

CAIN
By Matthew Burkholder

EXT. DWELLING - DAY

The time is approximately twenty years after Adam and Eve's exit from Eden. A small dwelling lays in the middle of a field and a man, Adam, stands outside with several young girls playing nearby. One of them, Tara, about five years old, approaches Adam.

Tara
Papa?

Adam
Yes Tara.

Tara
Is Mama going to be all right?

Adam
Oh baby. Of course. Of course she is.
Your sisters are in there with her.
They'll make sure everything is all right,
and the Lord is watching over us.

Tara
What is Mama doing?

Adam
Mama is giving birth to a new playmate for
you and your sisters.

Tara
How?

Adam
Well, there is a baby inside her.

Tara
How did she get a baby inside her?

Adam
Yes, well, you see Mama, she... Mama and
Papa...

The wailing of a baby is heard. Adam and Tara look toward the entrance and Beth appears. Beth is in her teens.

Beth
Papa! Papa! Come in!

Adam
Thank you lord.

Beth
Hurry!

Adam
What's the matter?

Beth
There's something wrong with the baby. I
don't know what it is, but there's
something wrong!

Adam rises and rushes in.

Tara
Beth, what's wrong?

Beth
I don't know baby. I don't know. It's
just strange.

The other girls approach the entrance and whisper amongst each other. A few moments pass and then a great peal of laughter is heard from inside. Adam comes out and looks upward.

Adam
The Lord has given me a son!

He falls to his knees in prayer.

Tara
Beth, what's a son?

Beth
Got me.

INT. DWELLING - DAY

Adam and Eve sit near a fire with the girls surrounding them. Eve holds the baby Cain in her arms. A few of the older girls are tending to chores around the house.

Tara
Father, tell us again about all the
animals.

Adam
I've told you about the animals many times.

Tara
Have you told us about ALL the animals?

Adam sighs.

Adam
Did I tell you about the platypus?

Tara
Platypus? That's a silly word.

Eve
I came up with that one. We were feeling
very silly. We'd come up with so many
names, lion, eagle, mouse, frog...

Karen
Frog is a pretty silly name if you ask me.

Tara
I didn't!

Karen
Well it is!

Tara
Is not! I like frogs.

Karen
You are a frog.

Tara
Daddy! Karen called me a frog.

Adam
Maybe you are a frog.

Tara runs to Eve.

Tara
Mama!

Eve
Adam. Tara, don't worry you aren't a frog.

Tara turns and sticks out her tongue at Karen.

Karen
You stick out your tongue like a frog.
Maybe you're trying to catch a fly.

Tara
Mama, tell me about the plat... plat...

Eve
Platypus.

Tara
Platypus.

Eve
It was such a funny looking animal I
thought it needed a funny name and out came
platypus.

Karen
What does it look like?

Eve
It's got the nose of a duck, fur like a
bear and a big flat tail and it's about
this big.

Eve indicates the size of the platypus

Tara
It does not! You're making that up!

Adam
No, it does.

Karen
I want to see one!

Tara
Me too!

Adam
Then you'll have to travel very far. The
Lord took the Platypus and said it would be
living far far away.

Karen
Over the mountains?

Adam
Farther.

Tara
Nothing's further than over the mountains.

Adam
Oh yes. The world is large. Why do you
think the Lord made so many animals? So
we'd have stories to tell you?

Eve
I think it's time for bed.

Tara
Awww, Mama! I'm not tired. I want to hear
about more animals!

Karen
Me too! Me too!

Beth
You heard Mama. Time for bed. There's
chores to do in the morning, and the day
after that is Sabbath.

Tara
All right.

Karen
Night Papa. Night Mama.

Tara
Night Mama. Night Cain.

Adam and Eve smile as Tara kisses her little brother on the
forehead. Cain stirs and gurgles.

EXT. DWELLING - DAY

As earlier Adam sits outside the dwelling. A few young girls play
around outside. Cain, now four years old, comes running toward
them covered in mud.

Cain
Mud!

