

LIBRETTO VOCAL BOOK

DREAMWORKS
— THE —
PRINCE
OF
EGYPT
— THE MUSICAL —
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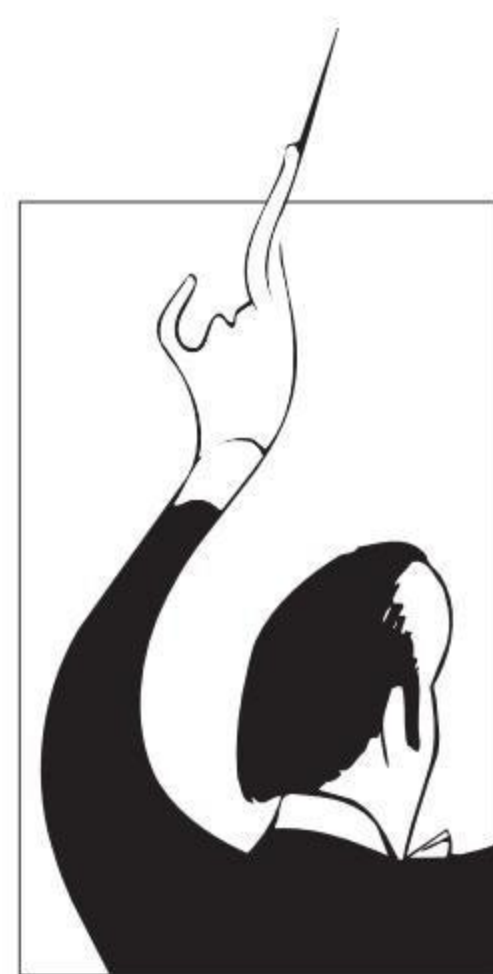
Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz

Book by
Philip LaZebnik

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Film

Premiere production at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and
Original West End production directed by Scott Schwartz

Originally produced by
DreamWorks Theatricals, Michael McCabe and Neil Laidlaw
with John Gore, Tom Smedes and Peter Stern, Ramin Sabi,
The Araca Group, James L. Nederlander and Michael Park



MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Yocheved – Female, 20-39. Moses's Hebrew mother. She sets her son afloat in a basket on the Nile in order to save him from the Egyptian soldiers. Rich alto voice, sings in Hebrew and English.

Young Miriam – Female, 8-11. Moses's Hebrew sister. Good singing voice.

Young Aaron – Male, 6-9. Moses's Hebrew brother. No lines.

Queen Tuya – Female, 35-55. Regal, wise, deeply loving. She always wanted another son after Ramses was born, and believes Moses was a gift from the gods. Over the course of the show she changes from being a vibrant, clever, and even playful woman to a broken creature devastated by the loss of her adopted son. Rich alto voice.

Moses – Male, 18-39 (ages through the show). Playful, but with a soulful core. He begins the show as a devil-may-care young man, a bit of a clown and playboy, secure in his privileged identity as a prince of Egypt. But after his devastating discovery that he was born a slave, he grows into the strong and compassionate leader of the Hebrew people. A high tenor (sings up to B \flat) with a thrilling voice and large range.

Ramses – Male, 18-39 (ages through the show). A prince of Egypt, heir to the throne. He loves his brother Moses, but is also quite competitive with him, since Moses's winning personality continually puts him in the shade. His father expects a great deal from him as the future Pharaoh, and Ramses is wracked by self-doubt. Through trials of great pain over the course of the show, he ultimately becomes a great leader of the Egyptians. A strong tenor (sings up to G \sharp), but with a well-developed lower range.

Hotep – Male, 50-65. The High Priest of Egypt. Though pompous and self-important, he is deeply committed to the ancient gods of Egypt and above all fears the heresy of the one god which brought down the previous dynasty. His support is crucial to the well-being of the 18th Dynasty. He despises Moses for his lack of reverence and seeks to preserve the Egyptian hierarchy at all costs. Strong baritone.

Pharaoh Seti – Male, 50-69. The Pharaoh of Egypt. Commanding, carries himself with great dignity and authority. As a young man, he brought Egypt back from the brink of civil war. He is a great general and still leads his army into battle. He loves his sons deeply, but he loves Egypt more and everything he does is to protect and preserve his country. A low baritone/bass.

Nefertari – Female, 20-39. Ramses's wife and his Queen of Egypt. Imperious and haughty. Scion of an ancient royal family, she is keenly aware of her position and her importance to the dynasty. She is supremely self-confident and looks down upon Ramses as a member of an upstart family. But at the end, her heart is broken by the death of her son and she reveals her humanity and love for Ramses. Strong rich belt, high alto.

CHARACTERS (cont'd)

(in order of appearance)

Tzipporah – Female, 18-39 (ages through the show). A Midian princess, fiery and rebellious. She is full of spirit and strength, and wants nothing more than for her people to be free. Deeply committed to her family, and eventually to her love for Moses. Must have a thrilling high belt, but also a well-developed and beautiful mix; must also dance well.

Miriam – Female, 25-45. Moses's Hebrew sister. Devout, unswerving, simple-hearted, optimistic. A prophetess. She believes in God and in Moses as the Deliverer and never wavers in her faith in both. Strong rich belt.

Aaron – Male, 22-40. Moses's Hebrew brother. Intellectual, sardonic, skeptical, funny. Aaron has reached an accommodation with his life as a slave; he makes a joke of everything to diminish the pain. Aaron is the last Hebrew to believe in Moses; when Moses returns to Egypt and confronts Ramses, asking him to let his people go, Aaron's skepticism is borne out when the Hebrews' labor is doubled. But when Aaron is finally won over, he becomes Moses' most loyal follower. Tenor or high baritone.

Leah and Keturah – Female, 11 and 17. Tzipporah's younger sisters. Feisty and willing to fight when threatened. Good-humored, they think their older sister is a bit of a head case, and they happily welcome Moses into their tribe.

Jethro – Male, 50-65. The High Priest of Midian and Tzipporah's father. A powerful, wise presence, exuding a joy of life and a deep empathy for others. Full of love and buoyancy, with a deep spiritual center. A high baritone (must sing up to G) with a strong warm voice.

Ensemble – singers and dancers who portray Hebrew slaves, members of the Egyptian court, Priests, and Midianites.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

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ACT I

SCENE 1 – WORK SITE

#1 – *Deliver Us*

(HEBREW SLAVES labor in the desert, lashed by the whips of Egyptian OVERSEERS. One group hauls a huge block of stone, while other HEBREWS mix mud, sand, and water in a wooden framework to make bricks. A half-finished pyramid looms behind them.)

HEBREWS

HUH! HUH! AH—

EGYPTIAN OVERSEERS

(lashing the SLAVES with their whips)

MUD - SAND - WATER...

STRAW - FASTER - MUD - AND LIFT

SAND - AND PULL

WATER - AND RAISE UP

STRAW - FASTER!

HEBREWS

HUH! HUH! AH- HUH!

HUH! AH- HUH!

HUH! AH-

HUH!

HEBREWS

WITH THE STING OF THE WHIP ON MY SHOULDER

WITH THE SALT OF MY SWEAT ON MY BROW

ELO-HEEM, GOD ON HIGH,

CAN YOU HEAR YOUR PEOPLE CRY?

HELP US NOW, THIS DARK HOUR

DELIVER US, HEAR OUR CALL,

DELIVER US, LORD OF ALL

REMEMBER US, HERE IN THIS BURNING SAND

DELIVER US, THERE'S A LAND

YOU PROMISED US

DELIVER US TO THE PROMISED LAND

(The lights fade on the laboring HEBREW SLAVES and come up on a warren of huts, the Hebrew community called Goshen. A woman, YOCHAVED, crouches in a hut with her two older children, YOUNG MIRIAM and YOUNG AARON, while she holds a baby boy, Moses.)

(She peers out a window as two GUARDS push down a HEBREW WOMAN and snatch her baby from her arms. As the HEBREW WOMAN chases the GUARDS, screaming in anguish, YOCHAVED dashes out of the hut, herding her CHILDREN forward. They run through the alleys, ducking out of sight when a GUARD appears.)

YOCHAVED

YAL-DI-HA-TOV, VEH-HARACH
 AL TI-RA VEH-AL TIF-CHAD
 MY SON, I HAVE NOTHING I CAN GIVE
 BUT THIS CHANCE THAT YOU MAY LIVE
 I PRAY WE'LL MEET AGAIN
 IF HE WILL

HEBREWS

AH—
 AH—
 AH—
 AH—
 AH—

(The lights come up on the HEBREW SLAVES, laboring in the background.)

DELIVER US—

DELIVER US
 HEAR OUR PRAYER
 DELIVER US FROM DESPAIR

HEBREWS

THESE YEARS OF SLAVERY
 GROW TOO CRUEL TO STAND
 DELIVER US
 THERE'S A LAND YOU PROMISED US
 DELIVER US OUT OF BONDAGE AND
 DELIVER US TO THE PROMISED LAND.

(They come to the banks of the Nile. YOCHAVED kneels down as YOUNG MIRIAM hands her a woven basket she has been carrying. YOCHAVED gently places Moses in the basket. YOCHAVED rocks the basket to soothe the baby, as she sings a lullaby to him.)

YOCHAVED

HUSH NOW, MY BABY,
 BE STILL, LOVE, DON'T CRY
 SLEEP AS YOU'RE ROCKED BY THE STREAM
 SLEEP AND REMEMBER MY LAST LULLABY
 SO I'LL BE WITH YOU WHEN YOU DREAM

HEBREW WOMEN

OOH—

HEBREWS

OOH— AH—

YOCHEVED

RIVER, O RIVER
 FLOW GENTLY FOR ME
 SUCH PRECIOUS CARGO YOU BEAR
 DO YOU KNOW SOMEWHERE
 HE CAN LIVE FREE?
 RIVER, DELIVER HIM THERE.

AH—

HEBREWS**HEBREWS**

OOH—

YOCHEVED

OH—
 OH—

AH—

HEBREWS**HEBREWS**

AH— AH— AH— AH—
 AH— OOH—

(Over the music, YOUNG MIRIAM runs along the bank of the river, as the basket is swept down the Nile.)

At last the basket floats into the Queen's Pleasure Garden, where QUEEN TUYA is holding her young son, Ramses. YOUNG MIRIAM sneaks into the garden, hiding behind a flowering bush. TUYA spots the basket.)

TUYA

What is that?

(A MAID SERVANT opens the basket. With an exclamation of surprise, she holds up the baby.)

How beautiful he is! The gods have smiled on him... and on me.

MAID

But Your Highness, this is the sort of basket the slaves make. The baby must be Hebrew. We should place it back in the...

(She starts to place the baby back in the basket...)

TUYA

No! Don't you dare question my reasons! Just know that I have them. Say nothing of this.

(TUYA hands RAMSES to another MAID, then carefully takes the baby in her arms.)

(TUYA)

(to the baby)

We must find a good name for you.

(YOUNG MIRIAM boldly steps forward from her hiding place.)

YOUNG MIRIAM

Moses. Your Majesty.

(TUYA turns, surprised, to YOUNG MIRIAM. A couple of the MAIDS move to seize her, but TUYA motions them back.)

TUYA

Moses. What does that mean?

YOUNG MIRIAM

Deliverance.

TUYA

“DELIVERANCE...”

THE PERFECT NAME: “DELIVERANCE...”

FOR YOU CAME, DELIVERED TO ME

BY THE GREAT BLUE NILE.

(TUYA holds up Moses to Ramses.)

Ramses, meet your new brother, Moses!

(The SERVANTS look at each other, aghast, but TUYA is too engrossed in her new baby to notice. YOUNG MIRIAM smiles as TUYA walks off with Moses.)

YOUNG MIRIAM

BROTHER, YOU'RE SAFE NOW

AND SAFE MAY YOU STAY

FOR I HAVE A PRAYER JUST FOR YOU...

GROW BABY BROTHER, COME BACK SOME DAY

COME AND... DELIVER US... TOO.

HEBREWS

AH— AH— AH— AH—

DELIVER US

SEND A SHEPHERD TO SHEPHERD US AND

DELIVER US TO THE PROMISED LAND

(HEBREWS)

DELIVER US TO THE PROMISED LAND!

YOCHEVED

DELIVER US!

#1A – Deliver Us (Playoff)

SCENE 2—PROMONTORY, EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER

(MOSES and RAMSES, now two young men, sit in their chariots on a promontory overlooking the desert and the outskirts of the city of Thebes.)

RAMSES

Moses, I can't believe I let you talk me into this. The last time we tried one of your crazy dares, we—

MOSES

Are you backing out? If you're too scared...

RAMSES

No, no. I'm in.

MOSES

So... we race our chariots down the edge of the cliff and around the marketplace...

RAMSES

(gaining confidence)

No, *through* the market! That's faster!

MOSES

All right, Ramses, *through* the market—and the Temple of Ptah.

RAMSES

(aghast)

The Temple?! But the High Priest—

MOSES

That's the best part—can you imagine the look on Hotep's face? Of course, if you're afraid of a crabby little priest...

RAMSES

First through the royal gate wins!

MOSES

All right, on the word "dust."

RAMSES*(confused)*

Dust?

MOSES

As in "eat... my... DUST!"

#2 – Faster*(MOSES lashes his horses with his whip on "dust" and races off. RAMSES whips his horse and is off as well. They race side by side, as the sights along their route flash past.)***MOSES & RAMSES**

WHEELS OF THE CHARIOT SPINNING
 BARRELING DOWN FROM THE LEDGE
 WE KNOW THE BEST WAY OF WINNING
 IS KEEPING CLOSE TO THE EDGE
 WHOA! – WATCHING ME PULLING AWAY IN THE FRONT
 OUGHT TO PROVE TO YOU I'M YOUR MASTER
 THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'S BETTER THAN GOING
 SO FAST –
 AND THAT'S GOING FASTER!

