**SCENE V. Another room in JEDEDIAH'S house.**

*Enter JEDEDIAH, with ROSCOE and BARNEY*

**JEDEDIAH**

What kin I be a doin’ fer you, neighbor?

**ROSCOE**

Me and my trusted colleage would like to talk atcha if’n you don’t mind.

**JEDEDIAH**

Make it fast, if’n ya don’t mind. I’m in dang big hurry, today.

**ROSCOE**

Here it is, Mr. Hogue, sir.

**BARNEY**

The whole truth, and nothin’ but the whole blamed truth.

**JEDEDIAH**

What is it, my good friends?

**ROSCOE**

Goodman Barney, sir, speaks a little off the  
matter: an old man, sir, and his wits are not so  
blunt as, God help him, I would desire they were; but,  
in faith, honest as the skin between his brows.

**BARNEY**

Yes, I spect I’m as honest a man as thar is in these here mountains.

**ROSCOE**

Hardly a man could compare to you in honesty, Barney.

**JEDEDIAH**

Neighbours, you are tedious. What do you want?

**ROSCOE**

Just let me say that it is an honor to be talkin’ to you, sir. If’n somebody wus to have tolt me that I’d a be a talkin’ to Jedediah Hogue on his daughter’s weddin’ day, well then I don’t know whut I’d a said. Therefore, I bestow all my tediousness on thee.

**JEDEDIAH**

All yer tediousness on me, ah?

**ROSCOE**

Yes sir, and e’en mor’n that if’n I had it, fer you’d be the one that deserves it, sir.

**BARNEY**

Whatever he said, I feel the same way.

**JEDEDIAH**

What do you want?

**BARNEY**

Last night’s watchmen apprehended a couple of sorry Bald knobbers as you ever seen.

**ROSCOE**

Excuse my deputy, senior, he don’t even know wher Bald Knob is.

**JEDEDIAH**

Indeed, neighbour, ain’t near as sharp as you appear to be.

**ROSCOE**

Gifts from God, your honor.

**JEDEDIAH**

I must leave you.

**ROSCOE**

But we’re a needin’ you to examine these two bad seeds which the night watch captured last night.

**JEDEDIAH**

Question them yourselves. I don’t have time fer this, now. Good day to ye both.

**ROSCOE**

You heard the man, Barney. We’re to examine these two heatherns ourselves. Back to the watchmen and the Bald Knobbers. Away!