

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

After all our failures: the spies,
Meribah, the serpents... We are a
sorry lot.

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THE WIND BLOWS SOFTLY.

MOSES

I will go apart to pray. I must
seek the Lord's word before we take
another step.

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JOSHUA

Should I come with you?

MOSES

(gently)

No, my beloved Joshua. This time I
must seek the Lord's face alone.
Watch over the people while I pray.

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SOUNDS OF THE CAMP SETTLING DOWN. PEOPLE
SITTING.

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EXT. MOABITE PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

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MOSES WALKS AWAY FROM THE CROWD. HE KNEELS ON
THE SAND, THE SOUND OF DISTANT MURMURS FADING
BEHIND HIM.

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MOSES

O God, who has revealed your name
to be I AM. O God... here I am
before You once again.

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A SOFT BREEZE. SOFT, REVERENT MUSIC BEGINS.

MOSES

My Lord... are Your children ready
now? Are hearts finally ready to
receive the land You promised to
their fathers so long ago?

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Side 2

START >>>

GOD

Moses, My faithful servant... go up
to Mount Nebo, to the heights of
Abarim. From there you will look
upon the land that I am giving to
the children of Israel. When you
have seen it... you will rest with
your fathers, as Aaron your brother
has.

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MOSES
(realizing)

Then... it is time that your people
will enter the Promised Land,
but... I know I will not enter it,
for I did not honor You at Meribah
as I should have.

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MUSIC TURNS SAD. THE MELODY LASTS LONGER. MOSES
TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

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MOSES

But, Lord... appoint someone over
your people. Someone to go before
them, to lead them out and bring
them in... So Your people will not
be like sheep without a shepherd.

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GOD

I have already chosen him. Take
Joshua, son of Nun. A man in whom
is My spirit.

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MOSES

(whispering)

Yes, Joshua.

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MELODY TURNS INSPIRING.

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GOD

I will tell you how to ordain him
to your office.

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MOSES

Your will be done, my Lord. Your
ways are perfect... even when my
heart aches because I will not
enter your Promised Land.

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GOD

(compassionately)

Moses...

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SOFT MUSIC BEGINS.

GOD

You will see the land from the
mountain. But know this: the true
Promised Land is to be in My
presence forever. You have led My
people faithfully to this point,
but I need them to fully understand
that I, and I alone, have been
leading them all this time.

MOSES

Then let it be so, Lord. You have
been their Shepherd... and mine.

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GOD

Come to Me, Moses. I await you on <<< **END**
the mountain.

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MOSES STANDS UP, EXHALES, A LONG, RELEASED
BREATH.

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A MOMENT OF STILLNESS.

MOSES

(calling out)

Joshua! Summon the people.

THE CROWD SOUNDS RETURN. MOSES WALKS TOWARDS
THEM, DETERMINED.

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EXT. MOABITE PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

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JOSHUA APPROACHES MOSES.

JOSHUA

(running up)

Moses! What is it?

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MOSES

Summon all the people of Israel to
gather before me.

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JOSHUA

(calling out)

Children of Israel, Moses needs us
to gather. Come!

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BENJAMIN

Did you hear? Moses will speak to
us.

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CALEB

Will we finally enter the Promised
Land?

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ILLAN

After all we've been through...

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MUSIC SWELLS FOR A MOMENT, THEN FADES.

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WALLA: THE LOW MURMURING OF A VAST MULTITUDE
ASSEMBLING.