

"The Pearl"

Characters of the play

The sea

Pebble 1

Pebble 2

A Grain of Sand

SCENE: A pebbled, sandy shore. Two pebbles are cursing the sea for smashing them against the shore.

PEBBLE 1: (*Shouting at the sea*) Why won't you just leave me alone! All I want is a single day of rest, a single day of peace..

PEBBLE 2: On and on! Every day, you never cease! Can't you see we're wearing away.

The SEA: (Nonchalantly) I go! I come! I come! I go! Coming and going is all that I know.

PEBBLE 1: Have you no mercy? Have you no shame? (Proudly) I was once a huge rock of your sea. I was a titan of stone! I dared to defy you. But now, I am fraction of my true self - a pathetic little, smooth pebble stuck here on this crowded beach for you to toss around as you please.

PEBBLE 2: (Proudly) And I was once part of that mighty cliff over there. I was proud and strong too. I stood tall for all the world to see. But then your humbling waves broke me free and washed me up on the shore. Now, look how small I have become.

The SEA:: (Nonchalantly) I flow! I ebb! I ebb! I flow! Ebbing and flowing is all that I know.

PEBBLE 1: You have worn us out, we are tired from running up and down the beach. I wish that the gods will one day toss me too far for you to reach.

PEBBLE 2: We are falling to pieces. Soon there will be nothing left of us.

The SEA: Out and in! In and out! Twice a day, without a doubt.

PEBBLE: 1 You are cruel. You don't care! You laugh as we tumble and fall, snigger as we jump and crawl. You conduct a chorus of pain, to you all this is just a silly game.

PEBBLE 2: We are degrading and dissolving fast! Look at all your victims scattered here across the beach.

The SEA: I rise and I fall with the sun and the moon. I go out quickly but then I come back soon. (The sea smashes the two pebbles together)

PEBBLE 1: Ouch! I'm sorry my friend! Is there no place to hide?

PEBBLE 2: Oww! I just felt something break off my side.

The SEA: The hurricane has made me strong today. Nothing can stop me or get in my way.

PEBBLE 1: You have no heart to feel our pain.

PEBBLE 2: Or soul to know what is right!

The SEA: Don't blame me, blame the moon that stirs the sky. She wields a power to make me heave and sigh. Or blame the wind who bursts all my seams, into wild ever recurring dreams. (Suddenly the pebbles are startled)

GRAIN OF SAND: Hey you! Hey you two over there! Will you stop your incessant complaining!

PEBBLE 1: Who's that!

PEBBLE 2: Show yourself!

GRAIN OF SAND: I'm here! Down here! I've been listening to what you've been saying all day. What a bloody fuss you make. Why do you grumble and fret so. Have you ever heard me complain. No! Just look at what the sea has done to me! I am a speck in the universe of things.

PEBBLE 1: But where are you?

PEBBLE 2: We can't see you!

GRAIN OF SAND: I'm here, trapped inside this lonely shell. One grain of sand is all that is left of me now and still you have the cheek to complain about size. It is dark, very dark in here and I can see nothing of the world.

PEBBLE 1. I'm sorry, I' m just frightened of what I will become.

PEBBLE 2: Soon there will be nothing left.

GRAIN of SAND: Ha! You fear for yourself even though you probably have another 100 years or so left. You are weak in spirit! One moment in time and I may be lost forever!

PEBBLE 1: But we can't see you.

PEBBLE 2: Are you near?

GRAIN of SAND: How the hell do I know, I'm inside a shell.

PEBBLE 1: Oh so you are, I'm sorry!

PEBBLE 2: By the way, how did you get in there?

GRAIN OF SAND: One day the oyster filtered me inside. I'm trapped but at least it saved me from absolute oblivion.

PEBBLE 1: We will try to find you?

PEBBLE 2: But there are thousands of shells on the shore,
(The tide comes in and the shell crashes against one of the pebbles, then the other)

PEBBLE 1: Ouch.

PEBBLE 2: Oww!

GRAIN OF SAND: There, that was me. we just collided. Watch out, I have been told my shell is very, very sharp.

PEBBLE 1: Yes I felt it scrape along my back.

PEBBLE 2: Oh no, another piece of me has just fallen away .

GRAIN OF SAND: I'm sorry, but I didn't ask to be trapped in here.

PEBBLE 1: You must be so tiny to get inside that shell.

PEBBLE 2: I can see no opening.

GRAIN OF SAND: Yes, the keenest eye in the world would struggle to see me. I am so small that sometimes I feel like I don't exist.

PEBBLE 1: Oh come on there must be something of you otherwise we wouldn't know who you were.

PEBBLE 2: You still have some substance.

GRAIN OF SAND: Yes, but for how long? I have been so very small for so very long.

