

ELI DIRECTS HIS LADY FRIEND TO WAIT UPSTAIRS, THEN COMES OVER TO HELP:

ELI
Daniel. Daniel. DANIEL PLAINVIEW
THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE!
(beat, to servant)
You can leave us... Please.

The servant leaves. Daniel wakes up, looks very hungover.

ELI (CONT'D)
Brother Daniel... It's Eli...

DANIEL
Yes it is...

Daniel Grunts and sits up... Eli reaches for some glasses and pours TWO DRINKS... Of which he drinks both.

DANIEL pours himself a drink.

ELI
Your home is a miracle. It's
beautiful. God Bless it.

DANIEL
...

ELI
I've been spreading his word far
and wide, far and wide, so much
travel for him... I've been working
in radio...! So much has been
happening, but to be here and find
you and see you well is wonderful
and we have a chance to catch up!
(Beat)
My brother, Daniel! We are such old
friends! So much time...

Eli takes another drink...

ELI (CONT'D)
Ahh, things go up, things go down
but at least the lord is always
around.
(beat)
We've seen ups and downs, haven't
we?

DANIEL
Are things down aright now Eli?

ELI
No, no... But I come with some sad
news: Perhaps you remember Mr.
Bandy?

DANIEL

....

ELI
Mr. Bandy has passed on to the lord

Eli says a silent prayer to himself.

ELI (CONT'D)
He lived to be 99 years old. Mr.
Bandy has a grand son. Have you met
his grandson? William?

DANIEL

....

ELI
William Bandy is one of the finest
members we have in the church of
the third revelation. He is young
and fit and strong with good
charismatic ability and he is
headed for wonderful things. He is
eager to come to Hollywood to be in
movies. He is VERY good looking.
And I do think he will have success

DANIEL
That's wonderful.

ELI
Would you like me to speak with
him?

Beat. Silence. Stare off.

ELI (CONT'D)
Daniel, I'm asking if you'd like to
have business with the church of
the third revelation in developing
this lease on young Bandy's
thousand acre tract.

Beat. Daniel stare gets more intense.

ELI (CONT'D)
I'm offering you to drill on one of
the great un-developed fields of
little boston!!

DANIEL

I'd be happy to work with you...

ELI

You would? Yes, yes of course.
Wonderful!

DANIEL

But there is one condition for this
work.

ELI

Alright.

DANIEL

I'd like you to tell me that you
are a false prophet.

ELI

What?

DANIEL

I'd like you to tell me that you
are, and have been, a FALSE
PROPHET... and that GOD is a
superstition.

ELI

But that is a lie.

DANIEL

Really?

ELI

It's a lie. I cannot say it!

Beat. Long Pause.

ELI (CONT'D)

When can we begin to drill?

DANIEL

Right away.

ELI

How long will it take to bring in
the well?

DANIEL

Should be very quick.

ELI

I would like one hundred thousand dollar signing bonus plus the five that is owed with interest.

DANIEL

That's only fair.

ELI

I am a false prophet and God is a superstition. If that's what you believe, then I will say it.

DANIEL

Say it like you mean it.

ELI

Daniel...

DANIEL

Say it like it's a sermon!

ELI

This is foolish.

DANIEL

Say it!

ELI

"I. AM. A. FALSE. PROPHET. GOD IS A SUPERSTITION." is that fine?

Beat. Daniel smiles.

DANIEL

Those areas have been drilled.

ELI

What!?

DANIEL

Those areas have been drilled.

ELI

No they have not.

DANIEL

It's called drainage. I own everything around it... So I get everything underneath it.

ELI

But there are no derricks there.
This is the Bandy Tract. Do you
understand?

DANIEL

Do you!?! I drink your water, Eli. I
drink it up. Everyday. I drink the
blood of the lamb from Bandy's
tract.

ELI

No, no, no...

DANIEL

YES!

Beat. Eli takes another drink.. And then begins to break down
and cry and cry and sob like a baby...

