

A RUMBLE FROM HEAVEN

By Rod

Based on Acts Chapter 10 when Peter meets Cornelius and realises the gospel is for gentiles as well as for Jews. Read as a poem it can be illustrated by a number of actors illustrating the events as they unfold.

Now this is the tale of Cornelius.
A centurion, Italian by birth.
Caesarea is where he's located,
North of Joppa – for what it is worth.

Despite Corny being a Gentile,
He believed in the God of the Jews.
Three o'clock one day he was praying;
Yes, instead of an afternoon snooze.

No question of sleep for our hero,
He saw clearly an angel of God.
Who called to him "Hey, you, Cornelius!"
Which sure gave our centurion a prod.

"Whatta you want?" asked Corny now fearful.
But the angel our Corn did assure.
"God's heard your prayers, and they please Him;
And He's seen what you give to the poor.

"Send some men for a man they call Peter.
You will like his god-fearing manner.
They will find him staying in Joppa,
At the house of Simon the Tanner.

So Corny sent two of his servants
Down south, with his batman, to Joppa.
But with firm centurion instructions,
"Maka haste, there ain't time to stoppa."

At noon the next day down in Joppa
Peter went up on his roof for to pray.
But his tum, it started to rumble
With that feeling which won't go away.

So no pray'rs from Pete just some shut-eye,
 And dreams of food – espec'ly of meat.
 Four-footed beasts, birds and all reptiles
 Lowered down in a large open sheet.

“Go and eat” he was then instructed.
 “No, I can't, Lord” he said “It's unclean.”
 “But it's not if God says it's not so”,
 He was told. But what does this mean?

Just as Peter was musing this question
 Corny's three men arrived at the gate.
 The Spirit said clearly to Peter,
 “Go with them, do not hesitate.”

Pete went off with brothers from Joppa
 To Caesarea, and Corny's abode.
 Where he found a large group of people
 Who greeted him as in Peter strode.

Corn fell at his feet in god-worship,
 But he said to him “No, you must stand.
 I Peter am not due your rev'ence,
 Just like you, I am merely a man.”

There was still another big issue
 For our Peter, an upstanding Jew.
 'Cause the room was packed full of Gentiles;
 Being there, as a Jew, wouldn't do.

But Corny told Pete of his vision,
 And his chat with an angel of God.
 Light dawned in the mind of old Rocky.
 It was Peter who now got the prod.

He then preached to all the assembled,
 About Jesus as saviour of all.
 But no time to finish his sermon,
 Holy Spirit made quite clear His call.

Out He poured on Corn and the Gentiles
 Just as much as He did on the Jews.
 They all spoke in heavenly voices,
 Praising the Lord, proclaiming good news.

And so it was that God prompted Peter,
By Corny, and some visions of meat.
Since it included some birds of the air,
We could call it a heavenly tweet.

And if God needs to change our direction
Will an angel be sent to our aid?
Will we get our very own vision,
Or just a rumble – after we've prayed?