

AARON (CONT'D)
It's covering all the Egyptian
cities!

084 MOSES
Yes, Aaron. But it shall not touch
Goshen. The Lord gives light to his
people.

5 INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - MEANWHILE

Winds rage. Sand blisters the palace walls outside.

FEARFUL WALLA. COMMOTION, NOBLEMAN RUNNING.

085 EGYPTIAN NOBLE 1
I can't see a thing! It's all dark!

Side 2

START >>>

086 PASER
Torches! Servants, light torches!

087 EGYPTIAN NOBLE 2
Everything's gone dark! Blinded!

A COLLISION! LOUD CLANG OF DROPPED DISHES --

088 PASER
Ahhh! Watch where you're going!

089 EGYPTIAN GUARD
Who's there? Who was that?!

090 PASER
Stupid guard! Out of my way!

091 EGYPTIAN GUARD
Yes my lord Paser! Forgive me!

092 MERNEPTAH
Paser, what is going on?

093 PASER
A dark cloud, my lord! Shadow has
fallen over our lands!

A CHILD'S VOICE --

094 HAPI
(terrified)
Father! Are you there? I can't see!

095 MERNEPTAH
Hapi! Here I am. Come here.

096 HAPI

I'm frightened! What's going on?
Why has the whole world gone dark?

097 MERNEPTAH

Don't worry, my son. I will protect
you. Nothing bad will happen.
(calling out)
Where are those torches?!

098 PASER

Here my lord!

A SPARK AND SPUTTER OF FLAME! TORCHES BLAZE.

099 MERNEPTAH

That's better. See my son? Nothing
to be afraid of. Father's here.

100 PASER

My lord, these past weeks have made
me wonder... Perhaps it would be
wise to send these Hebrews away
into the desert, even for a few
days. That might placate their god.
Your troops could round the slaves
up after all these horrors have
died down, and return them back to
their rightful homes here.

101 MERNEPTAH

Send the Hebrews away? Let them go?
After denying them for so long?

102 PASER

Only for a little while, my lord!
That might appease their god.

MERNEPTAH SCOFFS.

103 MERNEPTAH

"Their god"...

104 PASER

Mercy, my lord! How long will this
man be a snare to us? He has
practically ruined us by now.

105 MERNEPTAH

Sending them away would ruin us!

106 PASER

Please, my lord! Deliver us! Free
us from these constant hells!
(MORE)

PASER (CONT'D)

Let this cursed people go, so that
they may worship the Lord their
God!

107 MERNEPTAH

(anger rising)

I am their god! Gods do not show
mercy to their enemies! Their god
must be weak to surrender so easily
whenever I ask it of him! No, I
will not let that rabble go off.
They would no doubt try to escape,
never to return again. Would you
have me steal the workers and
wealth from my very people?

108 **PASER**

(backtracking)

No, I -- Of course not, my lord!

<<< END

109 MERNEPTAH

Get me Moses. I will deal with this
Hebrew nonsense once and for all!

MUSIC SOARS AND CRASHES IN A DRAMATIC FLOURISH!

6 INT. TRAINING GROUNDS - NIGHT

MOSES WALKS THROUGH THE PALACE, HIS STAFF
CLICKING. HE CALLS OUT AS HE GOES --

110 MOSES

(voice echoing)

Merneptah? Uncle?

HE HEARS PUNCHING. BLOWS AGAINST A SAND BAG.

111 MOSES

Uncle? Are you in here?

THE PUNCHES STOP. MERNEPTAH BREATHES HARD.

112 MERNEPTAH

(sarcastic)

Oh! There he is! The Hebrew who
stole a prince's crown. Then tried
to steal the rest of the kingdom
too.

113 MOSES

I thought I would find you in here.
Alone in our old training grounds.