The girls run screaming except for Tara who goes up to her
brother. She is nine now.

Tara
You're a mess!

Cain
Tara, mud! Mud, mud, mud, mud!

Tara
Don't worry Papa, I'll get him cleaned up.
Come on Cain.

Cain
Mud! You wanna play in it too Tara?

Tara
You're lucky Mama didn't see you like this.

A baby cries inside and soon Beth comes out of the dwelling.

Beth
Papa?

Adam
Well?

Beth
It's a boy.

Karen
Not another one!

INT. DWELLING - DAY

The young Cain stands at his baby brother's bedside.

Cain
He looks funny.

Eve
He looks like you looked when you were born. Maybe a little more like your father. You take after me.

Cain
I don't like him.

Eve
The girls didn't like you when you were born either.

Cain
How come?

Eve
Well, you were different.

Cain
But not anymore.

EXT. DWELLING - DAY

The girls are working with Adam to build another room onto the dwelling. Luluwa and Karen are weaving a roof out of leaves and straw. Beth mixes something in a large ceramic pot over a fire. Michelle is at the dwelling with Adam. Leah and Aklemia are ferrying materials to them.

Michelle
Leah! Bring another log.

Leah

Aklemia, help me with this?

Aklemia picks up the log herself and carries it to where Michelle is working.

Aklemia
This would go faster if father and I did it ourselves.

Adam
It is important that you learn to work together.

Cain, now around 11 or 12 comes out of the dwelling nearly knocking Aklemia over.

Aklemia
Lord above! Cain! Watch yourself!

Michelle
Aklemia. Mind your tongue. Tara! Tara!

Tara comes around the corner.

Tara
What? You don't have to yell, I'm right here.

Michelle
Take Cain ... somewhere else.

Tara
Where?

Michelle
Tara. Somewhere else.

Tara
Come on Cain. Let's go.

Cain and Tara go off together.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Cain and Tara approach the river laughing and running through the tall grass.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Cain and Tara sit in the shade of a tree throwing pebbles into the river.

Cain
Where do you think the river goes?

Tara
I don't know.

Cain
Where do you think it comes from?

Tara
Up there somewhere. In the mountains.

Cain
Someday I'm going to find out.

Tara
You're always asking silly things. We live here. This is where we're supposed to be.

Cain
Says who?

Tara
Says Mom and Dad.

Cain
They don't know everything.

Tara
Don't say things like that!

Cain
They don't!

Tara
Yeah, but you don't say that.

They pause.

Tara
Cain?

Cain
Huh.

Tara
Cain, do you think I'm pretty?

Cain
I dunno.

Tara

What do you mean you don't know?

Cain

I don't know. I've never seen any other girls.

Tara

You've got seven sisters. Of course you have.

Cain

Yeah, but you're my sisters.

Tara

I heard Mom and Dad talking about something the other night.

Cain

What?

Tara

About who's going to marry.

Cain

What's marry?

Tara

Be like Mom and Dad and have babies.

Cain

Oh.

Tara

They said I should marry Abel, since we're the youngest boy and girl, and you would marry Karen.

Cain

Oh.

Tara

But I'd rather marry you.

Cain

Really?

Tara

Yeah. Would you marry me?

Cain

I guess.

You would? Tara

Sure. Cain

Promise? Tara

Yeah, sure, I promise. Cain

Prove it. Tara

What do you mean, prove it? How? Cain

When you promise something, you have to seal it with something. Tara

Says who? Cain

Says me! Tara

So what do I got to do? Cain

Um... Tara

What? Cain

Close your eyes. Tara

Come on Tara, just tell me. Cain

I said close your eyes! Tara

Cain sighs, but complies.

OK. Tara

Cain

Now what?

Tara
Just stay where you are.

She leans forward and kisses Cain on the lips. Cain's eyes pop open.

Cain
What was that?

Tara
We kissed. Now you have to marry me.

Cain
Oh. That wasn't so bad.

Tara
Want to try it again?

Cain
Yeah.

Tara and Cain lean into each other and start to kiss. After a moment Cain jumps as if stung by a bee.