ELI

Oh, Daniel... Please! I'm in
desperate times... I need a friend.
I feel the walls are closing in, I
HAVE SINNED, I NEED HELP! I'M A
SINNER! I've let the devil grab a
hold of me in ways that I have
never imagined! I'm so full of sin.

DANIEL

The lord sometimes challenges us,
doesn't he?

ELI

Ohhh yes he does, yes he does. HE
HAS COMPLETELY FAILED TO ALERT ME
TO THE RECENT PANIC IN OUR ECONOMY
AND THIS. I MUST HAVE THIS. I MUST.
I've invested, my investments
have... Daniel, I won't bore you,
but I- IF I COULD GRAB THE LORDS
HAND FOR HELP I WOULD! BUT HE DOES
THESE THINGS ALL THE TIME, THESE
MYSTERIES THAT HE PRESENTS AND
WHILE WE WAIT. AND WAIT. WAIT FOR
HIS WORD..

DANIEL IS HOLDING A LOOK ON ELI:

DANIEL

You are not the chosen brother,
Eli. It was Paul who was the
chosen. He found me and he told me
about your land. You are a fraud.

ELI

Why are you talking about Paul?
Don't say this... Don't say this to
me, Daniel.

DANIEL

I did what your brother couldn't. I
broke you and I beat you. It was
paul who told me about you. He's
the prophet. He is the smart one.
He knew what was there and he found
me to take it out of the ground.

He SMACKS ELI ACROSS THE FACE. HITTING HIM.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

STOP CRYING! YOU SNIVELING ASS!
STOP YOUR NONSENSE.

Hitting him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You are just the younger brother.
And you will always be the younger
brother, Eli... and that land has
been had. YOU. HAVE. NOTHING. YOU
LOSE. YOU IDIOT. YOU LOSE.

ELI

If you take this lease on the bandy
lot, the church would--

DANIEL

DRAINAGE!! DRAINAGE ELI!! DRAINED
DRY! YOU LITTLE BOY!

(Beat)

If you have a milkshake and I have
a milkshake and I have a straw and
my straw reaches ACCCCRROSSSSSS the
room starts to drink your
milkshake: I DRINK YOUR
MILKSHAKE!!! I DRINK IT UP!!!

ELI

Don't bully my Daniel, please! HELP
ME. PLEASE. MY FAITH HAS BEEN LOST
AND I NEED A NEW WAY. I ASK FOR
YOUR HELP-

IN A FLASH: DANIEL is UP and has GRABBED ELI AND THROWN HIM
HALFWAY ACROSS THE ROOM. Eli flails about as Daniel closes
in, hysterical/crazy/kicking/pushing,etc...

DANIEL

I TOOK WHAT I WANTED WHEN YOU
WEREN'T LOOKING AND THE BLOOD OF
THE LAMB IS IN MY POCKET. DO YOU
THINK GOD IS GOING TO BALANCE YOUR
INVESTMENTS? GOD DOESN'T SAVE
IDIOTS, ELI. YOU ARE BROKE AND YOU
ARE LAME AND YOU ARE DONE FOR!!

ELI

No I'm not.

DANIEL

DID YOU THINK THAT YOUR SONG AND
DANCE AND YOUR SUPERSTITION WOULD
SAVE YOU? I AM THE THIRD
REVELATION! I AM WHO THE LORD HAS
CHOSEN. BECAUSE I'M SMARTER THAN
YOU. I AM OLDER AND WISER AND I AM
NOT A FALSE PROPHET, YOU SNIVELING
BOY. YOU'RE DONE FOR.

ELI

Not done for, no.

DANIEL

YES.

Along the way, he picks up a HAVE SILVER TUMBLER.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I AM THE THIRD REVELATION! I AM THE
THIRD REVELATION! I TOLD YOU I
WOULD EAT YOU UP, I TOLD YOU I
WOULD EAT YOU. HOW DARE YOU COME TO
ME? HOW DARE YOU?

ELI

Daniel! Daniel! Please, please,
please, I beg you. I beg you.

Daniel Smashes his head wide open, blood squirting.

DANIEL

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HUH? WHAT DID
I TELL YOU? AHHH!!