RAMSES

COME ON, YOU FOOLS
 YOU'RE HORSES, NOT MULES!
 YOU'VE GOT TO GO EVEN FASTER!

*(They race on into the marketplace.)***MOSES & RAMSES**

THUNDERING INTO THE MARKET
 ON A MAGNIFICENT STEED
 SINCE THERE IS NOWHERE TO PARK IT
 MIGHT AS WELL PICK UP SOME SPEED
 WHOOPS! SCATTERING MELONS AND OLIVES AND BASKETS
 AND MAKING A SMALL DISASTER
 NO TIME TO TURN AND LOOK BACK AT THE
 DAMAGE WE'VE DONE –
 WE'VE GOT TO GO FASTER!

(There's the sound of crashes. RAMSES looks back.)

RAMSES

We've left the marketplace in ruins!

MOSES

Next target – the temple!

RAMSES

Maybe we'll be lucky and Hotep won't be there.

MOSES

I'm *counting* on him being there!

(HIGH PRIEST HOTEPE and his PRIESTS are conducting a solemn ritual.)

HOTEPE

PRAISE TO PTAH...

PRIESTS

PRAISE TO PTAH...

HOTEPE

GOD OF CREATION, WE SUBMIT TO YOUR LAWS...

PRIESTS

PRAISE TO PTAH...

HOTEPE

THE LAND OF EGYPT IS FIXED IN YOUR COMMAND

HOTEPE & PRIESTS

ETERNAL, UNCHANGING

PROTECT US FROM DISRUPTION

CHAOS AND WOE...

HOTEPE

DISRUPTION, CHAOS AND – WHOOOOOOAAA!

(RAMSES and MOSES head straight towards HOTEPE, who leaps aside. The clay figurine slips from his hands and shatters on the ground.)

MOSES

YOU ALMOST TOPPLED THE STATUE!

RAMSES

YOU NEARLY RAN OVER A PRIEST!

MOSES AND RAMSES

DODGING THE THINGS THAT COME AT YOU
QUICK AS THE WIND FROM THE EAST
HARD TO AVOID COMING CLOSE TO A CRASH
AS YOU NEARLY KNOCK DOWN THE PILASTER
LOOK! THE GATES ARE AHEAD AND THE RACE'LL BE DONE—
GOT TO GO FASTER...
FASTER...
FASTER, FASTER, FASTER...

(They stop their chariots and leap out simultaneously.)

I WON!

(They almost collapse with laughter.)

SCENE 3 – THE THRONE ROOM

(The setting around MOSES and RAMSES has turned into the throne room. SETI, the Pharaoh of Egypt, an awesome, majestic presence, enters, followed by TUYA. A very angry HOTEPE accompanies them.)

SETI

I cannot imagine two more disgraceful, disrespectful sons! Do you have any excuse for your behavior?

RAMSES

(stricken nearly mute)

Father, I... I didn't think it would –

SETI

(interrupts)

Precisely. You didn't think! Again!

(RAMSES is squashed into silence.)

MOSES

Father, it was entirely my idea. Ramses was against it, but I talked him into doing it.

SETI

I see.

(looking pointedly at RAMSES)

Spoken like a true Prince of Egypt. At least Moses is taking responsibility for his actions.

RAMSES

(hurriedly)

Well, it was *my* idea to race our chariots through the marketplace!

SETI

(bursts out angrily again)

You destroyed the marketplace as well?!

RAMSES

(weakly)

Just a couple of stalls.

HOTEP

(coldly furious)

The Temple of Ptah will require months of repair. I have tried to teach the royal princes respect for the gods, but this... this sacrilege... I fear I have failed you, my Pharaoh.

TUYA

High Priest, *both* royal princes have often told me how much they value your lessons. Isn't that so, boys?

MOSES

Yes, we do.

(He elbows RAMSES hard.)

RAMSES

So much.

SETI

Ramses, look around you at the statues of the great Pharaohs of the past. Do you ever want to join their company?

HOTEP

(to RAMSES)

It is the Pharaoh's duty to preserve the divine plan.

(to SETI)

If the crown prince is unable to live up to that duty...

SETI

High Priest, if either of the princes causes trouble again, there will be swift and severe punishment. I give you my royal promise.

HOTEP

(bows)

Your Majesty.

(coldly bows to MOSES and RAMSES)

Young princes.

(He starts to exit. MOSES bows as he passes.)

MOSES

Old priest.

(HOTEP turns to glare at MOSES.)

TUYA

High Priest, thank you. The boys and I always enjoy your visits.

(HOTEP exits. SETI's imperial facade disappears as he turns back to MOSES and RAMSES and the father emerges.)

SETI

(wearily)

You have no idea how much trouble you've caused me.

RAMSES

Father, I understand the favor of the priests is important, but Hotep...

SETI

No, Ramses, I don't think you do understand.

#3 – One Weak Link

Our dynasty is young. My father and I fought together for years to take the throne, and we wouldn't have succeeded without Hotep's support. Since then I have forged a chain of alliances – with the army, the noble families, and above all, the priests.

ONE WEAK LINK
CAN BREAK THE STRONGEST CHAIN
ONE WEAK KING
CAN END THE LONGEST REIGN
ALL OF OUR ENEMIES
LOOK FOR A TINY CHINK
WAIT FOR THAT ONE WEAK LINK
RAMSES, MY SON
ARE YOU THAT ONE
WEAK LINK?

I have no time for this now. I leave with the army for Midian today...

RAMSES

Father, give me a division to command and I can help you put down the rebels...

SETI

Command a division? I can't trust you to venture outside the palace without enraging the entire priesthood! No, you will stay here and assure your marriage to Princess Nefertari.

RAMSES

Nefertari? But that's not as important as...

SETI

(explodes with rage)

An alliance with the oldest royal family in Egypt will strengthen our claim to the throne. You will become engaged to Nefertari. And do not give her a reason to change her mind!

ONE WEAK LINK
CAN BREAK THE STRONGEST CHAIN
ONE WEAK SON
CAN LOSE US ALL WE'VE GAINED

DON'T MAKE MY WORST FEARS COME TRUE
THAT THE ONE WEAK LINK
THAT ONE WEAK LINK
IS YOU!

(Distraught, RAMSES runs off.)

TUYA

Poor Ramses. You're too hard on him.

SETI

I fear I am not hard enough.

MOSES

Father, please don't blame Ramses for my mistake. All he cares about is your approval. I know he can live up to your expectations. When you return from battle, could you give Ramses a title, a position with real responsibility?

SETI

This is hardly the best time to ask for —

(He breaks off as TUYA touches his arm.)

All right, I'll think about it.

MOSES

Thank you, Father.

SETI

My soldiers await me. I must go.

(He starts to exit with TUYA, but turns back.)

And while I'm gone—don't do anything!

MOSES

I'm good at that.

SCENE 4 – THE SECRET ROOM

#3A – *One Weak Link (Reprise)*

(RAMSES sits on the base of a broken pedestal in a small ruined alcove, with paintings and hieroglyphics on the walls.)

RAMSES

(bitterly; to himself)

“ONE WEAK LINK CAN BREAK THE STRONGEST CHAIN
ONE WEAK SON CAN LOSE US ALL WE’VE GAINED
DON’T MAKE MY WORST FEARS COME TRUE
THAT THE ONE WEAK LINK
THAT ONE WEAK LINK
THAT ONE WEAK LINK
IS—”

(We hear MOSES’ voice offstage.)

MOSES

(offstage)

Ramses! Ramses, where are you? Ramses, come on... I know you’re here...

(MOSES walks into the room, carrying a bundle.)

... in our secret room. Here, I brought you your...

RAMSES

Go away! You’ve torn me down enough for one day.

MOSES

Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Father thinks a lot of you.

RAMSES

Yes. And none of it is good! Every time he looks at me, I can see the disappointment on his face.

MOSES

Once you’re engaged and you’ve made an alliance with the royal family of...

(RAMSES suddenly leaps up.)

RAMSES

Nefertari! I'm meeting her on the royal barge this afternoon! I'll never be ready in time!

MOSES

Of course you will. That's why I brought you your clothes.

(MOSES reveals the bundle he brought, which are the clothes RAMSES will need for his meeting with Nefertari.)

RAMSES

What would I do without you?

#4 – His Son and Heir

MOSES

Come on, I'll help you dress.

(He helps RAMSES put on his formal outfit.)

And Father – I have a feeling he might have something in store for you. You'll see –

IT WILL COME TRUE
ONE DAY HE WILL SEE WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN IS THERE
GREATNESS IN YOU
HE'LL SEE THE NOBILITY YOU BOTH SO CLEARLY SHARE
AND THANK HORUS AND OSIRIS
THAT YOU'RE HIS SON AND HEIR

RAMSES

I'M HIS SON AND HEIR.

(MOSES steps back and inspects RAMSES in all his formal splendor.)

MOSES

There. Nefertari will be swooning at your feet.

RAMSES

You've always got my back.

MOSES

Well, I certainly don't want to look at your front.

RAMSES

Hey!

MOSES

Now go meet your future queen.

RAMSES

Aren't you coming with me?

MOSES

Oh no, this is much too important. The last thing you need is a troublemaker like me hanging around. Now hurry!

#5 – *Footprints on the Sand*

(RAMSES hurries off.)

Now what's next on my busy agenda?

I COULD RIDE ONE OF THE HORSES
GO AND SHOOT SOME ARROWS
TAKE A SAIL ON THE ROYAL BARQUE
BUT STANDING IN THE SHADOWS
OF THESE STATUES OF THE PHARAOHS
I SEE THE CONTRAST COULDN'T BE MORE STARK
THEIR DEEDS FOREVER KNOWN
IN STORY, SONG, AND STONE
WHILE I WON'T LEAVE THE FAINTEST MARK
LIKE THE HUMBLEST OF SLAVES
I WON'T LEAVE THE FAINTEST MARK...

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
RIPPLES ON THE RIVER
WISPY DRIFTING CLOUDS
THAT BLOW ACROSS THE DESERT SKY

ONE DAY WE ARE HERE
AND THE NEXT WE VANISH
VANISH IN THE BLINK OF AN IBIS EYE
WE VANISH IN THE BLINK OF AN IBIS EYE

(MOSES)

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT GLORY
OR THE WORLD TO KNOW MY NAME
BUT MAYBE JUST TO LEAVE THINGS
A LITTLE CHANGED FROM WHEN I CAME
BUT IT'S NOT
MY LOT
USE WHAT
YOU'VE GOT

AND ALL I AM IS
FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
RIPPLES ON THE RIVER
ECHOES OF A SOUND
FROM A DISTANT FADING CHIME

ONE DAY WE ARE HERE
NEXT I KNOW WE VANISH
BUT I'M A FOOL
AND SO I LIKE TO FOOL MYSELF THAT I'M
NOT JUST FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
BUT SOMEONE WHO'LL LEAVE FOOTPRINTS
ON THE SANDS OF TIME.

#5A – Transition to Barge

SCENE 5 – THE ROYAL BARGE

(RAMSES, TUYA, and NEFERTARI are standing on the royal barge as it floats down the Nile.)

NEFERTARI is a beautiful, but stern and haughty young woman. The lights come up on a long, uncomfortable silence.)

RAMSES

So... Princess Nefertari, how do you like the royal barge? Very few have the privilege of sailing on her.

NEFERTARI

(coolly)

My family's barge is bigger.

(Another uncomfortable silence falls upon the table.)

TUYA

Nefertari, we are so looking forward to welcoming you into our family.

NEFERTARI

I believe you have it the wrong way around. We are considering whether to welcome *you*. My family is the most ancient royal family in Egypt. We understand why you are eager to make an alliance.

RAMSES

I'm eager to make an alliance because of your beauty and intelligence and charm and...

(RAMSES falters as NEFERTARI turns her steely gaze on him.)

... and...

(NEFERTARI turns back to TUYA.)

NEFERTARI

Shall we discuss the terms?

TUYA

Indeed, let's get down to business.

NEFERTARI

We want temples built for the Pharaohs of our family who have not been properly honored.

TUYA

Very good. But in return, Pharaoh will expect the princes loyal to your family to swear allegiance to him.

NEFERTARI

Of course that is contingent upon Seti conquering the desert rebels.

RAMSES

(confidently)

My father will return victorious from the desert. He always does.

(NEFERTARI considers.)

NEFERTARI

If all these conditions are met...

(NEFERTARI extends her hand to RAMSES.)

Then I will marry you.

(RAMSES takes her hand.)

RAMSES

(wryly)

This is like a love poem come to life.

NEFERTARI

My family will find an auspicious date for the wedding. I believe the barge has returned to the dock.

(She rises from her seat.)

TUYA

My congratulations, Princess.

(TUYA disembarks from the boat. NEFERTARI turns to disembark from the boat as well, but RAMSES stops her.)

RAMSES

Nefertari, are you happy about our marriage?

(NEFERTARI turns back, a bit surprised.)

NEFERTARI

Of course. We're making a strong alliance.

RAMSES

No, I mean about you and me. Are you happy you're marrying me?

NEFERTARI

You're going to be Pharaoh. My family will have a Queen of Egypt again. It's everything I've dreamed of.

RAMSES

You've never dreamed of... you know, sharing your life with someone? Being in love?

(NEFERTARI's icy facade cracks a bit.)

NEFERTARI

Of course I have. There was a time when I was a little girl that...

(she catches herself)

But I do not have the freedom for girlish dreams. I have my duties. As do you, Your Highness.

(She disembarks from the boat, and RAMSES follows.)