Cain
Ow!

Tara
What?

Cain
That didn't happen last time. Something...
Ow!

Tara
What?

Cain
It happened again!

Tara
What happened?

Cain
Something bit me or something.

They stand up and look around to see if there are any bugs or bees or anything around. Tara looks up and sees Abel's peeking head disappear behind the hill. She taps Cain on the shoulder and points up to where Abel is hiding. Abel peeks out again and sees

he's been spotted, and ducks down again.

Cain

Abel!

Cain starts up the hill. Abel jumps up.

Abel

You kissed Tara! You kissed Tara!

Cain

You little...

Cain begins to run and Abel runs off laughing.

INT. DWELLING - EVE

Cain and Tara sit before a seated Eve. Adam is fuming and standing nearby.

Adam

What were you doing?

Tara

We weren't doing...

Adam

I wasn't asking you! I was asking your brother. What were you doing?

Cain

We were just...

Adam

You were just what? What were you doing?

Eve

Let them at least answer you.

Adam

Kissing. That's what you were doing. You were kissing. Why?

Tara

I heard you and...

Adam

I was not asking you!

Eve

Cain, Tara, you may leave.

Adam

I... what?

Cain and Tara rise and practically run from the dwelling.

Adam

Now what do you think you're doing?

Eve

Adam. Sit.

Adam sits.

Eve

What is wrong with you?

Adam

They were...

Eve

They were kissing. Yes, and?

Adam

Well, they... they should have...

Eve

Just the other night we were talking about who Cain and Abel would marry, why are you now so surprised that he may be taking an interest in that subject?

Adam

But...

Eve

But you wanted to be the one to make that decision?

Adam

Yes.

Eve

Oh Adam. Dear, sweet Adam. They like each other. They want to marry. So let's let them marry.

Adam

But...

Eve

I'm not saying tomorrow. When the time is right. But Adam, there is nothing wrong

with what they were doing. They're children. They kissed. Who knows, tomorrow they may be over it and you can choose whoever you want as Cain's wife. But what harm is there in Cain choosing Tara, or Tara choosing Cain? There are still six other girls for Abel. So... I think you should cool yourself off. Appologize to the children for over ... don't give me that ... appologize to the children for overreacting and we'll all go to bed.

Adam

Yes dear.

Adam rises and moves toward the door.

Adam

Thank you Eve.

Eve

You're welcome.

Adam

I love you.

Adam exits.

Eve

Boys.

EXT. FIELD - EVE

Most of the girls are sitting in a circle as Tara approaches.

Tara

What's goin on?

Michelle

Tara, we need to talk.

Tara

Why, what's wrong?

Michelle

The others and I have been discussing this for a while, and now it's time to bring you into this. Leah thinks, well, we all think, it's time for us to move on.

Tara

What?

Michelle

We're becoming a burden to mother and father more than a help, and with the boys, well, they simply don't need us anymore.

Karen

Besides there's a whole world out there to explore. Don't you want to see it?

Tara

You too?

Karen

All of us.

Leah

We can't stay here forever, you know that.

Tara

I like it here. I like being here. I don't want to move on.

Beth

I like it here too, but I can see too that mother and father need to spend more time with Cain and Abel.

Luluwa

It took them some time to convince me too, but I can see it's right. We need to give them room.

Tara

Look, if you all want to leave, then fine, leave. Go where ever you want. I am going to stay here with my family.

Michelle

We're your family too.

Aklemia

She means she wants to stay here with Cain.

Tara

That has nothing to do with this!

Leah

Doesn't it?

Luluwa

You think I'm not going to miss Abel?

Tara

But I'm to marry him! You are to marry Abel!

Aklemia

You need to stay with us. With your sisters.

Karen

I need you to stay with us.

Tara

Have you mentioned this to mother?

Michelle

I think she knows. She always seems to know.

Tara

She needs help. She can't take care of the house on her own.

Beth

She can if it's just the two boys. If we stay, we'll be a burden. It's more mouths to feed. More work for all of them.

