

1 INT. JOCHEBED'S HOME IN GOSHEN - DAY

THE MUTED SOUNDS OF GOSHEN LIFE OUTSIDE: FAINT CHATTER, DISTANT ANIMAL CALLS. A DOOR CREAKS OPEN. MIRIAM AND MOSES WALK INSIDE.

MIRIAM SETS DOWN THE WATER JUG SHE HAS BEEN CARRYING. DOOR CREAKS SHUT.

Side 1
START >>>

001 MIRIAM

So, Moses. You came to Goshen to learn the truth about your past?

002 YOUNG MOSES

My mother told me you were the one who found Jochebed to be my nurse when I was a child.

003 MIRIAM

Did your mother also tell you that I am sworn to secrecy about your past, under pain of death?

004 YOUNG MOSES

Yes. But I-

005 MIRIAM

(fury rising)

Then you decided to come here and demand answers, knowing that you would be putting me in danger?

006 YOUNG MOSES

I already learned the truth! You will violate no oath by telling me what I am here to ask. I want to know about my family. Their people.

MIRIAM BUSTLES AROUND IN A TEMPER, DOING CHORES. SHE STACKS LOGS, STARTS A FIRE, SETS A POT OF GRAIN TO COOK. AS SHE DOES:

007 MIRIAM

Your people are not here. Your people are in a palace. You have no idea who we are, or how we have suffered.

008 YOUNG MOSES

I know that I was found in a basket on the Nile because Pharaoh's edict said I must be killed. I have some idea of your suffering.

MIRIAM PAUSES IN HER CHORES.

009 MIRIAM

I used to think God had placed you in Pharaoh's palace for a purpose. That He was going to raise you up to help our people. Instead, at the first opportunity, you betrayed us.

010 YOUNG MOSES

Betrayed you?

Years of Miriam's anger come pouring out.

011 MIRIAM

You banished Jochebed from the palace! Since then, no Hebrew slave has been allowed to work there. Egyptian nobles followed the palace's example, and now they will not hire us, either. Our men have only backbreaking labor, and our women have no work at all. We had little enough to survive on before, and now we have even less.

A BEAT. MIRIAM STARTS CHOPPING FRUIT.

012 MOSES

At the well, you said Jochebed was your mother. I understand why you are angry. I... I did not realize her dismissal had affected so many.

MIRIAM'S CHOPPING GROWS ANGRIER

013 MIRIAM

Of course you did not. Why would a prince trouble himself over the fate of slaves?

014 YOUNG MOSES

But I was troubled. I did not want to banish Jochebed. But if I had not, Pharaoh would have had her killed.

MIRIAM'S CHOPPING FALTERS.

015 MIRIAM

Why did Pharaoh want her killed?

016 YOUNG MOSES
 Because I declared the Hebrew God
 greater than all of the gods of
 Egypt. Including Pharaoh.

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017 MIRIAM
 You said that? To Pharaoh?

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018 YOUNG MOSES
 It angered Pharaoh greatly. He
 demanded that I decide Jochebed's
 fate. I chose to banish her from
 the palace.

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MIRIAM CEASES CHOPPING, SETS DOWN HER KNIFE.

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YOUNG MOSES
 It was that - or a death sentence.

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021 MIRIAM
 I see.

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SHE CROSSES THE ROOM, PULLS OUT A CHAIR, AND SITS.

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022 MIRIAM
 I'll answer your questions.

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MOSES JOINS HER, SITTING DOWN.

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023 YOUNG MOSES
 My family. Are they here? In
 Goshen?

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024 MIRIAM
 I--

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THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN. AARON ENTERS.

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025 AARON
 Miriam, I brought the leeks you
 asked for. I--
 (halts, seeing Moses)
 Prince Moses?

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MOSES STANDS ABRUPTLY.

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026 YOUNG MOSES
You! You are the man who spoke to
 me yesterday. Who are you?

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027 MIRIAM
 (sharply)
 You spoke to him, Aaron? How? When?

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028 AARON
 Yesterday, when I brought the
 Prince his chariot for the
 tournament.

029 MIRIAM
 You were supposed to stay out of
 sight!

030 AARON
 I couldn't resist. I never dreamed
 he would actually come here...

031 YOUNG MOSES
 You called me brother yesterday.
 Why?

032 MIRIAM
 Because... he is. You wanted to
 know who your family is, Moses. We
 are your family.

MOSES SITS DOWN HEAVILY

033 YOUNG MOSES
 But then... that means... Jochebed
 was not just my nurse. She was my
 mother.

034 MIRIAM
 Yes.

035 AARON
 Brother, you should know that--

036 MIRIAM
 Let him be for a moment, Aaron.
 Help me set the table for
 breakfast.

◀◀ END

AARON AND MIRIAM SET OUT PLATES, CUPS, BREAD.
 MIRIAM SPOONS HOT GRAIN INTO BOWLS.

037 MIRIAM
 Here, Moses. Some bread and hot
 grain.

038 YOUNG MOSES
 Hot grain for breakfast?