

**ABSALOM TAKES REVENGE (II Samuel 13)**

**Parts:** Narrator  
Tamar  
Absalom, Absalom's servants,  
King David, king's sons  
Messenger  
Jonadab  
watchman

*(After Amnon has disgraced Tamar, she puts ashes on her head, and tears her garment of many colors. She enters with her hand on her head, crying bitterly.)*

**Absalom** *(enters, approaches Tamar, and puts his arm around her):*

"Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart."

*(Absalom leads her to his house.)*

**Narrator:**

So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

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And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.

**Absalom** *(comes in to the king, bows):*

"Behold now, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."

**King David:**

"No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you."

**Absalom:**

"Please, sir."

**King David:**

"No, my son, but you go and have a good time, with my blessing."

**Absalom:**

"If you will not come, please let my brother Amnon go with us."

**King David:**

"Why should he go with you?"

**Absalom:**

"Please, sir, I wish to include all my brothers in this good time."

**King David:**

"Very well, go and take Amnon and your other brothers with you."

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*(Later, at Absalom's sheep shearing festival. His brothers are all partying and having a good time.)*

**Absalom** *(secretly to a few servants):*

"Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

**Narrator:**

And the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded.  
*(act out: the crowd breaks into confusion)*

Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.  
And it happened, while they were on the way, that news came to David.

**Messenger** *(enters, is announced, comes before the king, bows):*

"My Lord, Absalom has slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left!"

**Narrator:**

And the king rose [from his throne,] and tore his garments, and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

**Jonadab:**

"Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar."

"Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."

**Watchman** *(lifts up his eyes and looks, and sees many people coming on the road. Comes down and reports to Jonadab):*

**Jonadab:**

"Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is."

**Narrator:**

And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.

But Absalom fled, and went to Talmi, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And [David] mourned for his son every day.

(The End)