Michelle

Cain is so good in the fields, he practically looks at a seed and it grows. It's his gift, and the sheep love Abel. When he sings they come from miles away. The flock has never been so tight as with him. They don't need us. The world needs us. We need to get out and explore.

Karen

You want to explore the world don't you Tara? See all the animals that don't live here? See what's over the mountains?

Tara

Yes, but...

Michelle

So you'll go with us?

Tara

You aren't giving me a choice are you?

Leah

Not really.

Tara

When?

Michelle

In the morning. I'll tell Mother and Father tonight.

Tara

Let me tell Cain?

Michelle

Yes. You tell Cain.

EXT. FIELD - EVE

Cain sits looking at the field under a nearly full moon. Tara approaches him but remains at a distance. She stands back unnoticed by Cain for a few moments, then turns and leaves. Once gone, Cain turns and looks off after her.

EXT. DWELLING - DAWN

The girls are leaving with small satchels. Michelle hugs Adam and then Eve as the other girls watch.

Eve

Be careful.

Michelle

We will mother. Dry your tears.

Eve

I fear I'll never see you again.

Michelle

We'll look in on you from time to time.
We'll get word to you.

Adam

We'll look forward to it.

Leah, eager to be underway starts off, followed by Karen, Aklemia and Luluwa. Michelle turns and goes. Beth and Tara are left looking back at Adam and Eve. They turn to go when Tara runs back to Eve.

Tara

Tell Cain good bye for me?

Eve

I will.

Tara

I love you.

Tara runs off to catch up with her sisters.

INT. DWELLING - MORNING

Cain stirs from his sleep. Abel is already at the table eating.

Cain

Where is everyone?

Abel

Gone.

Cain

Out in the fields? Or has Aklemia led another of her famous hunting expeditions?

Abel

No, they've left. They left this morning.

Cain

What are you talking about gone?

Eve enters with a container of water and basket of fruit.

Abel

They left. It's just the four of us now.

Cain

Mother?

Eve

Abel, go help your father.

Abel

But mother, I'm not done...

Eve

He is calling for you.

Abel

All right. All right.

Abel exits.

Cain

Mother?

Eve

Cain. Tara asked me to say good bye.

Cain
Where did they go? I have to go find them.

Eve
No, we need you here.

Cain
But you don't need them? Where are they?

Eve
They needed to move on. It was time.

Cain
I don't understand.

Eve
I know. You will one day.

Cain runs outside.

EXT. DWELLING - MORNING
Cain runs out of the dwelling.

Cain
Tara! Tara!

Eve comes out behind him.

Eve
They left at first light. They're well
underway.

Cain
How could you! How could you let them go?

Eve
I'm their mother, not their God. They
needed this.

Cain
Tara!

Cain runs off.

INT. DWELLING - MORNING
Eve re-enters the dwelling and sits at the table.

Eve
Oh Lord.

Lord
It was time.

Eve

They're my daughters.

Lord

It is not easy, I know, letting go of your children. Believe me, it will never become an easy task. What smells so good?

Eve

I'm baking some bread.

Lord

I should like to try it.

Eve

Will they be safe?

Lord

As safe as any of you. They will encounter hardships, have no doubt of that. So shall you, but through it all I will be at your side.

Eve

And I appreciate the company. How does a mother not worry. Adam, he seems to take it all in stride. I simply can't share in his calm.

Lord

Adam suffers in his own way. Men... are confusing. But then again so are women. People can never truly know each other, no matter how long they spend together, no matter how much they know of each other, there will always be more to learn. It's the great experiment.

Eve

Cain is more confused than I. He and Tara were so close.

Lord

I know. But he will find peace one day.

Eve

Can I hold you to that?

Lord

You may. Now, the bread?

Eve

Of course.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Cain is working the field. Abel comes up behind him unnoticed.

*****MORE*****

INT. DWELLING - DAY

The family is sitting around a table at the end of the evening meal. Eve begins to clear the table.

Adam

That was a fine meal Eve.

