Act 1, Scene 2-Hard Times for Father and a lazy Aladdin

(Early morning darkness before the dawn. Mother and Father are talking as they eat their humble breakfast.)

FATHER: Aladdin has now reached his 10th year. I have longed for this day. It is time to teach him the trade of tailoring.

MOTHER: You are a good and patient man to attempt this quest.

FATHER: Up to now, Aladdin has been lazy and disobedient in spite of my scolding and punishment. He has shown no interest in anything that requires effort. His only desire is to wander the markets and run with other vagabonds, getting into trouble where they can find it. May Allah give me strength. (Calls to Aladdin who is asleep.) Aladdin, time to rise and begin a new day as a tailor’s apprentice.

ALADDIN: (Groggy.) It is still dark. I will rise later after the sun awakens.

MOTHER: You will get up now and do your part to help your family.

ALADDIN: But mother, hunger gnaws at my stomach.

MOTHER: I can find you a little something to eat. You can join Father at the shop.

FATHER: You spoil the boy.

MOTHER: He is spirited and doesn’t mean to be troublesome. I am sure he will be a help in your shop.

FATHER: I pray that you are right. Aladdin’s laziness and lack of ambition distresses me greatly. (Father wearily heads to shop, exits stage L.)

MOTHER: Aladdin, time grows short. Your destiny awaits you. (Gives him some bread. Lights come up on the main stage where the market comes alive. Aladdin exits door left.) Sometimes I wish I had a daughter instead of a son. Girls are much easier to manage than boys. (Mom exits door left, lights off house.)