

Side 2

START >>>

RAMSES (CONT'D)

We have not seen you in months. Do you still dare to be angry with us?

*
*

131 BITHIAH

I am angry no longer, father. I have come to thank you. For you have fulfilled your promise.

*
*

WALLA: INTRIGUED MURMURS

*

132 **RAMSES**

And which promise have you finally remembered to show gratitude for?

*
*
*

133 BITHIAH

My child.

*
*

134 **RAMSES**

(evenly)
Your child?

*
*
*

WALLA: SURPRISED MURMURS.

*

135 BITHIAH

(calls out)
Bring him in.

*
*
*

THE DOOR OPENS. ATTENDANT ENTERS, CARRYING A CRYING MOSES. WALLA: CROWD REACTS, INTRIGUED.

*
*

136 BITHIAH

This Court knows how long have I prayed for a child. Many times I have beseeched the gods, until Mighty Pharaoh promised that my prayers would be fulfilled. Today I stand in awe of the workings of the gods, and declare the might of Son of Ra! For on this day, I present to my Father his grandson: the baby Moses!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

WALLA: CROWD NOISE SWELLS.

*

137 PASER

Silence. Silence! The Great One will speak!

*
*
*

WALLA: CROWD QUIETS. ONLY BABY MOSES CAN BE HEARD.

*
*

138 RAMSES

Our daughter has declared a truth:
we are indeed mighty and answer
prayers. My court, welcome this new
baby, son of the Princess Bithiah!

WALLA: CROWD CELEBRATES.

139 RAMSES

Court is dismissed. We will be
alone with our family now.

WALLA: CROWD MURMURS AS THEY FILE OUT. DOORS
CLOSE BEHIND THEM. JUST PHARAOH, BITHIAH, AND
BABY MOSES ARE LEFT.

PHARAOH WALKS DOWN FROM HIS THRONE TO JOIN
BITHIAH.

140 RAMSES

That was very heavy-handed,
daughter.

141 BITHIAH

I do not know what you mean,
Father. I simply wished to admit my
fault and declare your greatness
before the entire Court.

142 RAMSES

Where did you get the child?

143 BITHIAH

The gods delivered him to me, as
you promised.

144 RAMSES

Where, Bithiah?

145 BITHIAH

I drew him from the river. He was
floating in a basket.

146 RAMSES

(angry)

A basket on the river? Then he is
one of the Hebrews!

147 BITHIAH

Yes.

148 RAMSES

You dare to mock me and my decrees?

149 BITHIAH

This baby was thrown into the Nile,
as you decreed. I drew him out
again.

150 RAMSES

He can quickly be sent back to the
river.

151 BITHIAH

Please, Father. I have not been
able to look on you for months. I
hear the cries of infants in my
dreams.

152 RAMSES

The Hebrews are a threat to my
kingdom. And you bring one into my
palace and claim him as your son?

153 BITHIAH

Let me keep just this one. Just
one, saved from the river, and I
will finally be able to sleep at
night.

MOSES BURBLES, SOUNDING HAPPIER. BITHIAH MURMURS
TO THE BABY, SMILING.

154 BITHIAH

Shh, shh. Yes, you are a handsome
baby.

155 RAMSES

That is the first time I have seen
you smile in months.
(softening)
You were always tenderhearted. Like
your mother.
(beat)
No one must ever know his true
heritage.

156 BITHIAH

They will not.

157 RAMSES

Anyone who already knows must be
sworn to secrecy, on penalty of
death. That includes you, daughter.

≪≪≪ END

158 BITHIAH

I swear it.