Eve

Thank the boys. The lamb came from Abel's flock and the bread from Cain's wheat field.

Adam

Thank you then.

Abel

You're welcome father.

Cain

Of course.

Adam rises and steps to the doorway. The sun is starting to move down toward the horizon.

Adam

Boys, I need to speak to you. Step outside with me.

Cain

Yes father?

Adam

A great day has come, the Lord came to me today and has asked for a sacrifice from you. From both of you. He is looking upon the two of you as men, men who can stand on their own merits.

Cain

But, father, what shall we give?

Adam

I cannot say. He simply asked for a sacrifice.

Abel

Then, we'll give him one. When?

Adam

Tomorrow.

Cain

Tomorrow? But what can we give him so soon?

Abel

One of the sheep gave birth today. It was the first one of the season, I'll give that.

Adam

An excellent choice. Cain?

Cain

What can I give but the toil of my own labors. I'll give wheat.

Adam

Wheat. Well, you give what you see fit my son. Give what you see fit. Be ready with your gifts at dawn.

Adam moves off toward the hillside.

Cain

What else can I give?

Abel

Don't worry about it.

Cain

The way he said that, "Wheat." Like it was worthless. What else could I give?

Abel

I don't know, just don't worry about it. Give from your heart and the Lord will be pleased.

Cain

It's all I have!

Abel

I'm not arguing that with you! You take everything so seriously!

Cain

How should I take it? The Lord has asked us for a sacrifice, you're treating it like a game.

Abel

I'm treating it like an honor. I'm excited, you should be too, instead you're getting all worked up over it. You need to learn to relax, have fun.

Cain

"Wheat."

Abel

You aren't going to sleep at all tonight are you? You're going to lay there and worry all night.

Cain

I'm the first born, I have responsibilities.

Abel

And I don't? I need to check in on the sheep. Don't worry, the Lord will be happy with whatever you give.

Cain

Sure. Sure he will. "Wheat."

Abel heads off to tend his sheep, and Cain stands in front of their home for a moment. Eve comes out.

Eve

Cain?

Cain

Yes Mother?

Eve

You look worried. Come, tell me what's troubling you.

Cain

Nothing. I'm just thinking. I'm going to the field.

Eve

If you see any flowers, bring them back will you? I was thinking this place could use something colorful. Don't you think that would be nice?

Cain

Mmm-hmmm.

Eve

Are you listening to me?

Cain

Flowers. If I see any I'll bring them.

Eve

Cain, talk to me.

Cain

Not now mother. Not now.

Cain goes out to his field.

EXT. FIELD - EVE.

Cain makes his way down to his fields and looks over them. He walks down into the wheat which is just at his waist and runs his hand along the tops. He finds himself standing in the middle of the field and he looks upward.

Cain

What do you want from me? What do you want? Tell me! I'll give you anything you want, but I don't know what you want!

Lord

Listen to your heart, and you will know.

Cain

Listen to my heart? I don't know what that means.

Cain drops to his knees in the midst of the wheat.

Cain

I don't know. I don't know what that means.

Cain begins to cry.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DWELLING - EVE

In the orange light of the setting sun, Cain returns from the

field looking exhausted. He holds a handful of flowers in his hand.

Eve

I was wondering what happened to you.

Cain

You needn't have waited for me.

Eve

I wanted to. I was worried about you. Your brother seems to think the sacrifice has you concerned.

Cain

Abel needs to tend his own flock.

Eve

He cares for you.

Cain

That's great. Remind me to thank him.

Eve

I mean the Lord. He cares for you. Whatever you give must please Him. Listen to your heart, it will tell you what to give.

Cain's eyes grow wide at this.

Cain

What did you say?

Eve

He cares for you.

Cain

No, you said to listen to my heart. What made you say that.

Eve

It came into my head.

Cain

I see. Oh, here are your flowers.

Eve

Thank you.

Eve places the flowers in a rough pot.

Eve
I think that's nice don't you?

Cain
Yes.

Eve
Sleep. Go sleep. I'll make sure you wake
early enough.

