

Side 1

START >>>

112 BITHIAH
But Merneptah... Brother, I just - *

113 MOSES
(calmly)
Mother, please. Do as Pharaoh says.

BITHIAH TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND RETURNS TO HER PLACE.

115 MERNEPTAH
Akhmed, my beloved son, would you like to know the story of this... man? *

116 AKHMED
(curiously)
Is he a Hebrew slave, Father? *

MERNEPTAH LAUGHS.

117 MERNEPTAH
Ha! From the mouths of babes, Moses. *

MERNEPTAH RISES, WALKS FROM SIDE TO SIDE.

118 MERNEPTAH
This man was rescued from the Nile by your grandfather, Pharaoh Ramses, the son of Ra. He used to wear the finest linen. He could have been truly great among us. Even... My right hand. But he chose to be a slave. And do you know why, son? *

119 AKHMED
Why, Father? *

120 MERNEPTAH
You may lift a Hebrew from Goshen, but you cannot lift Goshen from the Hebrew. *

MERNEPTAH FACES MOSES. *

MERNEPTAH
You dishonor the house that fed you, Moses. The house that clothed you. Gave you your name. And for what? *

123 MOSES

I do not forget what Egypt gave me.
 Nor what it took from me. I have
 loved Egypt... for all she has
 given me. But I was born a Hebrew.

*

*

124 MERNEPTAH

Enough! State your business.

*

125 MOSES

(to Aaron, whispering)

It's your turn, Aaron.

*

126 AARON

(shaking)

O Great Pharaoh...

*

127 MOSES

(whispering)

Do not be afraid.

AARON TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

128 AARON

(stronger)

We come with a message from the God
 of the Hebrews.

129 MERNEPTAH

The god of slaves dares to speak to
 me?

(scoffs)

Speak, slave.

*

130 AARON

(finding his voice)

The Lord God of Israel says: Let my
 people go.

THE LAST WORDS OF AARON ECHO THROUGH THE HALL.

131 AARON

So that they may hold a feast to me
 in the wilderness.

132 MERNEPTAH

Is this your great message? You
 want a holiday?

*

*

133 MOSES

It's not a request, Merneptah. It's
 a command. From the one true God.

*

*

MERNEPTAH LEAVES HIS THRONE AND WALKS TOWARDS MOSES.

*

134 **MERNEPTAH**

What is the god of the Hebrews to me? What power does he have in Egypt? Who is 'the Lord' that I should hear his voice and let Israel go? I know not the Lord, nor will I let Israel go!

*

135 **MOSES**

The God of the Hebrews, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has spoken to me. We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to our God.

*

*

*

136 **MERNEPTAH**

You dare to take my slaves into the desert to worship your god?! This is insolence!

*

*

137 **AARON**

(desperately)

Great Pharaoh, we ask only that our people may —

*

138 **MERNEPTAH**

Silence! You have both shown me great disrespect. You have forgotten the power of Egypt. My power!

A HARD THUD OF MERNEPTAH'S SCEPTER STRIKING THE GROUND.

*

139 **MERNEPTAH**

And because of their arrogance, Akhmed, and the seditious words they have spoken, I will show them true power!

*

*

*

*

140 **AKHMED**

(rising from his seat)

What will you do, Father?

*

*

141 **MERNEPTAH**

From this day forward, the Hebrews will be given no more straw for their bricks! Let them gather it themselves, and still complete their full quota!

(MORE)

MERNEPTAH (CONT'D)

Let them learn the price of
idleness and rebellion! Paser!

142 PASER

Yes, Your Highness.

143 **MERNEPTAH**

Send word to all slave masters. Let
it be done immediately!

<<< END

144 AARON

(whispering)

No...

145 BITHIAH

(desperately)

O Great king, please... Brother,
don't -

*

146 MERNEPTAH

Enough, Bithiah!

(to Moses)

Let your people see what their
"deliverance" has brought them. Let
them curse the day you returned to
Egypt, Moses...

147 MOSES

(calmly)

This will not end well, Merneptah.

*

148 MERNEPTAH

Do not lecture me, Moses. I will
break your people for what you have
presumed to do today. And you will
come crawling back to me, begging
my forgiveness. You are dismissed.
Leave now, before we change our
mind about letting you live.

*

*

*

*

THE CLANKING OF ARMOR AS GUARDS SURROUND MOSES
AND AARON, GUIDING THEM AWAY.

149 AARON

Moses, we must go.

150 MOSES

The God of our fathers... He
remembers His covenant with our
Father Abraham.

*

*

MOSES AND AARON TURN AND WALK AWAY.