Parados:

(A group of villagers walk onto stage, lights dim. Three of the villagers talk.)

Villager 1: To do the right thing

Villager 2: A rebellious act of passion

Villager 3: Ignoring the commands of his mother

Villager 2: In an attempt to live a better life

Villager 1: He must endure the ultimate strife.

Villager 2: Chasing the dream of education

Villager 3: One his mother doesn’t see fit.

Villager 3: if he takes the right path, perhaps he’ll be okay.

Villager 2: Or will he bear witness to his life’s early dismay?

Scene 1:

(Amiin, Ashkur, and Father Mark are on stage, a few other students in the backround. A desk is near the back of the stage.)

Father Mark: (Walks to where Amiin and Ashkur are sitting with a bible in hand and smiles) How are you kids doing today?

Amiin: (Stands up and reaches his hand out to the priest meekly. Shyly murmurs to the priest -Loud enough for Audience to hear-) Very good, thank you. I’m Amiin.

(Amiin and Father Mark exchange a handshake.)

Father Mark: (After he shakes Amiin’s hand, he reaches down to Ashkur, who is still sitting down. ) And what’s your name, young man?

Ashkur: (Nervously and excitedly stands up and reaches to shake the priest’s hand.) Ashkur. My name is Ashkur, sir. Wh-what’s your name?

Father Mark: (Shakes Ashkur’s hand and smiles at him.) Just call me Father Mark, I’m going to be teaching you for the next few weeks.

Amiin: What are we gonna be learning, Father Mark?

Father Mark: (Hands a bible to Amiin.) God. We’re going to learn about the reason why we are all here.

Ashkur: (With an excited tone) My father told me about god before. He says when Amiin and I are old enough, we will be able to take part in Ramadaan.

Father Mark: (Reaches into his jacket pocket, pulling out a smaller bible and opening it.) I assure you this is much different.

(Father Mark gestures for the two kids to sit down, and they do. He sits down afterwards, flipping through the pages in the bible.)

Father Mark: (Sets his bible upside down on the ground and grabs the one Amiin is holding) We’re going to start off by going to Psalms 11:5. (Opens the bible, flipping through the pages momentarily and hands Ashkur the bible)

Amiin: (Confusedly looks at the book) What does it say?

Father Mark: The lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul ha-

(Amiin and Ashkur’s father urges onto stage, furious.)

Dad: (Angrily yells at the boys, hitting Ashkur across the face and looking towards Father Mark) Who do you think you are? Teaching my boys about your heathen religion!

Father Mark: (Nervously but calmly stands up and speaks to the Dad) Don’t blame them, blame me for my trespasses.

Dad: (Very angry, yelling at the priest, emphasize INFIDEL) What in that jumbled mind of yours tells you that it is okay to come into our land and teach the ways of your infidel god?

(The Dad takes a swing towards the priest, Amiin and Ashkur hold him back.)

Amiin: (Still holding his father’s arm, slack.) What’s the reason for being so violent. He’s just teaching us something you will not.

Ashkur: (No longer holding his father’s arm, steps forward) What Amiin says is true, just leave him be. He doesn’t deserve to be punished for a good deed.

(Father Mark moves towards Ashkur and places his hand on his shoulder.)

Father Mark: (Hand on Ashkur’s shoulder) You two will be in my prayers (Pauses momentarily.) I suppose class is over. Now go along.

Dad: (Grabs Father Mark by his shirt) I don’t want you near my boys ever again. I don’t like what you are teaching. They do not need to be taught lies.

Chorus 1:

(5 villagers walk onto stage, they are wearing the same ragged clothes as the parados. The three villagers from the Parados speak.)

Villager 2: To defend his children from new ideas. He displays an explosion of fiery anger.

Villager 1: An anger that burns hotter than the sun, and more maliciously cold than ice.

Villager 3: Prejudice.

Villager 1: A father so cold

Villager 2: Set on keeping them away from the new

Villager 3:

Villager 1:

Scene 2:

(Setting, Amiin’s home. Amiin and his father are arguing about the priest. They are both angry. Ashkur is sitting with his head in his hands on a chair.)

Dad: You have a rich life ahead of you if you just join us. Would you dare disgrace your family like this?

Amiin: (Quietly, nervously.) No, father. I do not wish to disgrace our family. I just think education would be the only honest way to make it out of here.

Dad: Good. If you do not wish to disgrace me, then you must get rid of the priest. Neither he, or his religion are welcome in this village.

Amiin: What is your reason for such intense anger at a man whom has done no harm?

Dad: I have told you what you must do. Would you not listen to me?

Ashkur: (Rising from the chair and stepping forward) I’ll do it, father. My family has been good to me and I do not plan on sacrificing all I have for an American.

Amiin: (Shocked, walking close to Ashkur and speaking loudly at him) Ashkur, you cannot be serious. You MUST be joking!

Ashkur: I have sat in the shadow of your life too long, Amiin. (Looks over to Dad) Father, let me do this. I will show you I am just as worthy of joining your brotherhood as my older brother.

Dad: So be it.

Amiin: (Exasperated. He looks towards his father and yells.) Father! You can’t let a young boy kill a man for your own gain.

Ashkur: Is it really your decision, Amiin? Let me do what I need to do in order to show father I am capable of working with him.

Dad: (Frustrated, now yelling) Whichever you decide. I don’t care which one of you it is, I just want it done!

Amiin: Ashkur, you’re too young to make a decision like this. Killing someone? You’re only thirteen! We don’t need to listen to our father, we can find another way to live life.

Ashkur: We just met him, he may be a good man but he is not family, Amiin. I don’t have to listen to you, and I surely do not have to defend Mark.

Amiin: I won’t allow you two to just mindlessly kill an innocent man over something as little as religion.

(Amiin walks off stage to the left quickly, Ashkur and the Dad exit to the right soon after. The lights dim and chorus walks out.)

Chorus 2:

(Chorus walks onto stage from the left, wearing the same tattered clothing as before. Three different villagers speak)

Villager 4: A child’s wish to please his father no matter what the cost.

Villager 6: Wishing to please someone so cruel and cold hearted.

Villager 5: Someone with thoughts like venom. Seeping into the minds of his children and damaging them.

Villager 4: Doing the wrong

Villager 5: In order to be supported by his family.

Villager 6: An anger as maliciously cold as ice.

Villager 4: As hot as the core of the sun.

Villager 5: The father’s oppression, a dark veil shadowing over the minds of his children.

Villager 4: Causing one to do the right thing, and one to flaw.

Villager 6: In order to be accepted by his father.

Villager 5: In order to prove his worth.

Villager 4: He must kill his only hope.

Villager 6: His education.

Villager 5: Preparing to light fire to the only solemn bridge.

Villager 6: Setting fire to his only escape from his poverse life.