Cain
That would be perfect wouldn't it.

Eve
What would?

Cain
To oversleep. Abel would laugh about that
for days.

Eve
You won't. Go, get some rest. Tomorrow is
a big day.

Cain
I love you Mother. Thank you.

Eve
Of course. I love you.

Cain moves off to his pallet as Eve sets the flower pot in a shaft
of the orange sun just as it fades out.

EXT. HILLSIDE - MORNING

The bleating of a lamb pierces the quiet of morning, false dawn is
off in the distance. Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel make their way up a
hillside to a large flat topped boulder at the top of the hill.
Abel is carrying a lamb which struggles in his arms and Cain is
carrying two large bushels of wheat.

Adam
Come along boys. No time to waste.

Eve
Don't rush them Adam.

Adam
The Lord waits for no-one. You should know
that as well as anyone.

Eve
Hush. How are you doing Abel?

Abel

Fine mother, she just doesn't seem to be as excited about this as I am.

Cain

I wouldn't be either. Poor thing's being taken to slaughter.

Abel

I don't hear your "wheat" complaining.

Cain

Very funny.

Adam

The sun will rise any minute boys. Let's go!

Cain

Race ya.

Abel

What?

Cain takes off up the hill passing Eve and Adam on the way. Abel attempts to run but stumbles and drops the lamb just barely stopping it from running off on its own.

Cain

Come on! What's taking you?

Adam nears Cain at the top of the hill.

Adam

What is the matter with you? This is not a game!

Cain

But father...

Adam

Cain! Not another word. Abel, are you all right?

Abel

I'm fine. Just lost my grip on her for a second.

Abel turns to Cain and mumbles quietly to him.

Abel

I'll get you for that.

Cain
Just you try.

Adam
Boys! Not today!

Cain
Sorry father.

Eve
Not long now.

Adam
Set your sacrifices on the stone.

Cain and Abel do so. Cain stands over his lamb with a knife ready to cut as soon as the sun is visible. They are all looking eastward at the horizon. The sun breaks the horizon. As it does Abel cuts the lambs throat and Cain unties his bushels of wheat. The lamb lets out one last bleat then everything becomes eerily silent and still. The sun hits the sacrificial slab and a brilliant golden light engulfs the lamb and it vanishes. The wheat lays there motionless. A gentle breeze begins to blow and several stalks of wheat are blown off the slab.

Cain
Oh no. Oh no!

Cain runs to catch the errant stalks of wheat. The wheat remaining on the alter dries out quickly and then turns to dust which is in turn blown away leaving only a few remnants sitting on the stone. There is no blood or any sign of the lamb anywhere.

Cain
Was that supposed to happen?

Adam
I ... can't say.

Abel
Wow.

Cain
Father? What does that mean?

Adam looks at Cain.

Adam
It doesn't bode well.

Cain
But, when you've offered sacrifices... has
that ever happened to you?

Adam
No. Usually... usually it is much like it
was with Abel's gift.

Cain
I see.

Abel
Did you see that? That was great! Mother,
did you see? It just vanished!

Eve looks at Cain with concern.

Eve
I saw dear, I saw. Cain?

Cain
What? Wasn't my gift good enough? What
was wrong with my gift?

Eve
Shush dear.

Cain
Shush? God just spat at my gift! What
does that mean? What?

Adam
Son!

Cain
What!

Adam
Do not speak that way here. This is holy
ground. This is the Lord's ground.

Cain
What should I do then father? Tell me.
What should I do?

Adam
Let's go down and eat our breakfast. We'll
speak of this later.

Cain
Later?

Adam

Later.

Adam starts downward.

Eve

Come along Abel.

Abel

Hey, Cain, don't worry about it. I'm sure
it will be all right.

Cain stands at the stone while the others make their way down the hillside. Eve stops a few feet down.

Eve

Cain, are you coming?

Cain

In a moment mother. Don't wait for me.

Eve

Don't fret over this. It is only your
first sacrifice.

Cain

I'll be along shortly.

Eve

I...