SCENE 6

#6 – Seti's Return

(As we transition, we hear the EGYPTIANS assembled in the court sing:)

EGYPTIANS

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

MENMA'ATRE' SETI MERENP'TAH

NOW WE CELEBRATE YOUR BLESSED RETURN

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

(As the lights come up, we are in:)

THE THRONE ROOM

(The Throne Room is filled with COURTIERS, PRIESTS, LADIES, ROYALTY, and other NOBILITY milling about expectantly. MUSICIANS are playing as GIRLS dance and SERVANTS circulate with flasks of wine. HOTEK stands before the CROWD and performs a spectacular feat of magic which ALL applaud, while MOSES and RAMSES wait near the throne.)

(The GENERALS of Seti's army, dusty and weary, some wounded and bloody, walk slowly into the room. And then SETI enters, bloodied and wearing ripped armor, and ascends to the throne platform with some difficulty. MOSES hurries to him and takes his arm.)

MOSES

Father, you're injured!

SETI

I'm fine. It's nothing.

(TUVA, worried, comes up to SETI.)

TUVA

We should cancel the ceremony. You need to rest.

SETI

The Pharaoh of Egypt does not rest. The people expect a victory celebration.

(He turns to the CROWD.)

My people, I have returned to you – as the Conqueror of Midian!

(The EGYPTIANS in court cheer.)

EGYPTIANS

(cheers)

MIGHTY SETI, CONQUEROR OF MIDIAN
LONG MAY YOU REIGN!

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!
LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!
MENMA' ATRE' SETI MERENP'TAH
LONG MAY YOU REIGN!

SETI

I prefer this welcome over the one I got in the desert!

(The EGYPTIANS laugh.)

And I have other news that gladdens my heart even further. Tonight we rejoice in the betrothal of Prince Ramses to Princess Nefertari.

(EVERYONE turns to look at RAMSES and NEFERTARI.)

My son's new station in life deserves a fitting title. So I hereby promote Ramses to be my Viceroy, responsible for choosing all royal ministers.

(RAMSES is overwhelmed, as the AUDIENCE politely applauds. MOSES slaps him on the back enthusiastically.)

MOSES

Congratulations, Viceroy!

RAMSES

Father, I thank you. I promise you I won't let you down. As my first act as Viceroy, I appoint Moses my... Assistant Viceroy, in charge of overseeing the new temple complex!

(HOTEP reacts in horror.)

HOTEP

Viceroy, I beg you to reconsider. Prince Moses is highly inappropriate for this position.

RAMSES

I think Prince Moses is perfect for the job.

(HOTEP turns to SETI.)

HOTEP

Your Majesty, you cannot allow this.

(SETI shakes his head wearily, but TUYA catches his eye with a warning glance.)

SETI

(sternly)

The Viceroy has spoken.

(MOSES is excited and humbled by his new job.)

MOSES

High Priest, I promise you I will live up to my new duties... in ways you cannot imagine.

SETI

And now, let the celebrations continue! Ramses, to honor your new title, I have brought you a gift from the desert.

(to the GUARDS)

Bring in the Midian girl!

#6A – Tzipporah Entrance

(He motions to a couple of GUARDS who carry out a cage into the hall, in which a young Midian woman, TZIPPORAH, is imprisoned.)

MOSES

They say Midianites are good dancers. Let's see.

(TZIPPORAH gazes boldly at MOSES without moving.)

Go on, girl. Dance for your new master.

#7 – Dance to the Day

(She begins a sensuous dance.)

TZIPPORAH

YOU THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED ME
MY BODY AND MY SOUL
YOU THINK I'M YOURS
IN YOUR COMMAND AND YOUR CONTROL
YOU BID ME DANCE

(TZIPPORAH)

FOR YOUR PLEASURE AND YOUR GLEE
 AND I COULD STAND HERE STUBBORNLY
 BUT NO, I WILL DANCE
 BUT MY DANCE WILL BE ONLY FOR ME
 I DANCE TO THE DAY I AM FREE
 I DANCE TO THE DAY I AM FREE

(She continues her dance defiantly.)

A-NI CHOF-SHE-YAH
 E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH
 TA-MEED E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH
 A-NI CHOF-SHE-YAH
 E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH
 TA-MEED E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH!

(MOSES is uncomfortable seeing TZIPPORAH imprisoned in her cage.)

MOSES

Let her out of the cage.

(covering, to RAMSES)

She'll dance much better.

RAMSES

Yes! Guards, release her!

(to MOSES)

Good idea, Moses. Now let's see what she can do.

TZIPPORAH

HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT?
 DID IT THRILL YOUR SWOLLEN PRIDE?
 YOU THINK YOU'VE CHAINED ME HERE
 BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TIED
 TO YOUR ARROGANT KINGDOM
 WHICH YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND
 SOMEDAY WILL CRUMBLE BACK TO SAND
 AND THEN I WILL DANCE
 OR IF THAT DAY, I DON'T LIVE TO SEE
 ALL OF THE OTHERS LIKE ME
 WILL DANCE TO THE DAY WE ARE FREE
 I DANCE

(TZIPPORAH)

DANCE TO THE DAY I AM FREE!

(The dance ends, and RAMSES leads the applause.)

SETI

Take her away!

(A GUARD leads TZIPPORAH off.)

NEFERTARI

That slave girl does not show sufficient respect for her master, the future Pharaoh.

RAMSES

(mesmerized by the dance)

But what spirit! She's fearless... and did you see that sensuous...

(turns and sees NEFERTARI glaring at him; hastily, to the CROWD:)

Let us celebrate my father's historic victory!

#7A – Tzipporah Escapes

EGYPTIANS

MENMA'ATRE' SETI MERENP'TAH

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

(As the celebration begins anew, MOSES congratulates RAMSES again, but soon RAMSES becomes occupied with NEFERTARI and the COURTIERS. MOSES exits. Meanwhile, on another part of the stage, we see TZIPPORAH being led away by the GUARDS. She cleverly overpowers the GUARDS and runs off into the night.)

SCENE 7 – MOSES’ ROOM, ALMOST DAWN

(Lights up on Moses’ bed chamber. MOSES enters with a SERVANT.)

MOSES

That will be all. Goodnight.

(The SERVANT bows and leaves. MOSES begins to get ready for bed. MOSES is getting into bed when suddenly his door flies open and TZIPPORAH unexpectedly dashes in. MOSES whirls about.)

What is this? Who are you?

(TZIPPORAH rushes past him to the window set high in the wall, barreling him over, and climbs up on the bed, reaching for the stone window sill.)

You’re the slave girl Father gave—

TZIPPORAH

I am no slave! And I have a name! Tzipporah.

(MOSES leaps up and grabs TZIPPORAH, pulling her back down as she struggles to get free.)

MOSES

You’re not going anywhere, Tzipporah.

(calling out)

Guards!

TZIPPORAH

Please! Just let me go!

MOSES

How can you be so ungrateful to Prince Ramses? He’s going to be Pharaoh one day! Any girl in her right mind would give everything to be a royal slave!

TZIPPORAH

Of course you would think that!

#7B – Dance to the Day (Reprise)

It’s just as I said—

YOU’RE THE ONE WHO’S TIED

(TZIPPORAH)

TO YOUR ARROGANT KINGDOM—

MOSES

Yes, I know—

WHICH I CANNOT UNDERSTAND
SOMEDAY WILL CRUMBLE BACK TO SAND...

TZIPPORAH

That's right...

MOSES

AND THEN YOU WILL DANCE...

TZIPPORAH

Yes!

TO THE DAY I AM FREE...

MOSES

What does that mean? Free to be hungry? Free to live in the desert, searching for water and food, like a wild animal? Enjoy the life of luxury that's been given to you!

TZIPPORAH

In Midian we say, if you don't choose your own path, you will be lost no matter where you go.

A-NI CHOF-SHE-YAH
E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH
TA-MEED E'HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH...

MOSES

What is that? What are you saying?

TZIPPORAH

I AM FREE
I WILL BE FREE
I WILL ALWAYS...

(She tosses her veil to him.)

BE FREE!

(She jumps out the window.)

MOSES

Wait! I can't let you —

(RAMSES enters the room.)

RAMSES

Moses, do you know what? That Midian girl has disappeared and —

(sees him holding the veil)

That's her veil! You took her?

MOSES

Me? No! She ran in here. I tried to stop her.

RAMSES

She was in your bedchamber!

MOSES

She said the strangest things! I think she'd rather starve in the desert than be with you. That doesn't speak very highly of you.

RAMSES

(furious)

You think this is a joke, stealing her?

MOSES

Why would I steal a girl from you?

RAMSES

Maybe because Father finally favored me for once, and you couldn't stand it!

MOSES

That's crazy!

RAMSES

You're jealous, and you wanted to get back at me!

(RAMSES shoves MOSES.)

MOSES

Do you want a fight?

(MOSES kicks RAMSES in the chest, knocking him backwards.)

RAMSES

You asked for it.

(RAMSES gets up and grabs MOSES' arm, twisting him back. MOSES grabs RAMSES' arm as well, and they grimace as they wrestle for control. RAMSES grabs MOSES and gives him a noogie.)

RAMSES

How'd you like that, Moses?

(MOSES flips RAMSES over his shoulders. RAMSES flips MOSES, who yelps with pain as he tumbles.)

MOSES

Ow! That's cheating!

RAMSES

So is taking my tribute.

(The two stand panting and glaring at each other.)

MOSES

I'll find the girl and bring her back. She can't have gone far.

(MOSES exits.)

SCENE 8 – MARKETPLACE, DAWN

(MOSES walks through the crowded marketplace, as the PEOPLE in the market chatter and call out their wares. MOSES spots a sudden movement behind a stall and sees TZIPPORAH hurrying away.)

(MOSES)

Stop that woman!

(He starts towards her, but is suddenly stopped when he runs into a strange Hebrew woman, MIRIAM, who stands frozen directly in his way. Staring at him, MIRIAM drops her pot. She kneels in confusion, picking up the broken pieces.)

MIRIAM

I'm sorry. I just...

(she looks up and sees MOSES)

Moses... I didn't expect to see you here... at last... This is God's doing.

MOSES

Out of my way, slave!

(He tries to push past MIRIAM, but she grabs his arm. Incredulous, MOSES stops and turns towards her.)

You dare to touch me?

MIRIAM

God has led you to me – to us... your real sister and brother.

(MOSES stares at MIRIAM in confusion. AARON, a lean, lanky, very nervous-looking man, pulls MIRIAM away.)

AARON

Forgive her, Your Highness. She's lost her senses after the day's work. Not that we're complaining about our workload. We quite enjoy it.

MIRIAM

If you're here, deliverance must finally be at hand! Aaron, I told you to have faith!

MOSES

(to AARON)

She's obviously lost her mind. Take the poor woman away.

AARON

Thank you, Your Highness. Yes, I'm afraid she's gone quite insane. Miriam, come with me.

(MIRIAM wrests herself free from AARON'S grasp.)

MIRIAM

No, Aaron. This is what happens when you believe, you are rewarded for your faith.

AARON

Miriam, be quiet! You're making a fool of yourself...

MIRIAM

I know how I sound. I know people are always laughing at me, saying I'm crazy. But God has given me visions. When I saw the Queen take you out of the river...

#8 – *All I Ever Wanted*

... I knew God had saved you to be our deliverer. I have waited for this moment my whole life.

(MOSES has lost interest in MIRIAM's ravings. He turns to the curious BYSTANDERS.)

MOSES

Did anyone see where the Midian girl went?

AARON

Yes, I saw the woman run past me! She was heading towards the desert.

MOSES

Show me.

MIRIAM

No! Now that you're here, you can't leave us again! You must remember...

AARON

Follow me!

(As AARON begins to lead MOSES away...)

MIRIAM

HUSH NOW, MY BABY

(MIRIAM)

BE STILL, LOVE, DON'T CRY

SLEEP AS YOU'RE ROCKED BY THE STREAM

(MOSES stops abruptly, stunned.)

MOSES

What are you singing?

AARON

Your Highness, she went this way.

MIRIAM

SLEEP AND REMEMBER

MY LAST LULLABY

MOSES

(backing away)

I know that song...

MIRIAM

SO I'LL BE WITH YOU WHEN YOU DREAM.

MOSES

It can't be... It can't be!

(MOSES backs away, stumbling, then turns and runs away, pushing his way through the CROWDS.)

SCENE 9 – STREETS / PALACE / THE SECRET ROOM

(MOSES runs through the streets, into the palace and finally into the secret room, surrounded by the colorful wall paintings and hieroglyphics.)

(MOSES)

GLEAMING IN THE MOONLIGHT
COOL AND CLEAN AND ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN
ALL I EVER WANTED...
SWEET PERFUMES OF INCENSE
GRACEFUL ROOMS OF ALABASTER STONE
ALL I EVER WANTED...

THIS IS MY HOME
WITH MY FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER
OH SO NOBLE, OH SO STRONG,
NOW I AM HOME
HERE AMONG MY TRAPPINGS AND BELONGINGS
I BELONG
AND IF ANYBODY DOUBTS IT
THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG...

I AM STILL A SOVEREIGN PRINCE OF EGYPT
A SON OF THE PROUD HISTORY THAT'S SHOWN
ETCHED HERE ON THE WALL
SURELY THIS IS ALL I EVER WANTED
ALL I EVER WANTED
ALL I EVER...

(MOSES is stopped by something he sees. As he gazes at the wall paintings of the slaughter of the Hebrew firstborn, we see the figure of his mother YOCHAVED singing, with vignettes of that day in the background.)

YOCHAVED

YAL-DI-HA-TOV, VEH-HARACH
AL TI-RA VEH-AL TIF-CHAD
MY SON, I HAVE NOTHING I CAN GIVE
BUT THIS CHANCE THAT YOU MAY LIVE...

(Her image fades as SETI enters the room. MOSES, still staring at the wall paintings, doesn't even look up at him.)

SETI

The guards said you ran into the palace as if you were pursued by a ghost. Is something wrong?

