

MOSES
(resigned)
Let us go up Mount Hor.

WIND PICKING UP, AS THEY CONTINUE WALKING TO THE MOUNTAIN.

EXT. MOUNT HOR - DAY

THE WIND BLOWS. MOSES, AARON AND ELEAZAR WALK OVER LOOSE ROCKS.

ELEAZAR
We have almost... Reached the top.

THEY STOP. THEIR BREATHING IS RAGGED.

MOSES
There... do you see it? The cave in the mountain slope. We must go in here.

ELEAZAR
In the cave? Why?

MOSES
Well...

AARON
I think I know why, Moses. Am I... am I dying?

MOSES
(moved)
Oh, Aaron... my dear brother. It is time.

ELEAZAR'S SHARP INTAKE OF BREATH.

ELEAZAR
But... Father, you have to come with us to the Promised Land -

AARON
(realizing)
No, Eleazar. I'm not coming with you.

ELEAZAR
Why not?!

FYI: This is a time jump. AARON is now in his 70-80s.

**Side 3
START >>>**

AARON

Because of Meribah. Because we did not trust the Lord completely when He told us to speak to the rock.

MOSES

Aaron...

AARON

I was the High Priest, Moses. I should have acted differently. I should have been an example of perfect faith.

MOSES

(loving)

Do not blame yourself, brother. We both failed that day. The fault is not yours alone.

MOSES EXHALES HEAVY. AARON LETS OUT A DEEP, SHAKING SIGH. ELEAZAR SOBS QUIETLY.

AARON

Eleazar... that's why the Lord called Eleazar to come with us, isn't it? He will be the High Priest now.

MOSES

Your son will carry on the sacred duties.

AARON

(peacefully)

This... this comforts me greatly. The priesthood will continue. The Lord's covenant will not be broken.

ELEAZAR

(his voice choked)

Father... I am not ready...

AARON

If God thinks you are ready, then you are, son.

ELEAZAR kneels in front of AARON.

ELEAZAR

Please, give me your blessing.

AARON

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

ELEAZAR

(through tears)

Thank you, Father.

MOSES

Your garments -

AARON

Yes. The sacred vestments of the High Priest. They are yours now, Eleazar. As the Lord wills it.

HEAVY FABRIC RUSTLING AS AARON'S ROBES ARE TRANSFERRED TO ELEAZAR.

MOSES

Let's enter the cave.

AARON

Yes. I am ready to meet my God.

<<< END

THEY ENTER THE CAVE, WIND SOUNDS BECOMING MORE MUFFLED. GENTLE, SOLEMN MUSIC SWELLS AND FADES.

EXT. ISRAELITE CAMP - NEAR MOUNT HOR - DAY

MOSES AND ELEAZAR DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN, LOOSE STONES SHIFTING. WALLA: PEOPLE TALKING, CHILDREN PLAYING, NORMAL DAILY ACTIVITIES.

ABIGAIL

Look! They are coming back!

WALLA: PEOPLE RUN TOWARD THEM.

AZA

But Aaron... Where's Aaron?

BENJAMIN

The High Priest's robes... Eleazar is wearing them.

WALLA: HUSHED WHISPERS.