PEBBLE 1: As long as you can stay inside that shell you should be okay.

PEBBLE 2: Yes and we will try to watch out for you.

GRAIN OF SAND: It's not easy being stuck in this dark prison. At least you have each other to keep you company. I have no friends in here.

PEBBLE 1: We can be your friend if you like.

PEBBLE 2: Yes, but please tell me, what were you before you became a grain of sand?

GRAIN OF SAND: I was a pebble just like you.

PEBBLE 1: No, I was a huge rock who stood large the sea!

PEBBLE 2: And I was once as great cliff.

GRAIN OF SAND: Oh I'm sorry if I offended you but we all have to lose a bit of ourselves down here, don't we.

PEBBLE 1: Were you nothing bigger?

PEBBLE 2: Were you a little pebble all your life?

GRAIN OF SAND: I can only remember being a pebble. I always sat at the top of the beach somewhere over there, but day by day the sea seemed to get bigger and bigger and it dragged me down into the water.

PEBBLE: 1 Were you a pebble for a long time.

PEBBLE 2: Were you born up there?

GRAIN OF SAND: To be honest I don't know where I came from and it's difficult to keep track of time, but I do remember

the violent years when the sea crashed me against my brothers and sisters here on the beach, just like she does to you now. The other pebbles I used to know are all very small now and I think some don't even exist. It's sad not to exist.

PEBBLE 1: Oh God what a shame. That's my greatest fear.

PEBBL 2: And were you a nice pebble.

GRAIN OF SAND: Oh yes I was very round and very smooth. I was such a proud piece of stone. Now I am very sad of what I have become - a grain of sand that no one can see.

PEBBLE 1: Watch out her comes the sea again.

PEBBLE 2: Hold on to yourself.

The SEA: My dreams are to reach up to the top of the shore. To reach out further than I have reached out before.

PEBBLE 1: I hate the sea, the cruel sea.

PEBBLE 2: Will it ever let us free?

THE SEA: You must accept your fate before it's too late. Nothing is the same as it was before. What was, will become something more.

PEBBLE 1: But I want to become what I was before.

PEBBLE 2: What I was, is what I am.

THE SEA: No! You must become what you were not. You can't have what you haven't got. (There is a shout from the beach)

THE GRAIN of SAND: Oh mercy, mercy me, cruel and merciless sea. You have taken everything from me. Please break my shell and set me free.

PEBBLE 1: No! Stay safe inside your shell.

PEBBLE 2: Or you will be washed away forever.

THE GRAIN of SAND: No, I can't stand this darkness anymore. The sea is right, nothing can be what it was before.

THE SEA: One strong gust of wind is all that it will take. You're in my path and your shell I will brake. (There is a great crashing wave and it breaks open the oyster shell)

PEBBLE 1: Oh no, the shell has shattered into a thousand pieces.

PEBBLE 2: The sea has done its work! How cruel!

THE SEA: I am not cruel. I am not kind. What you see is what you find.

PEBBLE 1: Oh look, something has fallen out of the shell.

PEBBLE 2: Yes, it's beautiful! What is it?

THE GRAIN of SAND: It is me the grain of sand. I am pleased that you can still see me. I thought I would be dissolved forever.

PEBBLE 1: But you have become something else.

PEBBLE 2: Something bigger.

THE GRAIN of SAND: No! What have I become?

PEBBLE 1: You are the roundest and most beautiful pebble I have ever seen.

PEBBLE 2 : Yes you are the loveliest pebble on the beach.

THE SEA: No, that's not a pebble lying there?

THE GRAIN of SAND: Please tell me what am I?

THE SEA: You are a pearl.

PEBBLE 1: Yes, I heard the other pebbles talk about pearls. They say that those people who come to the beach fall in love with them and take them home to keep them safe.

PEBBLE 2: Yes, but why don't they take care of us, they just throw us back into the sea. Are we not beautiful too?

THE GRAIN of SAND: I would love someone to come and take care of me.

PEBBLE 1: You have become something desired, something wanted.

PEBBLE 2: I Wish someone wanted me! I envy you!

THE GRAIN of SAND: Please don't, I once was what you are.

PEBBLE 1: But now you are something more.

PEBBLE 2: Something more precious.

THE GRAIN of SAND: I'm still a piece of stone?

PEBBLE 1: But now you shine with the brilliance of the sun.

PEBBLE 2: And you rare, unlike any of us here on the beach.

THE GRAIN of SAND: But I don't want to be different. I just want to be what I was before.

THE SEA: Nothing can be what it was, only what it must become.

THE GRAIN of SAND: Why?

THE SEA: That's just the way it is and always will be. I go! I come! I come! I go! Coming and going is all that I know.

THE END