

INT. PHARAOH'S PALACE - BALCONY OVERLOOKING GOSHEN

TRANSITION WITH OMINOUS EGYPTIAN SIGNATURE *
MUSIC: HARSH, MILITARISTIC, AND DRUMBEATS TO SET *
SCENE

SFX SIGNATURE MUSIC FOR MERNEPTAH CHARACTER-- *
REED INSTRUMENT - OBOE?

WALLA - BACKGROUND CROWD CHATTER OF PEOPLE IN *
PHARAOH'S PALACE

MERNEPTAH
 General Amunkar?

START >>> **AMUNKAR**
 Yes, My Lord?

MERNEPTAH
 Come with me to the balcony. Can
 you see there in the City of
 Goshen-- the Hebrew people are
 gathering for their departure.

AMUNKAR
 I didn't realize how large their
 population had become majesty.
 There are thousands!

MERNEPTAH
 How can we let them go General? You
 know how important they are to our
 building plans!

AMUNKAR
 Not only that, but many of them
 served in our homes as cooks,
 gardeners, butlers and maids. The
 people who wanted them to go are
 now realizing their losses.

MERNEPTAH
 It is not only that General, what
 does it say about my reputation and
 authority?

AMUNKAR
 Indeed My Lord, and their departure
 is a severe blow to your prestige.
 The other generals have commented
 quietly...

MERNEPTAH
 How so?

AMUNKAR

Asking how you--the all powerful
can be bested by mere slaves. Some
have even hinted that if you have
given in to this rabble--this
desert trash-- that you would be
easily overthrown.

MERNEPTAH

Traitors!

AMUNKAR

Not traitors My Lord. They said
this in support of you--hoping that
you would reverse your decision--
for your own sake of course. To
assert your authority properly.
If you chose to reconsider your
decision to liberate the Hebrews I
can assure you of the full support
of the council of advisors and your
military.

MERNEPTAH

Let the Hebrews go for the time
being. This will give us time to
develop our strategies.

AMUNKAR

A Wise decision majesty. It also
gives them a false sense of
confidence. They may expect us to
pursue them immediately. They would
be prepared to turn and fight. If
we let them go for a few days they
will be tired and unprepared. Their
guard will be down.

<<< END

MERNEPTAH

Excellent, General. I already have
a plan in mind.