

036 ATTENDANT
I'm not sure, my lady.

037 BITHIAH
Leave my dry garments there on the
shore. Fetch it for me.

038 ATTENDANT
(hesitant)
As you wish...

SPLASH! THE SERVANT JUMPS IN!

7 EXT. THE NILE RIVER - MIRIAM

SFX CUT: SPLASH FARTHER AWAY.

START >>> 039 YOUNG MIRIAM
Oh, no!

040 YOUNG AARON
What? What is it? The reeds are too
tall! I can't see!

041 YOUNG MIRIAM
Someone is taking the basket!

042 YOUNG AARON
Who?!

043 YOUNG MIRIAM
I-I-

(gasp)
It's the princess! It's the
Pharaoh's daughter! One of her
servants went in after the baby!
Run home, Aaron! Tell mother.

044 YOUNG AARON
What about you?! What are you going
to do?!

045 YOUNG MIRIAM
Don't worry about me! Go!

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8

EXT. THE NILE RIVER - SAME TIME

WE HEAR THE MUFFLED BABY CRIES FROM INSIDE THE BASKET OVER THE GENTLE WATER.

047 BITHIAH

Agh, servant, remove this lid for me. It is covered in bitumen.

048 ATTENDANT

I- ew- erm. Here, my lady.

THE STICKY TAR SEPARATES. THE BABY IS CRYING.

049 BITHIAH

Oh, my. Oh, you poor thing.

050 ATTENDANT

Where did it come from?

051 BITHIAH

I don't know... It must one of the Hebrews' children. It has come to me? From Hapi? From the god of the Nile? Oh, shh, shh. Poor baby.

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SHE PICKS THE BABY UP.

BREAKING REEDS - CRASH. MIRIAM FALLS.

052 YOUNG MIRIAM

(far away)

Oh no- Ow!

053 ATTENDANT

My lady, it must be from the gods-

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054 BITHIAH

You may go. Now. Go wash the tar off your hands - somewhere downstream, please.

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055 ATTENDANT

Yes, my lady.

THE ATTENDANT LEAVES.

Beat.

056 BITHIAH

Come here, little girl! Yes, you, there, in the reeds. Come here.

057 YOUNG MIRIAM
(approaching)
I-I-I'm sorry, your majesty I-I-

058 BITHIAH
It's okay, girl. What is your name?

059 YOUNG MIRIAM
Miriam.

060 BITHIAH
Miriam. I have just found this baby
floating on the river.

061 YOUNG MIRIAM
That's amazing. What are you going
to do with him?

064 BITHIAH
He seems to be very hungry.

065 YOUNG MIRIAM
I... could fetch you a Hebrew woman
- to feed him?

066 BITHIAH
That is a great idea, Miriam, he
will need someone right away! If
you find someone, I can pay her. *

067 YOUNG MIRIAM
Yes, of course! Oh, yes! I can find
someone! I will go right away!
Thank you! *

068 BITHIAH
Thank you, Miriam. Bring her to the
palace, tell the guards you are
Princess Bithiah's guests!

069 YOUNG MIRIAM
(already running off)
I will!

<<< END

SFX TRANSITION WITH MUSIC:

9 INT. PALACE HALLS - DAY

BITHIAH WALKS SWIFTLY THROUGH THE HALLS. BABY
WHIMPERS.

070 BITHIAH
Let us see what my father thinks of
you.