MOSES

I've been in this room countless times, but I never really looked at the pictures on these walls before.

(SETI sees the images MOSES is looking at.)

SETI

Ah yes. The Hebrews.

MOSES

These... things? You did them?

SETI

The Hebrews were growing too numerous. And there was the possibility they were conspiring to revolt with the Midianites.

MOSES

A possibility?

SETI

SOMETIMES, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL...
SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE...

MOSES

Sacrifices!

(MOSES turns away. He can't even look at SETI.)

SETI

SOMETIMES ONE MUST DO THINGS
MAKE A BITTER CHOICE THAT SCARS YOUR SOUL
THIS I NEVER WANTED

PHARAOHS MAKE DECISIONS
I MUST KEEP OUR KINGDOM SAFE AND WHOLE
NOT JUST WHAT I WANTED...

(SETI reaches out to him.)

My son.

MOSES

Why would you call me that?

(MOSES runs out. SETI calls after him.)

SETI

Moses!

(MOSES sings as we transition to...)

SCENE 10 – THE QUEEN’S PLEASURE GARDEN**MOSES**

GLIST’NING IN THE SUNRISE
SEE THE RIVER DANCE IN GREENS AND BLUES
ALL I EVER WANTED
NOW THE NILE IS SINGING
TELLING OF HOW MUCH IT HURTS TO LOSE
ALL I EVER WANTED...

(TUYA enters and crosses to him.)

TUYA

This is where I found you. A basket in the bullrushes. With the most beautiful baby I had ever seen inside.

MOSES

A Hebrew baby.

TUYA

After Ramses’ birth, I couldn’t have any more children. To me, you were a gift from the gods, my son as truly as if you came from my own body.

MOSES

But I didn’t! The blessings of Pharaoh’s family don’t apply to me. I’m not beloved by the gods. When I die, I won’t be with you in the House of Horus. I don’t belong here. I don’t know where I belong.

TUYA

THIS IS YOUR HOME, MY SON,
HERE THE RIVER BROUGHT YOU
AND IT’S HERE THE RIVER MEANT
TO BE YOUR HOME.
NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, LOVE,
NOW FORGET AND BE CONTENT
WHEN THE GODS SEND YOU A BLESSING
YOU DON’T ASK WHY IT WAS SENT...

(TUYA kisses him gently and exits.)

MOSES

I AM STILL A SOVEREIGN PRINCE OF EGYPT
A DROP IN THE ETERNAL STREAM THAT FLOWS

(MOSES)

FROM THE GOLDEN FONT

NOW I KNOW IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED

ALL I EVER WANTED

ALL I'LL EVER WANT

SCENE 11 – THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION SITE

#8A – *The Laws of the Gods*

(During MOSES' song we transition to the construction site, where the HEBREWS are laboring, lashed by OVERSEERS. RAMSES stands at a table with HOTEF, looking down at several papyrus scrolls unrolled on its surface. RAMSES points to one of the scrolls, as MOSES joins them.)

RAMSES

Prince Moses has drawn up his vision of the new temple.

HOTEF

(extremely displeased)

Has he indeed? We cannot rededicate a temple once the foundation ceremony has been performed!

RAMSES

You can do whatever the Assistant Viceroy tells you to do! Moses, tell them what you want!

(They turn to MOSES, who is staring at the HEBREW SLAVES as they haul an enormous stone towards the temple wall.)

An OLD HEBREW MAN, straining under an impossible load, struggles onto the top of a large marble block. He stumbles and sinks to his knees.)

GUARD 1

Get up!

(The OLD HEBREW MAN struggles, but he cannot rise fast enough.)

RAMSES

Moses?

OLD HEBREW MAN

Ahhhhh.

(The GUARD raises his whip.)

GUARD 1

I said, get up!

(The GUARD brings down the whip savagely on the OLD HEBREW MAN'S back, and he falls to the ground.)

MOSES

(to RAMSES)

Did you see that?

(RAMSES looks about, puzzled.)

RAMSES

I don't see anything. Explain your plans to the High Priest.

(MOSES turns his back on the whipping and tries to block it out and concentrate on the drawing.)

MOSES

Here we see an avenue of sphinxes with obelisks at the end, leading to a massive gate.

(The GUARD is still whipping the OLD HEBREW MAN, who is lying helplessly on the top of the marble block. MIRIAM and AARON are working close by. MIRIAM can't stand it any more and calls out.)

MIRIAM

He won't stop whipping that man! He can't get up!

MOSES

Once you pass through, you arrive in the court.

AARON

Miriam, there's nothing we can do.

MOSES

Statues of the Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom will line the walls.

MIRIAM

Can't someone help him?

RAMSES

It will be quite the impressive sight.

(At this point, the dialogue overlaps.)

MIRIAM

Then I will!

MOSES

Now we move into the sanctuary...

(MIRIAM drops her tools and starts towards the GUARD whipping the OLD HEBREW MAN.)

AARON

Miriam, no!

MOSES

... into the sanctuary...

MIRIAM

Stop whipping him!

GUARD 2

(to MIRIAM)

Get back to work!

(The GUARD strikes MIRIAM down. AARON runs to pull her back, as MOSES tries to ignore it.)

MOSES

... into the sanctuary...

(Suddenly he whirls around and roars...)

Stop it! Stop beating those slaves!

(RAMSES looks at MOSES, astonished. The GUARD, intently beating the OLD HEBREW MAN, doesn't hear him. MOSES' fury grows as he rushes toward the marble block, pushing WORKERS out of his way.)

I command you to stop!

RAMSES

Moses?

(MOSES leaps onto the marble block and seizes the GUARD's whip as he raises it for another blow. The startled GUARD turns and sees MOSES looming over him.)

MOSES

Do you dare to disobey me?

(He raises his hand to strike the GUARD. The GUARD cowers and loses his balance. Screaming, the GUARD falls backwards, toppling off the marble block and crashing onto the stone below.

EVERYONE freezes, uncertain how to react to an Egyptian prince killing a guard. Then MOSES breaks away and runs off.)

HOTEP

Swift and severe punishment – that’s what Pharaoh promised me.

(to RAMSES)

HE HAS TRANSGRESSED
THE LAWS OF THE GODS...

ALL

THE LAWS OF THE GODS...

HOTEP

ETERNAL, UNCHANGING
PROTECT US FROM DISRUPTION
CHAOS AND WOE
DISRUPTION, CHAOS, AND WOE

ALL (WITH HOTEP)

ETERNAL, UNCHANGING
PROTECT US FROM DISRUPTION
CHAOS AND WOE
WOE, WOE...

(As the scene changes, we see MOSES running.)

SCENE 12 – THE EDGE OF THE DESERT

(MOSES has run to the edge of the temple complex. The desert stretches before him to the horizon. He stops, exhausted, hands on knees. RAMSES runs towards him from the construction site.)

RAMSES

Moses! Where do you think you're going? You're almost at the desert. No one can survive out there. Are you worried about that accident? He was just a guard, one step above a slave. A prince of Egypt can't be punished for —

MOSES

But I'm not a prince of Egypt.

RAMSES

What are you talking about?

MOSES

There's no royal blood in my veins. I was born a... a Hebrew.

(RAMSES laughs.)

Ask Father and Mother if you don't believe me. I'm a Hebrew!

(RAMSES recoils, as he reacts.)

RAMSES

(in a low voice)

If that's true, no one must ever know that.

MOSES

I can't keep it secret.

RAMSES

Of course you can.

#9 – Make It Right

We can. You're in shock. You're not thinking straight. Come back with me now.

MOSES

I can't stay where I don't belong.

RAMSES

YOU KNOW I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU
AT LEAST I WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY
SO DON'T EXPECT I'LL STAND HERE AND DO NOTHING
AS YOU SAY GOODBYE
NOW YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ME

YOU THINK YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS FLIGHT
BUT AS WE ALWAYS HAVE, WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING
THAT WILL MAKE IT RIGHT
I WILL MAKE IT RIGHT...

I WILL MAKE IT RIGHT
FIND A WAY TO FIX IT
LEAVE IT UP TO ME TO MAKE IT BETTER
STRONGER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN
WE WILL WALK IN LIGHT
LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENED
AND WE'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET SAFE FOREVER
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO WIN
THIS FIGHT
FOR YOU
I WILL MAKE IT RIGHT...

MOSES

THANK YOU, MY BROTHER,
I LOVE YOU WANT TO TRY
BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO DENY
THE CRUMBLING OF THE LIE
THAT HAS HAUNTED ME FROM BIRTH

AND NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN CHANGE THE PAST
NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN MAKE A LIE BE TRUE
THOUGH IT BREAKS MY HEART TO LEAVE YOU
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
MAYBE THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN BE FOOLED
BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US TWO
AND NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN CHANGE THAT, BROTHER,

(MOSES)

NOT EVEN YOU...

RAMSES

But I will be Pharaoh, the living god. If I say day is night, it will be written. And I say you are innocent. I say you are my brother.

MOSES

No, Ramses...

MOSES

NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN CHANGE THE PAST
NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN MAKE A LIE BE TRUE

THOUGH IT BREAKS MY HEART
TO LEAVE YOU
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
MAYBE THE REST OF THE WORLD
COULD BE FOOLED
BUT THAT STILL LEAVES WE TWO
AND NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN CHANGE THAT, BROTHER
NOT EVEN YOU...

TRY WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT...

YOU CAN'T MAKE IT...
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT
RIGHT...

(MOSES runs off into the desert.)

RAMSES

I WILL MAKE IT RIGHT
FIND A WAY TO FIX IT
LEAVE IT UP TO ME
TO MAKE IT BETTER
STRONGER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN

WE WILL WALK IN LIGHT
LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENED
AND WE'LL KEEP YOUR
SECRET SAFE FOREVER
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO WIN
THIS FIGHT
FOR YOU

I WILL FIND THE MIGHT...

I CAN MAKE IT...

I WILL MAKE IT
RIGHT...

RAMSES

Moses!

SCENE 13 – THE DESERT

#10 – *Moses in the Desert*

(MOSES, in a choreographed sequence, runs, trudges, then crawls through the desert as a CHORUS sings.)

WOMEN'S VOICES

WHERE IS THE LORD?

MEN'S VOICES

WHERE IS THE LORD?

CHORUS

WHERE IS THE LORD
IN THIS LAND OF DESERTS AND OF PITS
THIS LAND OF DROUGHT
AND DEEP DARKNESS?
WHERE IS THE LORD
HERE IN THIS WILDERNESS
THIS LAND NO ONE HAS CROSSED
AND WHERE NO ONE DWELLS?

MOSES

BLOW, YOU DESERT SANDS
SCOUR ME AND CLEANSE ME
TILL I CANNOT SEE
TILL I CAN NO LONGER STAND

BLOW, YOU DESERT WINDS
TILL EVEN THE GODS CAN'T FIND ME
IN THIS GODS-FORSAKEN LAND
AND COVER EVERY FOOTPRINT
I LEAVE ON THE FACELESS SAND...

(MOSES collapses onto the desert sand, exhausted.)

SCENE 14 – WELL IN THE WILDERNESS

#10A – *The Well*

(MOSES lies prone in the desert, just beyond a well.

We hear two GIRLS singing offstage.)

LEAH & KETURAH

(offstage)

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI...

(LEAH and KETURAH, two young Midianite girls, enter carrying jugs on their heads, walking towards the well.)

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI—

(As they approach the well, two SHEPHERDS appear and roughly push them aside.)

SHEPHERD 1

Get away! This well belongs to us!

LEAH

No, it doesn't! It's everyone's!

KETURAH

Our sheep need water!

SHEPHERD 2

Too bad. They're not getting water here.

LEAH

Our father's the High Priest of Midian.

SHEPHERD 1

(with exaggerated awe and respect)

Oh, the High Priest of Midian! That's even worse.

SHEPHERD 2

Your people caused all the trouble with the Pharaoh—just because you're too proud and stubborn to bend your knee.

KETURAH

That's right—

A-NI CHOF-SHE-YAH

E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH

MOSES

(sits up – he knows that tune)

Huh?

KETURAH & LEAH

TA-MEED E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE-YAH

SHEPHERD 1

I lost my brother in the war your people started!

(The SHEPHERD shoves KETURAH so that she falls on the sand.)

LEAH

You hit my sister!

(The SHEPHERDS are dragging the GIRLS away as MOSES steps forward, confronting the SHEPHERDS.)

MOSES

Stop! Let the girls use the well!

SHEPHERD 1

Who are you to give us orders?

(MOSES draws himself up with the last of his strength.)

MOSES

I am...

(pauses)

... nobody.

(The SHEPHERDS approach MOSES menacingly.)

SHEPHERD 2

So nobody's going to get in our way!

(SHEPHERD 2 menaces MOSES with his staff. MOSES fights and grabs his staff with his last remaining strength, pushing him back. Meanwhile, LEAH leaps onto SHEPHERD 1's back, pummeling him, and KETURAH kicks SHEPHERD 2's groin, sending him to the ground, where she stomps his hand.)

SHEPHERD 2

Let's get out of here!

(He grabs SHEPHERD 1 and the two run off. The GIRLS turn to MOSES.)

KETURAH

Thank you... Nobody.

MOSES

(staggers over to the well)

That's all right. Now if you'll excuse me, I just need a small drink of—

(He loses his last shred of energy and falls in with a splash. The GIRLS gather around the well and gaze down thoughtfully.)

LEAH

He fell in! Why did he do that?

KETURAH

He seemed very tired.

LEAH

(calls down)

Don't worry, we'll get you out.

(to KETURAH)

Let's pull the bucket up.

(The two GIRLS strain to turn the winch, without much luck. TZIPPORAH appears, calling for them.)

TZIPPORAH

Leah! Keturah! Father's been looking for you!

