

EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

(NOTE: All instances of voice cracking are indicated in brackets [] .)

The outskirts of a beautiful kingdom where travelers come from far and wide to gain experience and find adventure.

BALDRIC stands at the intersection of the crossroads, swaying back and forth anxiously. He holds a piece of parchment containing his script.

BALDRIC
(reading from script)
Hail, traveler!

BALDRIC grimaces.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
Oh, that sounds dreadful. Once more.

BALDRIC clears his throat and holds his head high.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
(reading from script -
voice cracks)
[HAIL], TRAVELER!

BALDRIC drops his head in disappointment.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
I can't disappoint them. Chin up,
Baldric. This job is in your blood.
How hard can it be?

The sound of galloping hooves can be heard in the distance, growing louder. BALDRIC straightens up, hides the script behind his back, and puts on his best "customer service" smile. A TRAVELER clad head-to-toe in heavy armor with a comically large sword on their back approaches on horseback.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
H-Hail, Traveler! Might you be able
to ... um ...

BALDRIC quickly peeks at his script.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
Fetch something for me?
(muttering to himself)
Sounds a bit boring.

The TRAVELER slows to a stop in front of BALDRIC.

TRAVELER

Reward?

BALDRIC

Why, yes! Of course.

BALDRIC and the TRAVELER stare awkwardly at each other.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)

Oh! You wanted to know what it is.

Yes, yes, silly me. It's ...

(checks script)

5 gold pieces.

Without saying a word, the TRAVELER gallops away.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)

Well, at least now I have more time
to practi--

Suddenly, an ADVENTURER appears in front of BALDRIC. BALDRIC
SHRIEKS!

ADVENTURER

Hail!

BALDRIC

(startled - voice cracks)

[Hail!] Where did you come from?

ADVENTURER

Fast travel! It's a modern marvel.
What is your quest?

BALDRIC

OH, well, um ...

(reciting)

Hail, Traveler! Might you--

ADVENTURER

Hail!

BALDRIC

Oh, I was just saying my lines.

ADVENTURER

Well, it would have been rather
rude of me not to return your
greeting.

BALDRIC

Uh, I suppose so. Anyway ...

(MORE)

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
 (reciting)
 Might you be able to fetch
 something for me?

In the blink of an eye, another adventurer appears in front
 of Baldric.

OTHER ADVENTURER
 Hail!

ADVENTURER
 Hail!

BALDRIC
 (terrified)
 AHH!

The two adventurers look at BALDRIC expectantly.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)
 Should I start over?

ADVENTURER
 No need; we are a group.

BALDRIC
 Thank goodness. I apologize for my
 performance. Today is my first day.

ADVENTURER
 What must we fetch?

BALDRIC
 Oh, I need to give you some flavor
 text first.

ADVENTURER
 No need. What must we fetch?

BALDRIC
 I'm supposed to tell you why--

ADVENTURER
 Nope.

BALDRIC
 But--

ADVENTURER
 Skip it.

BALDRIC

(sighs)

20 drops of moon dew. Reward is 5
gold pieces.

ADVENTURER and OTHER ADVENTURER instantly disappear.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)

Modern marvel indeed.

BALDRIC shifts back and forth nervously. No more adventurers
come.

BALDRIC (CONT'D)

5 gold pieces. I could do quite a
bit with that.

(pause)

20 drops of moon dew, it is.

BALDRIC sets off, beginning his own quest.

END.