

Thomas Breakwell - Play outline

N = narrator; B = Thomas Breakwell

Scene 1 - Narrator, Breakwell, foreman, children working in cotton mill

N: This is Thomas Breakwell. He is 29, and works as a manager in cotton mill in America. This is his foreman, and these children are the workers in the cotton mill.

(B tells off foreman for being too strict. Tells foreman he is going to Europe for the summer.)

Scene 2 - On the steamer

N: On the steamer Breakwell met a friend of his.

B: I hardly know anyone in Paris.

Friend: You must meet my friend May Bolles ... (describes her)

Scene 3 - May's mother's house in Paris

N: Here are May Bolles and her mother, who is leaving Paris for the summer.

Mother: You are coming with us to Brittany for the summer.

May: I can't come with you. The Master ...

Mother: But you must come, I'm closing up the house.

May: I can look after myself.

... (finish scene)

Scene 4 - May, in her apartment in Paris

May (to audience): I didn't know why the Master wanted me to remain in

Paris, but one morning I answered the door and there was Thomas Breakwell. I was struck by his grace and charm ... We didn't talk about the Baha'i Faith that morning, but I said he could come back the next day.

Scene 5 - the next morning

N: When Breakwell arrived he was strangely excited.

B: Yesterday when I left you ... (tells story) Do you think I'm going crazy?

May: No, you are just becoming sane.

N: She told him about the Baha'i Faith, and that morning he became a Baha'i.

B (to audience): Immediately I sent a message to 'Abdu'l-Baha declaring my faith, and humbly asking for permission to visit Him. As soon as I could I left Paris for Akka.

Scene 6 - Narrator, Breakwell, Hopper (an American), oriental Baha'is

N: Thomas Breakwell arrived in Akka with another pilgrim, Herbert Hopper. They were shown into a large room where several Eastern Baha'is were standing.

(Hopper and B enter. Hopper walks forward and greets the Easterners with great enthusiasm, but B remains behind and sits at a table, looking sad and tired.)

B (to audience): I wondered why I had come, but then suddenly 'Abdu'l-Baha entered the room ... (tells story)

N: Breakwell told 'Abdu'l-Baha about his position in the cotton mill and how worried he was about the conditions of the children working there. 'Abdu'l-Baha told him to give up the job immediately, and remain in Paris to teach the Faith.

Scene 7 - May and Breakwell, in Paris

M (to audience): Thomas Breakwell transformed the teaching work in Paris, burning like a white light in the darkness. He soon became very ill, but continued teaching, even when he was dying in hospital.

B: I am not sad that I am ill and in pain, because it brings me closer to God. If only I can please 'Abdu'l-Baha, that's all I want.

Scene 8 - Dr Yunis Khan in Akka

N: This is Dr Yunis Khan, 'Abdu'l-Baha's secretary.

Khan (to audience): 'Abdu'l-Baha was very close to Thomas Breakwell and was very fond of him. One evening, when we were walking along, He said to me: "Have you heard?" ... (complete story)

Scene 9 - a Baha'i, reading

N: 'Abdu'l-Baha wrote a special prayer for Thomas Breakwell which Yunis Kham translated into English.

Baha'i: O My beloved, o Breakwell! Thou has become a star in the most exalted horizon, a lamp among the angels of heaven, a living spirit in the Supreme World, and art established upon the throne of immortality!

Stevenage,
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