Unsure of what else to say to comfort him she starts down the hill. In the distance Abel is running ahead toward the dwelling. Cain stands with his hands on the sacrificial stone.

Cain

Wheat.

A wind comes up and blows the remainders away.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Cain is sitting near his field when a shaft of light beams down in front of him.

Lord

Cain.

Cain

What do you want from me?

Lord

Why are you sad? Your face is drawn so

low.

Cain
Why do you deny me?

Lord
If you do well, shall you not be accepted?
Sin waits for you Cain, it desires you, it
lays at your doorstep, but you hold
dominion over sin, you may rule over him.

Cain
I try to do well Lord!

Lord
Then you shall.

Cain
But why deny my gift and take my brothers?
I don't understand.

Lord
Your's is not to understand. Your's is to
obey.

The shaft of light disappears. Cain throws his hands up and
sighs.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Abel stands on a hill looking over his sheep as Cain approaches
Abel waves to him.

Abel
Good day brother!

Cain
Abel.

Abel
Mother was looking for you, why didn't you
come back for breakfast?

Cain
I wanted to get a fresh start today.

Abel
You're still brooding over your sacrifice.

Cain
No, I'm not.

Abel

You are so. Don't dwell on it.

Cain

Don't dwell on it? That's very easy for you to say, the Creator didn't ignore your offering. He took it, gratefully.

Abel

Even if he hadn't...

Cain

If he hadn't you would have gone running off crying and mother would have coddled you, I have to take it, I'm the elder son, father expects more of me.

Abel

We can't know what the Lord thinks. Don't waste your time trying to figure out what He thinks. You'll never do it. We serve Him. That's all we need to know.

Cain

No, I need to know more. I need to know what was so awful about my sacrifice that it turned to ash.

Abel

Was it ash? Looked more like dust to me.

Cain grabs Abel's staff away from him and pushes him.

Cain

Stop it!

Abel

Whoa, what's gotten into you?

Cain

What's gotten into me? All your gloating over your sacrifice.

Abel

I'm not gloating!

Cain

Tending your precious flock all day. I'm still older than you. I can still beat you at anything you care to try.

Abel

Give me back my staff.

Cain
Admit it, I'm better than you.

Abel
I will not.

Cain
I'm stronger and faster than you. Say it!

Abel
I'm stronger and faster than you.

Cain
You know what I mean!

Abel
Stop this, you're being stupid.

Cain
Stupid? You think you're smarter than me?
Is that what you think?

Abel
Cain, look I'm sorry the Lord didn't take
your sacrifice, is that what you want? I'm
sorry he took mine and not yours. I'm
sorry your sacrifice was worthless!

Cain
Stop it!

Cain attempts to hit Abel with the staff but Abel stops it and gets a grip on the staff. They fight with the staff between them for a bit, struggling for control.

Abel
Thought you said you were stronger. Guess
you've been getting lazy.

Cain
Don't think I can't beat you! I'll always
be stronger than you are little brother.

They struggle a little longer. Abel tries to pull the staff from Cain and just as he yanks on it Cain lets go and Abel falls back tumbling head first down the hillside.

Cain
Take that!

Abel tumbles several feet down the hill before he gains control of

himself. He comes to a stop and pulls himself up with the staff.

Abel

Are you done yet? You are just jealous
because the Lord favors me over you!

Abel starts back up the hillside.

Cain

Jealous? Of you?

Abel

That's what it is. You can't stand the
thought of me being the favorite one.

Cain

The Lord doesn't have favorites. Mother
says...

Abel

Mother says... you want to know what she
tells me when you aren't around? She says
that I'm the favorite. She says...

Cain

No she doesn't!

Cain reaches down and picks up some small rocks and starts
throwing them at Abel.

Abel

She says that when you were born, you were
a disappointment.

Cain

No, I wasn't! Father thanked God for me!
He offered a sacrifice!

Cain continues throwing rocks at Abel and Abel keeps dodging them
as he approaches getting closer and closer to Cain and taunting
him with every step.