(She spots the GIRLS straining at the winch.)

KETURAH

Tzipporah! Help us!

TZIPPORAH

What are you girls doing?

LEAH

We're trying to get the funny man out of the well.

TZIPPORAH

Well, that's one I've never heard before!

(A groan echoes from within the well. TZIPPORAH gasps and looks down the well.)

There's a man in the well!

LEAH

I just said that!

TZIPPORAH

(calling down the well)

Hold on to the bucket!

(TZIPPORAH and the GIRLS turn the winch, though LEAH is barely touching it, since she's too busy looking down the well.)

LEAH

He's coming up! He's getting higher! He's almost here! We got him!

(MOSES' sodden head appears above the rim of the well. TZIPPORAH turns and finds herself face to face with MOSES. Her eyes open wide with recognition.)

TZIPPORAH

It's you!!!

(She lets go of the winch, and MOSES falls back to the bottom of the well, with a splash. TZIPPORAH walks off, as the two little GIRLS look after her.)

LEAH

That's why Papa says she'll never get married.

SCENE 15 – INSIDE JETHRO’S TENT

#10B – Jethro’s Tent

(The large tent is filling with MEMBERS of the Midian tribe settling down on carpets for the evening meal. JETHRO enters with TZIPPORAH. TZIPPORAH is arguing with her father, but JETHRO, a solidly-built, even-tempered man, seems unfazed by his daughter’s passionate pleas.)

TZIPPORAH

Father, you can’t let that man stay here! He deserves to die! He was going to force me to be the Crown Prince’s... I can’t even say it...

JETHRO

He defended your sisters. And you told me he was the one who let you escape.

TZIPPORAH

I did not say that! I said I escaped from his room...

JETHRO

It seems almost the same thing to me.

TZIPPORAH

He’s an enemy of our people!

JETHRO

Perhaps. But at the moment, he is our guest.

TZIPPORAH

Why do you always say the opposite to what I say?

JETHRO

(shrugs)

I don’t know. It just works out that way.

(MOSES appears and JETHRO crosses to him, followed by KETURAH and LEAH.)

Welcome to the land of the Midianites!

KETURAH

That’s my father.

LEAH

He's the High Priest!

MOSES

Thank you, High Priest.

JETHRO

My name is Jethro.

(MOSES starts to sit down next to JETHRO, but TZIPPORAH steps in the way, glaring at him.)

TZIPPORAH

I sit on my father's right.

JETHRO

Tzipporah.

LEAH

You can sit with me!

LEAH

Thank you.

(He sits down next to LEAH.)

JETHRO

(to MOSES)

We will tell you about ourselves and how we live, and you can tell us stories of your life. Here in the desert, we love to hear stories.

(to the MIDIANITES)

My children, let us give thanks for this bountiful food.

(JETHRO makes a traditional gesture to the heavens, and the MIDIANITES follow.)

And let us also give thanks for the presence of this brave young man whom we honor here tonight.

MOSES

Please, don't... I've done nothing in my life worth honoring.

TZIPPORAH

(mutters under her breath)

That's true.

(to JETHRO)

Send him away, Father. Why are you doing this?

(JETHRO eyes MOSES keenly.)

JETHRO

I don't know – yet.

#11 – Through Heaven's Eyes

But I think his story and ours have joined for a reason. We will find out together.

MOSES

I don't have a story anymore. I'm just a stranger in a strange land.

JETHRO

We all have a story. But not all of us know what it is.

A SINGLE THREAD IN A TAPESTRY
THOUGH ITS COLOR BRIGHTLY SHINE
CAN NEVER SEE ITS PURPOSE
IN THE PATTERN OF THE GRAND DESIGN

AND THE STONE THAT SITS ON THE VERY TOP
OF THE MOUNTAIN'S MIGHTY FACE –
DOES IT THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE STONES THAT FORM THE BASE?

JETHRO

SO HOW CAN YOU SEE
WHAT YOUR LIFE IS WORTH
OR WHERE YOUR VALUE LIES?
YOU CAN NEVER SEE
THROUGH THE EYES OF MAN
YOU MUST LOOK AT YOUR LIFE
LOOK AT YOUR LIFE
THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES...

MIDIANITES

OOH–

OOH–

OOH–

AH–

AH–

KETURAH

(stands up and holds her hand out to MOSES)

Dance with me!

MOSES

I'll just stand here and watch.

KETURAH

Come on, dance with me!

MOSES

No, I don't know how.

MIDIANITES

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI...

JETHRO & MIDIANITES

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI
LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI...

JETHRO

A LAKE OF GOLD IN THE DESERT SAND
IS LESS THAN A COOL FRESH SPRING
AND TO ONE LOST SHEEP, A SHEPHERD BOY
IS GREATER THAN THE RICHEST KING.

IF A MAN LOSE EV'RYTHING HE OWNS
HAS HE TRULY LOST HIS WORTH?
OR IS IT THE BEGINNING
OF A NEW AND BRIGHTER BIRTH?

JETHRO

SO HOW DO YOU MEASURE
THE WORTH OF A MAN?
IN WEALTH OR STRENGTH OR SIZE?

MIDIANITES

OOH—

OOH—

(JETHRO)
 IN HOW MUCH HE GAINED
 OR HOW MUCH HE GAVE?
 THE ANSWER WILL COME
 THE ANSWER WILL COME TO HIM WHO TRIES
 TO LOOK AT HIS LIFE
 THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES.

(MIDIANITES)
 AH—
 AH—
 HIM WHO TRIES

JETHRO

AND THAT'S WHY WE SHARE ALL WE HAVE WITH YOU
 THOUGH THERE'S LITTLE TO BE FOUND...
 WHEN ALL YOU'VE GOT IS NOTHING
 THERE'S A LOT TO GO AROUND...

MIDIANITES

THERE'S A LOT TO GO AROUND

NO LIFE CAN ESCAPE BEING BLOWN ABOUT
 BY THE WINDS OF CHANGE AND CHANCE
 AND THOUGH YOU NEVER KNOW ALL THE STEPS
 YOU MUST LEARN TO JOIN THE DANCE...
 YOU MUST LEARN TO JOIN THE DANCE...

(The MIDIANITES launch into an exuberant dance. Then JETHRO approaches MOSES.)

JETHRO

Come, Moses, join the dance!

MOSES

I can't do that.

JETHRO

Just follow me. It will come naturally.

(JETHRO demonstrates the dance moves to MOSES, who hesitantly starts to imitate him. The MIDIANITES urge him on.)

MIDIANITES

(ad lib)

You can do it! Don't give up! You almost got that right! So close! Nobody's perfect the first time! Keep trying! Feel the rhythm! You're getting it! You see, it's not that hard! Getting better! You did it! That was perfect! You're ready to join the dance!

JETHRO

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

(The MIDIANITES start to join in with JETHRO.)

JETHRO & MIDIANITES

LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LIDDLE LAI LAI

LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI LAI

JETHRO

SO HOW DO YOU JUDGE

WHAT A MAN IS WORTH?

BY WHAT HE BUILDS OR BUYS?

MIDIANITES

OOH—

OOH—

JETHRO & MIDIANITES

YOU CAN NEVER SEE WITH YOUR EYES ON EARTH

LOOK THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES

JETHRO

LOOK AT YOUR LIFE

JETHRO & MIDIANITES

LOOK AT YOUR LIFE

LOOK AT YOUR LIFE

THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES!

SCENE 16 – EGYPT - THE PALACE / ANTECHAMBER

#11A – *Transition to Palace*

(Back in Egypt, RAMSES, SETI, and TUYA are gathered in a small antechamber.)

RAMSES

Father, give me a band of soldiers. I'll lead them into the desert after Moses. I'll find him and bring him home.

SETI

No. Nefertari's family would use this scandal to cancel the wedding and move against us.

RAMSES

He'll die out there! If he hasn't already!

(SETI sways uncertainly.)

TUYA

Seti, are you all right?

SETI

I just need to sit down for a moment.

(He sits.)

TUYA

You pretend you don't care. But this is destroying you.

SETI

It's just my injury...

TUYA

No, it's Moses! He's your son! He's in the desert, without food, without water.

SETI

(brokenly)

I would give my life to save Moses. But my life isn't mine to give.

RAMSES

Father, I don't understand...

SETI

You will, some day. I am Pharaoh. Egypt is my firstborn and my lastborn. I have to think of Egypt before all else. Even before the life of my... my son.

TUYA

What nonsense are you speaking? I'll run after him into the desert myself, if I have to!

SETI

(growing sterner)

No, you won't! You are the Queen of Egypt. You will do your duty.

(stands, speaks formally)

I issue a proclamation that Moses has been banished from Egypt forever for the murder of a guard...

(TUYA freezes, staring at her husband.)

RAMSES

You can't.

(RAMSES turns to TUYA.)

Mother, tell him. He always listens to you.

(TUYA sits down heavily on her seat next to SETI. The two sit frozen, like a couple of monumental statues.)

SETI

So it is written.

#12 – Faster (Reprise)

RAMSES

Father! Mother...

(But they do not move. Lights fade to a spot on RAMSES.)

RAMSES

Moses... where are you...?

THROUGH EV'RY PRANKISH ENDEAVOR
EV'RY WILD CHARIOT RIDE
ONE THING I THOUGHT WAS FOREVER:
YOU'D ALWAYS BE AT MY SIDE.

(RAMSES)

THERE WAS A TIME I THOUGHT THAT TIME WOULD LAST
AND SOMEHOW I'D BE TIME'S MASTER...

(As we cross-fade to Scene 17...)

RAMSES & MOSES

TOO YOUNG AND STUPID TO REALIZE THAT TIME MOVES SO FAST
NOW IT SEEMS EVEN FASTER...

SCENE 17 – HILLSIDE

(MOSES sits on a hillside looking after a flock of sheep which are grazing out of our sight. TZIPPORAH enters.)

TZIPPORAH

You look lost in thought.

MOSES

I'm worried about Dinah.

TZIPPORAH

Dinah?

MOSES

The sheep by the tree stump. I'm afraid Dinah may have gone lame.

TZIPPORAH

You've named the sheep?

MOSES

Of course. I spend so much time with them. You see Sarah chewing on that old piece of leather? She's so stubborn, she's convinced it's a piece of food and she'll keep chewing it all day. And Micah next to her – he's such a tease. He loves to annoy her.

TZIPPORAH

Look at you. You used to live in a palace with hundreds of slaves looking after your every need...

MOSES

And now hundreds of sheep look to me for *their* every need. And you know what? I've never been happier. I love them.

TZIPPORAH

Do you feel the same way about people?

MOSES

Well, sheep are simpler.

TZIPPORAH

Some of them.

(They laugh.)

MOSES

Oh, look! Tzipporah is nosing the ewes back into the center of the flock.

TZIPPORAH

There's a sheep named after me?

MOSES

How do you know it wasn't the other way around?

TZIPPORAH

A sheep!?

MOSES

She's bossy and has a terrible temper...

(He notices TZIPPORAH starting to react.)

... and she's courageous and smart. She's my favorite. And see that ram over there?

TZIPPORAH

The one with the big horns? What's his name?

MOSES

I haven't thought of a name for him yet. But see how he glances over at her? He wants to go over, but he doesn't dare. He's afraid he's not worthy of her.

#13 – *Never in a Million Years*

TZIPPORAH

He shouldn't worry. She won't mind if he approaches.

MOSES

How can you tell?

TZIPPORAH

SHE'S GOT HIM IN THE CORNER OF HER EYE
TO HER, HE'S THE BEST LOOKING THING IN THE WORLD...

MOSES

I suppose it's possible.

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED...

TZIPPORAH

Like us, for instance?

MOSES

WOULD YOU EVER HAVE THOUGHT
GIVEN WHERE WE STARTED
YOU AND I WOULD CHANCE TO MEET?

TZIPPORAH

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS

MOSES

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS

TZIPPORAH

AND NOW COULD YOU HAVE DREAMED
IF WE SHOULD BE PARTED
WE'D FEEL SOMEHOW INCOMPLETE?

MOSES

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS

TZIPPORAH

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS

MOSES

COULD YOU EVER HAVE IMAGINED WE'D BE HERE LIKE THIS
EVER NEARING THE INEVITABLE DAY WE... KISS?
AND IF YOU SHOULD ASK HOW SOON I THINK THIS
FEELING DISAPPEARS
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS

BOTH

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS...

(They kiss.)

TZIPPORAH

Look—the ram is making a move. He's walking towards her...

MOSES

He's nuzzling her nose. Does he dare to hope? No, she's turning her back on him.

TZIPPORAH

She's not running away.

MOSES

He's getting closer to her. She's not moving. And now he's—oh!

(He turns away, embarrassed. TZIPPORAH laughs.)

TZIPPORAH

I think you may have an addition to your flock in a few months.

MOSES

(has noticed something...)

Ah—Daniel has wandered off again. I'd better go find him.

(He starts off.)

TZIPPORAH

(hands him his staff)

Don't forget your staff.

MOSES

Thanks. I guess I'm a little... thanks.

(MOSES exits, as TZIPPORAH gazes after him.)

TZIPPORAH

COULD I EVER HAVE IMAGINED I'D BE HERE LIKE THIS
IN THE AFTERGLOW OF FINALLY REACHING OUR FIRST KISS?
AND IF I WERE ASKED HOW SOON I THINK THIS FEELING
DISAPPEARS
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS
MY LOVE
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS...

SCENE 18 – THE PALACE / SETI’S BEDCHAMBER

#14 – Act I Finale

(Back in Egypt, RAMSES, TUYA, and NEFERTARI stand by SETI’s deathbed, as HOTEPE chants the last rites.)

