kinds of questions, jumping around and singing. (Suren jumps around like crazy).

Simeon: (shouting angrily) Will you knock it off?? You are disturbing the sheep...don't you know that shepherds are supposed to be calm and quiet? If you keep it up and we will spend the night looking for lost sheep!

Suren: I'm sorry, bro! I am just so excited about being out in the dark! What time do you think the angels are coming? Will we see the star? It's pretty cloudy tonight. Where will the Messiah be born? What's a Messiah anyway? How will the angels know we are here?

Simeon: **(Shouting loudly)** Will you keep still?? You are driving me crazy! Just be quiet...no more questions. With all your yakking you won't even hear the angels...not that there are going to be any!!! Just be quiet...I am going to get some sleep.

Suren: Sleep...we can't go to sleep—who will watch the sheep? We'll miss the angels and the Messiah!

Simeon: I'm going to sleep...you want to stay awake and watch the sheep fine...just don't bother me. And, don't get any crazy ideas about wondering off to find stars and angels and sheep. Gosh!

Narrator: Just as Simeon drifted off to sleep, along came a small group of children. **(They sing joyfully an Armenian Christmas Song or Silent Night)**

Simeon: *(Jumping up out of a sound sleep)* What the --? Quiet you people! You are going to wake up my dumb sheep. What are you doing out here in the fields making all this racket?

Child: it's not racket...we are singing a joyful song...don't' you know tonight the long awaited Messiah will be born? Why are you asleep...aren't you supposed to be on night watch?

Suren: I was watching ...don't' worry...my brother and I are taking turns. Where are you going?

Child: We are going to find the Messiah...we've heard that he will be born very close to here.

Simeon: More crazy talk...will you get out of here and leave us alone?

Suren: Simeon, maybe we should go with them?

Simeon: We are not going anywhere...you get back to tending the sheep.

Narrator: Suren sadly sat back down by the sheep...and Simeon once again laid down to get some sleep.

Suren: Wake up, Simeon, wake up...someone is coming!

Simeon: Not again! Will you be QUIET!

Suren: (tugging on Simeon's cloak) Wake up...look over there!

Simeon: (Jumps up) Ok! That's it! I'm going to gag you and tie you up!

Narrator: Just as Simeon went to grab his brother, he realized that it was unbelievably bright...almost like daytime. He looked up in the night sky and saw an amazing star. It almost blinded him! He was amazed and frightened. All of a sudden a large group of shepherds approached. They were singing & shouting!

(Shepherds come through singing Oh Come all Ye Faithful or song of their choice)

Simeon: Suren, Suren where are you...where are you?

Suren: Look, look up in the sky! The angels...the angels -- they are real!

Narrator 1: Simeon grabbed hold of Suren and saw a triumphant sight in the sky...

Narrator 2: The Angels Heralding the Birth of the Newborn King!

(Angels and more Shepherds enter - the Angels announce the news.)

Angel 1: Don't be afraid! We are here with good news...which will bring great joy to all the people! (Luke 2:10)

Simeon: (Pinching himself) I must be dreaming...this can't be true?!

Angel 2: This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:11-12)

Narrator: Suddenly, a great army of heaven's angels appeared and began singing praises to God' (Luke 2:13)

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased! (Luke 2:14)

Narrator: The angels went away from them back to heaven. (Luke 2:15)

Simeon: (Patting Suren's back) You were right, little brother. It IS real. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." Glory to God in the highest...Glory to God in the highest...Glory to God in the highest! (Luke 2: 15)

(Angels and others sing Joy to the World. The entire cast gathers around the manger.)

(Simeon and Suren run to the place where the baby Jesus lies. He drops to his knees.)

Simeon: "Glory to God in the Highest."

ALL (pointing to the audience) Peace to all of you with whom He is pleased!

Narrator 1: Christmas: Santa Claus, Jingle Bells, and Presents under the Christmas tree...These are all part of the Christmas Tradition today, but none of them would exist without the event that the disciples Luke & Matthew described in their Gospel books of the Bible: The birth of Jesus.

Narrator 2: Each January 6, just as the days are beginning to get longer, Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. As we are busy preparing for this joyful time of celebration, we need to remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

ALL: We wish you a Merry Christmas!

(Everyone sings Silent Night in Armenian).

THE END.