Abel

And now the Lord chose me over you! Why
don't you go back to your field and pout
about it! You'll never amount to anything!

Cain finally picks up a large rock and brings it crashing down on
Abel's head.

Cain

Stop it! Abel! Stop it!

Cain continues to beat Abel with the rock until he sees the blood on the rock and on his hands. He stops and stands up dropping the rock.

Cain
Abel? What is this? Abel? Wake up. I'm
sorry. Now stop kidding around.

Cain sits beside Abel.

Cain
Abel? Abel!

Abel's eyes flicker for a moment.

Abel
You have slain me.

Abel dies.

Cain
No. No, that's not possible. You can't
die. You're a child of God. We can't die.
Abel. Abel! Don't kid around with me like
this! I can wait here all day Abel. I
can. Don't think I can't. I told you, I'm
stronger than you. I can wait all day.

Cain looks at his blood stained hands and truly sees the blood for the first time. He looks back at the body of his brother and stands.

Cain
It's just not possible.

Cain turns and runs away.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Cain runs through his field and falls to his knees exhausted.

Lord
Cain.

Cain remains motionless on the ground. A breeze stirs the wheat around him and the beam of light strikes the ground.

Lord
Where is Abel, your brother?

Cain
I know not. Am I my brothers keeper?

Cain pulls himself to his feet and begins to walk away.

Lord
What have you done?

Cain
Nothing!

Lord
Do not lie to me Cain. I know. The voice
of your brother's blood cries out to me
from the ground.

Cain
I didn't know! Why didn't you tell us?

Lord
Thou hast killed thy brother Abel!

Cain
We were fighting! We were fooling around!
I didn't know!

Lord
You have killed. Now you are cursed from
the Earth which opened her mouth to receive
thy brother's blood from your hand. The
pain of your brother's death spreads like
his blood. Henceforth whenever you till
the ground it shall not yield unto thee her
strength: a fugitive and a wanderer shalt
thou be on the Earth.

As the Lord speaks, the wheat around Cain begins to dry up, and the ground beneath his feet also turns dry and cracked.

Cain
What? No! I cannot live like that. Lord,
please! I am a farmer. I don't know
anything else. It's my only joy! I beg of
you!

Lord
You are a murderer!

Cain
You can make him alive again! You are God!
You can bring him back! Save him! You can
make everything right, like it never
happened!

Lord

You lied to me!

Cain

What do you want from me!? I don't know what to do. How can I please you? You denied my sacrifice! You! Tell me, what could I have given that would have pleased you? What? Now you take away my gift of tilling the soil! It was all I had! How can I please you?

Lord

You can not please me. You art a fugitive on Earth. I see you no more.

The beam of light vanishes.

Cain

You can't do this! My punishment is greater than I can bear!

Cain looks upward for a few moments.

Cain

GOD! GOD!

Cain falls to his knees weeping.

EXT. DWELLING - EVE.

Eve stands at the threshold of the dwelling.

Eve

Cain! Abel! Where have they gotten to?

Adam is seen coming over a nearby hill carrying something on his shoulders.

Eve

Adam! Did you find them?

Adam falls to his knees unable to bear the weight of the body any longer.

Adam

Oh God!

Eve runs to him.

Eve

Adam? Adam, what is it? Adam! No!

Eve sees that what he was carrying was her son's body.

Eve
My son! My Abel! My son!

Eve falls into Adam's arms.

EXT. HILL - EVE

There is a large fire burning around the sacrificial stone where Abel's body rests. Adam and Eve stand nearby and Cain watches from a distant hill.

Cain
Behold, my brother's funereal pyre. Lord,
you have driven me out this day from the
face of the Earth; and You shall not see
me, but people will know, my sisters will
see me and they will know I killed my
brother and theirs. It shall come to pass
that every one that finds me will try to
slay me and You will not watch over me. I
will be murdered as surely as Abel.

Lord
You shall not be killed.

Cain
They will know! They will try!

Lord
Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance
shall be taken on him sevenfold. This is
My final promise to you. Go from this
land. Never return.