HOTEPE & PRIESTS

HASTEN TO RA

SAY UNTO HIM WHO LIFTS HIS ARM IN THE EAST

HOTEPE

THAT THE KING IS COMING AS A GOD

THAT THE KING STANDS IN THE PALACE OF THE HORIZON

BEHOLD HE COMES

HOTEPE & PRIESTS

BEHOLD HE COMES...

(SETI’s deathbed. SETI, with a slight movement of his withered hand, beckons for RAMSES to lean in closer. With his last ebbing strength, he whispers haltingly.)

SETI

My son... Our people and our dynasty are now in your hands...

RAMSES

Father, don’t tire yourself...

TUYA

Listen to him, Ramses.

SETI

I must know... before I...

(SETI doesn’t have the strength to say more.)

TUYA

He means to say...

RAMSES

I understand.

NO WEAK LINK

(RAMSES)

EVER SHALL BREAK OUR CHAIN
NO WEAK KING
EVER SHALL END OUR REIGN

FATHER, I PROMISE YOU
I WILL MEET EV'RY TASK
FATHER, I SWEAR I'LL DO
ALL YOU WOULD HOPE OR ASK...

SETI

Then I am not afraid.

(SETI dies. Grief-stricken, TUYA cradles SETI's body.)

NEFERTARI turns to RAMSES with a look of triumph and kneels on the floor, bowing down before him.)

NEFERTARI

Your Majesty, Lord of the Two Lands, Beloved by Amun, your Queen kneels before you.

THIS IS WHY YOU WERE BORN
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR

NEFERTARI & HOTEF

THIS IS WHO YOU WILL BE
THE REST OF YOUR LONG LIFE THROUGH...

(RAMSES turns to embrace TUYA. Instead, she kneels before him.)

TUYA, HOTEF, & NEFERTARI

NOW THIS LIFE THAT WAS YOURS
BELONGS NOT ONLY TO YOU
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO...

SCENE 19 – THE DESERT

(MOSES enters a smooth rock canyon.)

MOSES

Daniel... Daniel... where are you?

(Suddenly he stops. A bush burns with a bright flame, yet is seemingly untouched by the fire. He moves cautiously towards the burning bush. And then a VOICE sounds, the voice of a chorus of men and women...)

GOD'S VOICE

MOSES...

(MOSES looks around, confused.)

MOSES...

MOSES

Here I am.

GOD'S VOICE

Behold, a bush that burns with fire

BUT IS NOT CONSUMED

MOSES

What do you want with me?

GOD'S VOICE

Take the sandals from your feet

FOR YOU STAND ON HOLY GROUND

(Wondering, MOSES takes off his sandals.)

MOSES

Who are you?

GOD'S VOICE

I AM THAT I AM.

MOSES

I don't understand.

GOD'S VOICE

I AM THE GOD OF YOUR ANCESTORS

(GOD'S VOICE)

ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB
 I HAVE HEARD THE CRY OF MY PEOPLE
 IN OPPRESSION IN EGYPT
 NOW I WILL SEND FORTH A MESSENGER
 TO DELIVER THEM UP OUT OF BONDAGE
 TO A LAND OF MILK AND HONEY
 NOW I SEND YOU!

(Lights fade on MOSES and go up on TZIPPORAH.)

THE MIDIAN CAMP**TZIPPORAH**

It couldn't have been real.

MOSES

No, it couldn't. Except it was. The most real thing I've ever seen. The moment I stood before the burning bush, I understood for the first time in my life, there's something larger than me, something greater than all of us.

TZIPPORAH

I don't believe in miracles.

MOSES

WAS THAT A MIRACLE?
 HARD TO BELIEVE
 BUT I KNOW WHAT MY EARS HEARD,
 WHAT MY EYES SEEMED TO SEE
 AND EVEN IF I DREAMED IT
 HOW CAN I LIVE
 KNOWING MY PEOPLE LANGUISH
 WHILE ONLY I AM FREE?

Tzipporah, a very wise girl once told me, if you don't choose your own path, you're lost wherever you go. I know my path now. I must return to Egypt and free my people.

I SAW A MIRACLE
 AND NOW IT'S UP TO ME.

TZIPPORAH

(to MOSES)

Well of course, I'm not going to let you go alone.

MOSES

I promise we'll come back when it's done. But this is something I must do.

TZIPPORAH

(softly)

I know.

(TZIPPORAH and MOSES are joined by JETHRO, who performs a wedding ceremony, as simultaneously the PRIESTS sing to RAMSES.)

TZIPPORAH & JETHRO

THIS IS WHY YOU WERE BORN
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR
THIS IS WHO YOU WILL BE
THE REST OF YOUR LONG LIFE THROUGH

HOTEP & PRIESTS

THIS IS WHY YOU WERE BORN
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR
THIS IS WHO YOU WILL BE
LONG LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

TZIPPORAH, HEBREWS, & MIDIANITES

NOW THIS LIFE THAT WAS YOURS
BELONGS NOT ONLY TO YOU
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO.

NEFERTARI, TUYA, & EGYPTIAN WOMEN

O MIGHTY RAMSES MIAMUN
O MIGHTY PHARAOH
LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!
LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH TO YOU

MOSES

NOW MY LIFE IS CHANGING
WILL THIS STRANGE NEW PATH AHEAD BE
ALL I EVER WANTED?
SO MUCH RESTS ON ME NOW
ISN'T THAT THE THING I SAID
WAS ALL I EVER WANTED?
ALL THAT I EVER WANTED?

RAMSES

NOW MY LIFE IS CHANGING
WILL LIFE FROM NOW ON TURN OUT TO BE
ALL I EVER WANTED?
SO MUCH RESTS ON ME NOW
IS THIS VAST RESPONSIBILITY
ALL I EVER WANTED?
ALL THAT I EVER WANTED?

HEBREWS

DELIVER US
AH, DELIVER US
AH, REMEMBER US
HERE IN THIS BURNING SAND
DELIVER US
THERE'S A LAND YOU PROMISED US
DELIVER US
TO THE PROMISED LAND
DELIVER US
TO THE PROMISED LAND!

MOSES & RAMSES

WILL MY NEW LIFE BE
ALL I EVER WANTED?

ALL I EVER WANTED?

AND WILL ALL I EVER WANTED
DELIVER ME
TO THE PROMISED LAND?

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE 1 – EGYPT - OUTSIDE PHARAOH'S PALACE

#15 – *Through Heaven's Eyes (Reprise)*

(MOSES enters with TZIPPORAH. TZIPPORAH stops and gazes at the palace.)

MOSES

I never dreamed I'd return to this place.

TZIPPORAH

Neither did I.

MOSES

This used to be my home, but now – I don't belong here any more than you do.

TZIPPORAH

Your family will be happy that you're alive.

MOSES

I don't know if they'll even want to see me.

TZIPPORAH

Make them see you.

THOUGH THIS JOURNEY WAS RUGGED AND LONG
AND PROBABLY UNWISE
YOU CAN TRULY SAY EVEN IF IT GOES WRONG
YOU LOOKED THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES
HELP THEM TO LOOK THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES...

(MOSES smiles and they exit.)

SCENE 2—EGYPT - THE THRONE ROOM

#16—*The Naming Ceremony*

(High Priest HOTEPE, with his PRIESTS, is conducting a grand ceremony, celebrating the seventh day after the birth of RAMSES' son. RAMSES stands next to NEFERTARI, who holds her swaddled infant son.)

COURT ATTENDEES

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

(HOTEPE puts his hand in a bowl of salt and scatters salt over the baby as the PRIESTS chant.)

HOTEPE

Seven days have passed since the birth of Pharaoh's son. And on the seventh day, the gods have decreed that we bless the firstborn and give him his birth name, registering him in the book of the House of Life.

HOTEPE

YOU ARE PROTECTED LIKE GOLD

YOU ARE PROTECTED LIKE STONE

YOU ARE PROTECTED LIKE THE SEVEN GODS

WHO MADE THE WORLD

PRIESTS

HEAVEN PROTECTS YOU

EARTH PROTECTS YOU

NIGHT PROTECTS YOU

DAY PROTECTS YOU...

HEAVEN PROTECTS YOU

EARTH PROTECTS YOU

NIGHT PROTECTS YOU

DAY PROTECTS YOU

HOTEPE

(looks up to NEFERTARI)

What is the name you give your son?

(NEFERTARI looks to RAMSES.)

RAMSES

Seti the Second.

NEFERTARI

(reacts to the name)

Your father would be proud.

HOTEP

In the name of Amun-Ra the Father, Horus the Son of Isis, and Kneph the Spirit of the River Nile, I name you Seti the Second, heir to the throne of the living god Pharaoh Ramses.

(He scatters water over the baby's head.)

PRIESTS & ATTENDEES

MIGHTY PHARAOH RAMSES

QUEEN NEFERTARI

SETI THE SECOND

LIFE! HEALTH! STRENGTH!

LIFE! HEALTH—

(As the MAID carries the baby out of the room, a commotion erupts from the back of the room, as GUARDS shout at unseen intruders.)

GUARDS

(ad lib)

Stand back! This is a royal celebration! You cannot enter! Halt! Stop him!

(MOSES bursts into the throne room, followed by TZIPPORAH.)

MOSES

I'm here to see my father, the Pharaoh.

(RAMSES stands up and crosses to the edge of the royal platform.)

HOTEP

What is this? There are no strangers allowed in the throne room!

(MOSES steps forward, flanked by nervous GUARDS. TZIPPORAH follows, a short distance behind.)

MOSES

But I'm not a stranger.

(RAMSES rises, gazing in disbelief at MOSES.)

RAMSES

It can't be... Everyone said you must be dead. Moses!

(RAMSES bolts from the throne and runs to MOSES. They embrace.)

MOSES

Ramses. It's been so long. And you were on the throne...

RAMSES

I am Pharaoh now.

MOSES

Then Father...

(RAMSES nods.)

And Mother?

RAMSES

She... She's... different than when you left, Moses. She rarely leaves her chambers. She never really recovered from Father's death.

(MOSES is silent for a moment. RAMSES notices TZIPPORAH.)

Isn't this the Midian girl who escaped? You brought her back for me, just as you said you would! You kept your promise!

TZIPPORAH

(icily, to MOSES)

What promise?

MOSES

(to TZIPPORAH)

It was a long time ago.

(to RAMSES)

Ramses, Tzipporah is my wife.

HOTEP

Excuse me, Your Majesty, I am compelled to remind you that Pharaoh Seti banished Moses from Egypt for life.

MOSES

Hotep, you're still here.

HOTEP

I will always be here. You, on the other hand...

RAMSES

This is my brother! He's come back from the dead, and I am going to welcome him back into my family.

NEFERTARI

Ramses, you can't! He pretended to be a member of your family, then ran off and married a slave!

TZIPPORAH

I was never a slave! In fact, I'm more of a princess than you are.

NEFERTARI

I'm descended from five generations of Pharaohs!

RAMSES

Nefertari, I think...

TZIPPORAH

There are ten generations of high priests in my family!

MOSES

There's no reason...

NEFERTARI

How dare a desert savage speak to...

(The quarrel builds in intensity and chaos. The following lines all overlap.)

RAMSES

Nefertari, I...

TZIPPORAH

Moses is the one who will decide where he will go.

MOSES

Yes, and...

NEFERTARI

The Pharaoh makes all decisions here.

HOTEP

With the advice of the High Priest...

TZIPPORAH

We're not leaving!

RAMSES

Enough! Be quiet.

(Silence falls over the throne room.)

MOSES

Ramses, perhaps we should go somewhere and talk. Just the two of us.

RAMSES

That's a good idea. And I know just the place.

(During the following dialogue, we transition to...)

SCENE 3 – CORRIDOR

#16A – *Into the Secret Room*

(MOSES and RAMSES walk through a corridor in the palace.)

MOSES

My wife can be a bit... forceful at times.

(RAMSES shakes his head in amazement.)

RAMSES

Your wife! We have so much to talk about.

MOSES

We do. You have a son now.

RAMSES

Yes. He's the happiest part of my life. And now, you've returned!

MOSES

I've been away for so long, but I still remember every twist and turn inside the palace.

(He turns down a hallway.)

RAMSES

Except you're going the wrong way.

MOSES

Oh, right.

(RAMSES turns the opposite direction. Sheepishly, MOSES follows him. They enter –)

THE SECRET ROOM

(MOSES looks about, overcome by his memories.)

MOSES

Our secret room. I remember the last time I was here...

RAMSES

We would hide here when we were in trouble. But we didn't know what trouble really was. In truth, we didn't have a care in the world.

MOSES

(steels himself)

Ramses, I can't avoid it any longer. I have to tell you why I'm here.

RAMSES

Don't worry. If you want a royal pardon...

MOSES

No. It's about my people. The Hebrews.

RAMSES

They're not your people.

MOSES

My own brother and sister are slaves.

RAMSES

I'm your brother!

MOSES

Ramses, have you ever actually looked at the pictures on these walls?

RAMSES

What are you talking about?

MOSES

Before I knew I was a Hebrew, I looked at those scenes of death as a piece of pretty artwork. I couldn't imagine anything so far from what I had experienced. Ramses, try to imagine you weren't born at the top of the pyramid. Try to imagine your life as a slave.

(RAMSES gazes at the scenes of destruction.)

RAMSES

If you want your Hebrew brother and sister freed... I'll sign the decree today.

MOSES

You know what I'm saying. I want you to free all the Hebrews. Don't pretend to be naïve.

RAMSES

And don't you pretend to be insane! It's impossible, and you know it.

#17 – *Always on Your Side*

(RAMSES)

We've always had slaves, since the first Pharaohs.

MOSES

You're Pharaoh! You're free to do whatever you want.

RAMSES

(laughs sardonically)

Is that what you think?

