

AKHMED

The people say... this is the work of Moses and the Hebrew slaves. Is it true, father? Did their god do this?

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MERNEPTAH

Akhmed, this is nothing but magic tricks - elaborate illusions to frighten the weak-minded.

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AKHMED

But father, the smell... can you make it go away?

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MERNEPTAH

(calling out)

Magicians! Come. Now!

(to Hapi)

Akhmed, you will see that Egypt's wisemen possess the same powers as these Hebrew tricksters.

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THE MAGICIANS ENTER, RAPIDLY.

MAGICIAN 1

START >>> You summoned us, Great One?

MERNEPTAH

My son doubts Egypt's power. Show him that you can produce frogs just as Moses did!

MAGICIAN 1

Yes, of course...

(whispering)

By Heka, by the hidden force that binds the world...

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MAGICIAN 2

Behold! We too can bring forth frogs!

MORE FROGS CROAKING, SPLASHING SOUNDS.

MERNEPTAH

You see, my son? Nothing Moses can do that Egypt cannot match!

AKHMED

But father... there are even MORE frogs now! Can your magicians make them go away?

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MERNEPTAH
 (to his magicians)
 Do as my son says! Cleanse my
 palace! Remove these pests!

MAGICIAN 1
 Great One... The removal of such
 extensive magical manifestations...
 requires different preparations...

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MERNEPTAH
 Do not give me excuses! Give me
 results! Remove these frogs NOW!

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MAGICIAN
 We call upon the powers of Ra... we
 command you to depart...

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CROAKING SOUNDS INCREASE.

AKHMED
 But they're... they're multiplying!

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MAGICIAN 1
 Every spell we cast brings more!

AKHMED
 Look! They're coming through the
 windows! Under the doors!

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OVERWHELMING SOUNDS OF FROGS EVERYWHERE -
 JUMPING, CROAKING, SPLASHING. WALLA: THE
 MAGICIANS CONTINUE THEIR CHANTING.

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MERNEPTAH
 Stop! You're making it worse!

MAGICIAN 1
 Mighty Pharaoh, we can create, but
 we cannot... undo what has been
 done by... by whatever power this
 is!

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AKHMED
 Father... maybe Moses' god is more
 powerful than we thought...

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MERNEPTAH
 No! This is just... just a more
 complex form of sorcery!

THE PALACE FILLS WITH AN OVERWHELMING CACOPHONY
 OF FROGS. CROAKING ECHOES THROUGH EVERY CHAMBER.