

BBC SCREENPLAY FORMAT

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

There should be one
contact address only
in the bottom left
hand corner.
Always include a phone
number and an e-mail
address if you have one.

FADE IN:

EXT. TEMPLE OF GALILEE - DAY

A temple abandon. Fires rage over the horizon, unleashing massive pillars of black smoke. JOSEPHUS, a middle-aged Jewish historian, dons ornate robes and jewels. He stretches out his hand to catch a thin layer of ash falling from the sky. There is a momentary sorrow in his eyes that is immediately extinguished when he wipes his hand against his robes.

Suddenly, he hears a twig crack in a nearby bush. Going over to investigate, he notices the figure of a man bent over - hunched behind the bushes.

JOSEPHUS

I can see you.

The bush is still.

JOSEPHUS (CONT'D)

Did you hear me? I said I can see you!

The bush remains still.

JOSEPHUS (CONT'D)

Look, your leg's sticking out!

PHILO

Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground

JOSEPHUS

What?

PHILO

Josephus!

JOSEPHUS

... What?

PHILO

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

JOSEPHUS

That's... That's... No - no that's sacrilegious. You - you can't say that. You can't say that.

PHILO

I have observed the misery of my people who are in Galilee; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Romans.

Josephus picks up a near by stone and throws it at the bush. It smashes into PHILO, a young Egyptian Jew, who lets out a shout. Philo scrambles to his feet. He is younger than Josephus by about a decade. Where Josephus is decorated by vibrant robes, Philo wears simple white robes. Philo, enraged, picks up a rock of his own and flings it at Josephus. Josephus and Philo take turns throwing rocks at each other until the two are bloodied and bruised.

JOSEPHUS

(panting)

You have committed... The worst sin... Imaginable.

PHILO

I... I... I sinned?

JOSEPHUS

Uh huh.

PHILO

I SINNED??

JOSEPHUS

You committed a crime of unfathomable proportions.

PHILO

How?

JOSEPHUS

How?? You impersonated the all mighty! Identify yourself, shoteh.

Philo collects himself.

PHILO

Open the palm of your hand and know me, Josephus! I was born in Egypt, yes - but I have come back to my home among the ash.

JOSEPHUS

I did all I could.

PHILO

I do not accept that.

JOSEPHUS

They tortured me.

PHILO

They did no such thing! You gave it up willing. You sold out your nation. Our nation.

JOSEPHUS

I resisted. I headed our people against the invaders. For six grueling weeks I defended Jotapata. Did they not tell you? We the held the siege to the last man.

PHILO

Name them. Name the invaders.

JOSEPHUS

Have you ever heard the screams of the starving?

PHILO

The Romans! The Romans massacred our people.

JOSEPHUS

It was a WAR!

PHILO

Name him, Josephus! Name the man that brought our nation to the brink of ruin!

JOSEPHUS

He is merciful!

PHILO

The lord did not sunder our temples - torch our villages. The lord has chosen us as his people. He chose us! Name the man you chose. NAME HIM! NAME HIM!

JOSEPHUS

(hushed tone)
... Vespasian.

PHILO

Bastard.

JOSEPHUS

Who are you?

PHILO

Just another Judaeus. Have you thought of how history will remember you?

JOSEPHUS

I don't need to. I'm a historian.

PHILO

That's very convenient.

Beat.

JOSEPHUS

Philo Judaeus died over a hundred years ago.

PHILO

Justice is timeless. Try as you might, some things can never be rewritten.

FADE OUT.

THE END