WHEN I WAS A BOY
I COULDN'T WAIT TO BE A MAN
I THOUGHT THAT THEN I'D FINALLY BE FREE
THERE'D BE NO MORE SCOLDING VOICES
I'D MAKE MY OWN CHOICES
I DREAMT ABOUT HOW HAPPY LIFE WOULD BE
WHEN I GREW UP
THEN I GREW UP
AND NOW I SOMETIMES HAVE TO LAUGH FOR ALL I'M WORTH
I'M THE LEAST FREE MAN ON EARTH
THE LEAST FREE MAN ON EARTH...

MOSES

But you have the power!

RAMSES

All the priests and aristocrats would be against it. I'd be alone against everyone.

(has a sudden idea)

Unless...

MOSES

Unless what? What are you thinking?

RAMSES

I'm not thinking. I'm remembering...

THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN EV'RY TIME I'D TUMBLE DOWN

(RAMSES)

I'D HAVE MY BROTHER,
 MY ACCOMPLICE, AND MY CLOWN
 TO PICK ME UP,
 RESTORE MY PURPOSE AND MY PRIDE
 WHEN YOU WERE ALWAYS AT MY SIDE...

AT MY SIDE
 AT MY SIDE
 I'M STRONGER WITH YOU AT MY SIDE...

Be my adviser. Return to being a prince of Egypt, and help me.

MOSES

How can I do that?

YOU'RE SAYING EV'RY CHANGE I'VE MADE
 I MUST REVERSE...

RAMSES

Yes!

MOSES

MY WIFE WOULD KILL ME!

RAMSES

YES, AND MINE DO EVEN WORSE!
 BUT I'LL ONLY DO IT
 IF YOU PROMISE ME THAT I'D
 HAVE YOU BACK HERE AND ON MY SIDE...

MOSES

Do you mean it? If I come back to court, you'll free the Hebrews?

RAMSES

I promise! If *you* promise to be—

ON MY SIDE
 ON MY SIDE
 ONCE MORE TO HAVE YOU ON MY SIDE...

RAMSES

ON MY SIDE
 ON MY SIDE

MOSES

ON YOUR SIDE
 ON YOUR SIDE

RAMSES

I'LL KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS

MOSES

... ON YOUR SIDE...

RAMSES

SO ONCE AGAIN,
MY BROTHER HAS A SECOND BIRTH
NOW YOU CAN BE
THE SECOND-LEAST FREE MAN ON EARTH!
AGAINST ALL OTHERS
YOU WILL KEEP ME FORTIFIED

FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE
ALWAYS ON MY SIDE!

MOSES

SO ONCE AGAIN,
IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE A SECOND BIRTH
AND I'LL BE EVEN MORE
THE LEAST FREE MAN ON EARTH!
AGAINST ALL OTHERS
I WILL KEEP YOU FORTIFIED
TO SET MY PEOPLE FREE
WELL, IF THE PRICE IS ME...
FROM NOW ON I WILL BE
ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE!

(They embrace.)

MOSES

Thank you, brother.

RAMSES

You won't be thanking me after you've been in court for a while.

MOSES

And now I have to go and figure out how to tell my wife.

RAMSES

Me too.

(Both laugh, then MOSES exits. NEFERTARI and HOTEPA emerge from a hiding place.)

#17A – Transition to Work Site

(RAMSES)

You were listening? Is there no place where I'm alone?

HOTEP

Your Highness, you are fortunate that we were the only ones who witnessed this.

*(NEFERTARI and HOTEP advance on RAMSES, who is trapped in the room.
They continue talking, but we cannot hear what they're saying over the music.)*

NEFERTARI

You cannot free these slaves.

RAMSES

I made a promise to my brother!

HOTEP

The Pharaoh does not make promises.

SCENE 4 – OUTSIDE GOSHEN

(MOSES and TZIPPORAH walk towards the workshop where the HEBREWS fashion bricks out of mud, sand, water, and straw.)

TZIPPORAH

I don't understand. It was too easy. The Pharaoh of Egypt wouldn't give the Hebrews their freedom without a heavy price. What does he get?

MOSES

(a bit hesitantly)

Well... we made a deal.

TZIPPORAH

What deal?

MOSES

Now don't get angry before I explain.

TZIPPORAH

(more icily)

What deal?

MOSES

He said he would free the Hebrews if I... if I stayed in Egypt and returned to court.

TZIPPORAH

You didn't agree to that!

MOSES

It was the only way I could get Ramses to make a promise.

TZIPPORAH

But what about your promise to me? You said we would return to Midian after this was over. You said you're happy there.

MOSES

I am happy.

TZIPPORAH

Are you going to be happy without me?

MOSES

Well, of course I'm expecting...

(off her look...)

... hoping that you'll stay with me.

(She walks away from him; MOSES hurries after. They both enter the mud brick workshop.)

SCENE 5 – MUD BRICK WORKSHOP

(The HEBREWS are making mud bricks as MOSES and TZIPPORAH enter.

MIRIAM looks up in surprise, spotting MOSES.)

MIRIAM

Moses?

MOSES

(hurrying after TZIPPORAH)

Tzipporah, just think what we've done – Ramses just gave the Hebrews their freedom!

TZIPPORAH

By taking ours away!

MIRIAM

(rises)

Moses! Is this a vision, or are you real?

MOSES

Miriam!

(MOSES runs to MIRIAM. She embraces him.)

MIRIAM

You've come back to us! You see, Aaron, all these years, when everyone else had given up hope, you told me that my visions were crazy – but Moses has returned to us!

AARON

Exactly! What could be crazier than coming back here?

(MIRIAM notices TZIPPORAH.)

MOSES

This is Tzipporah, my wife.

MIRIAM

Your wife! And now my sister.

(TZIPPORAH startles as MIRIAM embraces her.)

AARON

(to MOSES)

You shouldn't be here!

MIRIAM

Aaron!

AARON

(to the HEBREWS)

He's a wanted fugitive.

(to MOSES)

The guards would seize you the moment you set foot near the palace.

MOSES

No, Aaron. I've seen the Pharaoh.

#18 – *Simcha!*

(raises his voice)

The Pharaoh has granted my plea and freed you! You are free men and women from now on!

AARON

Impossible!

HEBREW MAN

It can't be true!

HEBREW WOMAN

Why should we believe you?

MIRIAM

I told you God would send Moses back to deliver us.

MOSES

The royal decree will arrive soon. Then it will be official.

THAT DAY HAS COME

YOU THOUGHT WOULD NEVER COME

(MOSES)

THE DAY YOU BREAK YOUR CHAINS
THE THRILL OF FREEDOM COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE
BUT I SWEAR IT'S TRUE
NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT WE CAN DO

SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
SING A SONG OF EXULTATION

MOSES & MIRIAM

SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

TZIPPORAH

LET THE CAGED BIRD FLY
TO THE OPEN SKY

MOSES & TZIPPORAH

WITH A CRY OF LIBERATION

MOSES, TZIPPORAH, & MIRIAM

LET'S BEGIN THE CELEBRATION

TZIPPORAH & MIRIAM

SIMCHA!

MOSES

Don't you understand?

TZIPPORAH & MIRIAM

CHAGIGAH!

MOSES

You're no longer slaves!

(Gradually, the HEBREWS join the song, finally including AARON.)

ALL

SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
SIMCHA!

(ALL)

SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
 SING A SONG OF EXULTATION
 SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
 LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE
 LET THE CAGED BIRD FLY
 TO THE OPEN SKY
 WITH A RAUCOUS CRY OF LIBERATION
 NOW WE CELEBRATE IN JUBILATION
 SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
 SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!

(A wild celebratory dance breaks out. When the dance ends, MOSES moves among the HEBREWS, quietly congratulating them.)

#18A – Simcha! (Playoff)

MOSES

LET THE CAGED BIRD FLY
 TO THE OPEN SKY

MOSES & ALL

WITH A CRY OF LIBERATION
 SIMCHA! CHAGIGAH!
 SIMCHA! CHAGI—!

(HOTEP enters, carrying a scroll.)

HOTEP

HE-BREWS! HEBREWS!
 HEAR THIS MESSAGE FROM YOUR PHARAOH
 HEAR AND OBEY:

(He reads from the scroll.)

NOW FROM THIS DAY
 THE HEBREWS WILL NO LONGER BE
 SUPPLIED WITH STRAW FOR BRICKS
 BUT THEY ARE STILL REQUIRED TO MAKE
 THE SAME NUMBER OF BRICKS AS BEFORE...

(A confused murmur arises among the HEBREWS.)

HEBREWS

(ad lib)

What? What did he say? How could this be? What's going on? Is it true?

(HOTEP holds up the papyrus scroll, with RAMSES' seal attached. MOSES snatches it away.)

MOSES

I don't understand...

AARON

Oh, I do. You've stirred up trouble where there was none.

HEBREW MAN 3

(angrily, to MOSES)

You've doubled our workload.

MOSES

This can't be! The Pharaoh assured me—

HOTEP

The decree bears the royal seal.

HEBREW MAN 3

(to MOSES)

Liar!

HEBREW WOMAN 2

Moses, you lied to us!

HEBREW MAN 2

Worse! You gave us hope.

HOTEP

Get back to work, "slaves."

(HOTEP exits.)

#18B – Deliver Us (Reprise)**AARON**

That hope was crueler than anything that the Egyptians ever did to us.

THANKS TO YOU, WHAT WAS HARD BECOMES HARDER

HEBREW WOMAN 1

THANKS TO YOU, WHAT WAS BAD BECOMES WORSE...

HEBREW MAN 3

PLEASE DON'T HELP US AGAIN

HEBREW WOMAN 2

PLEASE GO BACK TO MIDIAN

HEBREWS

WITH OUR CURSE
PLEASE HAVE MERCY
DELIVER US!

HEBREW MAN 2

GO AWAY!

HEBREWS

DELIVER US!

AARON

THIS TIME, STAY!

HEBREWS

AND TAKE YOUR EMPTY WORDS
THAT WON'T COME TRUE...

AARON

Look, there's your brother the Pharaoh floating down the Nile!

(He points to the royal barge floating down on the Nile, with RAMSES and the other ROYALS on board.)

Go join your family on the royal barge!

AND DELIVER US

HEBREWS

FROM YOU!

SCENE 6 – THE BANKS OF THE NILE

(MOSES runs towards the bank of the river.)

MOSES

Ramses!

TZIPPORAH

Moses, no! Why are you doing this? Ramses went back on his word. We're free to go!

MOSES

No, I'm not. They're my people, whether they accept me or not. I'm going to fight for them.

AARON

What don't you understand? Fighting only makes matters worse.

MIRIAM

Aaron, Moses *will* help us. Don't stand in his way.

MOSES

(calls out to the barge)

Ramses! Is it true? Did you go back on your promise?

RAMSES

The Pharaoh of Egypt does not make promises.

MOSES

You've broken your word. Why did you do this to me?

(RAMSES rises up in anger.)

RAMSES

To *you*? I'm not the one who ran away, leaving his father to die in mourning for a lost son. I'm not the one who left his brother alone, thinking you were dead. I'm not the one who turned his back on the family who rescued him from a life of squalor. A family who loved him like one of their own.

#19 – The Plagues

(RAMSES)

AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE YOU SEE
HERE'S THE REAL QUESTION:
WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME?

MOSES

This isn't about you, Ramses.

RAMSES

Everything is about me! I am Pharaoh! Like...

(GUARDS leap off the barge and start trudging through the shallow waters towards MOSES.)

MENKHEPERRE THUTMOSE!
HOREMHEB THE WARRIOR!
MENMAARTE SETI!

Guards, seize him!

DID YOU THINK
I WOULD NOT BE AS STRONG?

(The GUARDS reach MOSES and grab him. They struggle.)

TZIPPORAH

Take your hands off of my husband!

RAMSES

SOME WEAK LINK?

AARON

Moses, run!

RAMSES

NOW YOU SEE YOU WERE WRONG...

MIRIAM

No, Aaron!

(MOSES breaks free of the GUARDS and raises his staff above his head.)

RAMSES

YOU WERE WRONG

MOSES

I warned you!

RAMSES

YOU WERE—

(MOSES plunges his staff into the water. Suddenly, the water turns red around his staff.)

MIRIAM

It's blood!

HEBREWS

BLOOD...

(Rapidly the red spreads. The GUARDS stop, paralyzed with fear.)

GUARD

The river is turning to blood!

HEBREWS

(as the red continues to spread in the water)

BLOOD...

THE NILE HAS TURNED TO BLOOD!

(The entire Nile has turned red. GUARDS start to beat a frenzied retreat. MOSES is as surprised as everyone else at what he has done.)

MOSES

How is this possible?

MIRIAM

God has stretched out his hand and shown his power!

(MIRIAM speaks to the assembled HEBREWS:)

You have to believe me now. God has sent Moses to deliver us.

RAMSES

High Priest, what is the meaning of this?

HOTEP

(covering up his dismay)

I can assure you our secret arts can do the same. Observe...

(HOTEP pours water into a basin and waves his hands above.)

(HOTEP)

By the power of Ra – turn this water to blood!

(The water turns red.)

NEFERTARI

You see, it was a mere trick.

MOSES

No! Ramses, there are things that are greater than we are. Even greater than Pharaoh. I've come to understand that. You have to understand that too, or terrible things will happen to your people. To Egypt.

MIRIAM

Plagues, darkness, and fire...

HOTEP

You must stay strong, Your Majesty. I promise you, whatever this imposter does, we can match it – and more!

(chants)

BY THE POWER OF MUT... NUT... KH'NUM... P'TAH...

RAMSES

(to the CREW)

Sail back to the palace!

HOTEP & RAMSES

(gradually joined by PRIESTS)

NEPHTHYS... NEKHBET...

SOBEK... SEKHMET...

HOTEP & PRIESTS

ANUBIS... ANUKIS... RASHPU... WASJET...

HOTEP & PRIESTS

SOKAR...

SELKET...

MIRIAM

THUS SAITH THE LORD,

THUS SAITH THE LORD

(HOTEP & PRIESTS)

SESHMU...
MESHKENT...

HEMSUT...
TEFNUT...
HEKET...
MAFDET...
RA!

MIRIAM & AARON

THUS SAITH THE LORD,
THUS SAITH THE LORD

MIRIAM, AARON, & HEBREWS

THUS SAITH THE LORD,
THUS SAITH THE LORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD,
THUS SAITH THE LORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD,
THUS SAITH THE LORD

HEBREWS

THUS SAITH THE LORD, THUS SAITH THE LORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD, THUS SAITH THE LORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD, THUS SAITH THE LORD

(MOSES raises his staff and plunges it down into the muddy ground.)

I SEND A PESTILENCE AND PLAGUE
INTO YOUR HOUSE, INTO YOUR BED,
INTO YOUR STREAMS, INTO YOUR STREETS,
INTO YOUR DRINK, INTO YOUR BREAD,
UPON YOUR CATTLE, ON YOUR SHEEP,
UPON YOUR OXEN IN YOUR FIELD,
INTO YOUR DREAMS, INTO YOUR SLEEP,
UNTIL YOU BREAK, UNTIL YOU YIELD.
I SEND THE SWARM, I SEND THE HORDE
THUS SAITH THE LORD

MOSES

NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN MATCH THIS MIGHT...

HEBREWS

I WILL SEND THUNDER FROM THE SKY
I WILL SEND FIRE RAINING DOWN

MOSES

NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN STAND AGAINST SUCH FORCE...

HEBREWS

I WILL SEND HAIL OF BURNING ICE
ON EV'RY FIELD, ON EV'RY TOWN

MOSES

RAMSES, YOU BETRAYED OUR BARGAIN
IT'S YOU WHO CHOSE THIS COURSE...

HEBREWS

I WILL SEND LOCUSTS ON A WIND
SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN
ON EV'RY STALK, ON EV'RY LEAF
UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF GREEN
I SEND MY SCOURGE, I SEND MY SWORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD!

SCENE 7 – GARDEN BY THE BANKS OF THE NILE

(MOSES comes to the garden by the banks of the Nile and sees TUYA, sitting in a chair, gazing at the river.)

TUYA

Moses! You came.

(She clutches at his arm, looking up at him.)

MOSES

Of course I will come if my mother summons me.

TUYA

I knew the gods would bring you back.

MOSES

I've missed you.

TUYA

Then why are you doing this? People are sick and starving. And they tell me you're responsible.

MOSES

If only Ramses had kept his promise... Now I have no choice.

TUYA

Of course you do. Promise me... you will make peace with your brother... Promise me.

MOSES

Mother...

TUYA

I GAVE YOU A HOME, MY SON...
NOT JUST ME – SO MANY,
OUR LOVE FOR YOU WAS STRONG

AND NOW YOU'VE COME HOME
BUT TO THOSE WHO LOVED YOU
YOU DO US ALL SUCH WRONG
AND IT BREAKS MY HEART TO ASK YOU
DID YOU HATE US ALL ALONG?

(MOSES kneels by her side, as the inexorable chanting of the HEBREWS overwhelms the scene...)

HEBREWS

I SEND THE PUNISHMENT OF PLAGUES
I SEND IT DOWN UPON YOUR HEAD
INTO YOUR STREAMS, INTO YOUR STREETS
INTO YOUR DRINK, INTO YOUR BREAD
UPON YOUR CATTLE, ON YOUR SHEEP
UPON YOUR OXEN IN YOUR FIELD
INTO YOUR DREAMS, INTO YOUR SLEEP
UNTIL YOU BREAK, UNTIL YOU YIELD
I SEND MY SCOURGE, I SEND MY SWORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD
THUS SAITH THE LORD

SCENE 8 – THE SECRET ROOM

(MOSES walks into the secret room, which is now dilapidated and damaged, with fallen statues, cracked walls and ripped tapestries.)

(RAMSES is pacing about the chamber as MOSES enters.)

MOSES

Ramses.

(There's no response.)

Ramses. Talk to me. We could always talk here.

(RAMSES remains silent.)

End this. Before something even more terrible happens. Free the Hebrews.

RAMSES

I can't! You know I can't. Why do you keep asking me for something I can't give you!

NO POWER ON EARTH
SOMETIMES I FEEL
I HAVE NO POWER ON EARTH

MOSES

YOU CAN MAKE IT RIGHT
YOU'RE THE ONE CAN FIX THIS
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THE ORDER:
SET THE HEBREWS FREE...

RAMSES

(looking at MOSES)

You think it's that simple?

MOSES

It is that simple. It's not easy, but it's simple. You have the choice.

(A vision of SETI appears to RAMSES, gazing at him with unspoken reproach. RAMSES is frozen in place. MOSES approaches and lays a hand on his shoulder.)

MOSES

(quietly)

Ramses, let my people go.

(RAMSES whirls around.)

RAMSES

You will not give me orders! You will not threaten me!

MOSES

Think of your son.

RAMSES

I am Pharaoh. Egypt is my firstborn and my lastborn. I have to think of Egypt before all else. You Hebrews have been nothing but trouble. Father had the right idea about you.

HEBREWS

I SEND THE SWARM, I SEND THE HORDE
I SEND MY SCOURGE, I SEND MY SWORD...

RAMSES

NO POWER ON EARTH
CAN CHANGE MY MIND

MOSES

YOU CAN MAKE IT RIGHT
ONLY YOU CAN FIX THIS

HEBREWS

I SEND MY FIRE RAINING DOWN
SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN...

RAMSES

NO POWER ON EARTH
WILL TELL ME WHAT IS SO

MOSES

BROTHER, TAKE THE CHANCE
WHILE YOU STILL HAVE IT
NOW BEFORE THE HORRORS GROW

HEBREWS

ON EV'RY STALK, ON EV'RY LEAF
UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF GREEN

RAMSES

NOW FIN'LLY MY HEART IS HARDENED
NOW THIS YOU FIN'LLY KNOW:
I WILL NEVER LET YOUR PEOPLE GO

MOSES

YOU CAN'T WIN THIS FIGHT
ONE LAST TIME, I BEG YOU
LET MY PEOPLE GO

HEBREWS

THUS SAITH THE LORD

RAMSES

I WILL NOT LET YOUR PEOPLE GO!

MOSES & HEBREWS

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

#20 – They Will Be Free

(MOSES sinks down in despair, abandoning his facade of strength, as RAMSES exits.)

MOSES

So much destruction. So much misery brought to people who don't deserve it, who had no part in any of this. Why is this necessary? Is this the only way?

(Suddenly once again GOD'S VOICE sounds, again made of many voices...)

GOD'S VOICE

Sometimes for the good of all—

SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE...

MOSES

No. No, we can't be like that. We can't be like *him*.

(calling up to GOD)

I can't do this anymore! Use your magic to carry the Hebrews away or change Pharaoh's heart! But I won't be your messenger any longer!

GOD'S VOICE

MOSES...

MOSES

Please, no...

GOD'S VOICE

MOSES...

MOSES

Choose someone else...

GOD'S VOICE

ONE MORE TIME YOU MUST GO FORTH
ONE MORE TIME BEFORE IT'S DONE

MOSES

I can't do this. I won't!

GOD'S VOICE

ONCE MORE I SEND FORTH MY MESSENGER
NOW YOU MUST GO TO YOUR PEOPLE
MAKE THEM HEAR, HEED YOUR CALL
THROUGH THE DARKEST NIGHT OF ALL...

MOSES

And then?

GOD'S VOICE

THEY WILL BE FREE...

SCENE 9 – GOSHEN

(MOSES stands outside of Goshen, before a flickering flame. HEBREWS gather around him and carry out his commands.)

MOSES

Take a lamb and mark the lintel and posts of every door with its blood. For tonight...

#20A – *Death of the Firstborn*

HEBREWS & MOSES

(HEBREWS join in one by one)

... I shall pass through the land of Egypt... and smite all the firstborn. But when I see the blood upon your door... I will pass over you... and the plague shall not enter.

(The HEBREWS prepare for the coming night, marking their lintels with blood.)

Mist begins to fill the stage. The Plague of Death moves like a mist of light through the city. It passes a house where a MOTHER and her two CHILDREN cower behind a marked door, pauses, and passes over.

But at another house, with an unmarked door, the Plague slides under the door and washes over a BOY sleeping with his MOTHER and SISTER. The BOY breathes out gently, his life ebbing away, and the Plague moves on.

We see the Plague continuing its remorseless trek through the land. A YOUNG BOY collapses on the ground and is carried off as MOSES watches in despair.)

#21 – *For the Rest of My Life*

MOSES

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
I WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
I'LL HAVE TO FACE THE PART I PLAYED
THESE FACES FILLED WITH GRIEF AND WITH DESPAIR
EV'RY MORNING WHEN I WAKE UP, THEY'LL BE THERE
SEARED INTO MY MEM'RY WITH A CRUEL BURNING KNIFE
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

(MOSES)

OOOH
THERE'S A WEIGHT ON MY SOUL
LIKE A PYRAMID OF STONE
THERE'S A WEIGHT ON MY SOUL
A RANSOM NEVER TO BE PAID
THE CRIMES I DO, I DO THEM IN YOUR NAME
BUT I FEEL JUST AS GUILTY ALL THE SAME
LIKE A BRUTAL SOLDIER WHO DOES ANYTHING HE'S TOLD
THERE'S A WEIGHT ON MY SOUL
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT
IT'S SO EASY TO DO WRONG
YOU HAVE TO WIN THE FIGHT
SO YOU CLOSE YOUR MIND AND HEART UP TIGHT
AND GO ALONG
TELL YOURSELF YOU'RE STAYING STRONG
YOU RAMP UP YOUR FEROCITY
EXCUSE ANY ATROCITY
BUT ONCE YOU'VE WON
YOU HAVE TO LIVE WITH WHAT YOU'VE DONE...

AND FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
I WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
THESE QUESTIONS HAUNTING ME LIKE GHOSTS:
DOES A NOBLE END MEAN ANY MEANS WILL DO?
IS YOUR POWER THE ONLY REASON TO FOLLOW YOU?
AND ONE FINAL QUESTION I SEE NO ANSWER TO:
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,
HOW WILL I GET THROUGH?
UNLIKE SO MANY OF OUR VICTIMS,
I HAVE THE REST OF MY LIFE
TO GET THROUGH!

SCENE 10 – THE PALACE

#22 – *Heartless*

(RAMSES and NEFERTARI stand bent in grief, looking down at their lifeless baby. RAMSES pulls a linen cover over the baby's face.)

NEFERTARI

(gazing down at her dead infant)

My little boy. He was born a living god... how can he be dead?

(MOSES enters the room.)

MOSES

(gently)

Ramses...

RAMSES

(without turning)

Your people can go.

MOSES

Ramses...

RAMSES

Go!

(MOSES turns sadly and exits. RAMSES continues, gently, to NEFERTARI:)

Leave our son to the embalmer. We need to go to the people.

NEFERTARI

I can't.

RAMSES

We have to reassure them that Pharaoh is still all-powerful. That no one can tear down the pyramids of Egypt.

NEFERTARI

(sings as she looks down at the body)

ALL OUR PYRAMIDS AND PALACES
OUR OBELISKS AND STATUES
BEFORE MY EYES, THEY CRUMBLE INTO SAND

BENEATH THE WEIGHT
OF YOUR TINY SILENT BODY
OUR FORTRESSES ARE FALLEN, AND WE STAND
ON A BARREN WIND-SWEPT LAND...

HEARTLESS...
I KNOW PEOPLE CALL ME HEARTLESS
HEARTLESS...
OH, IF ONLY IT WERE TRUE
I WOULDN'T FEEL THIS UNBEARABLE ACHE

THE STAB WHEN I FELT MY HEART BREAKING
SHATTERED INTO SHARDS
BY THE LOSS OF YOU...

HEARTLESS
HOW I WISH I COULD BE HEARTLESS
BUT I CAN'T BE
SOMEONE ELSE IS GRIEVING TOO

(looks at RAMSES)

LIKE MINE, HIS PAIN WILL LAST FOREVER
LIKE RAIN THAT NEVER CEASES TO POUR
SO I CAN'T BE HEARTLESS
FOR HIM, I CAN'T BE HEARTLESS
FOR HIM, I NEVER HAVE NEEDED HEART MORE
I NEVER HAVE NEEDED HEART MORE...

(She goes to RAMSES. He puts his arm around her, and they leave the room.)

SCENE 11 – GOSHEN

#23 – *When You Believe*

*(MOSES sits, leaning against the corner of a house, staring straight ahead.
MIRIAM rushes in, closely followed by TZIPPORAH.)*

MIRIAM

Moses! Is it true? The word is all over Goshen...

TZIPPORAH

(calls to her sharply)

Miriam! Stop! Let me talk to him.

MIRIAM

But if it's true, I want to—

TZIPPORAH

Just wait.

(She goes over to MOSES.)

Moses...

MOSES

Tell Miriam the Hebrews can go.

TZIPPORAH

But you have to lead them.

MOSES

No. Let them go. I did what He wanted. It's done. I'm done.

TZIPPORAH

Moses, you made a choice. An impossible choice. I don't know... no one can ever know what it has cost you. But there's one thing you must not forget. One thing is true today that wasn't true yesterday: your people are free.

MIRIAM

MANY NIGHTS WE'VE PRAYED
WITH NO PROOF ANYONE COULD HEAR
IN OUR HEARTS A HOPEFUL SONG
WE BARELY UNDERSTOOD
NOW WE ARE NOT AFRAID
ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THERE'S MUCH TO FEAR
WE WERE MOVING MOUNTAINS
LONG BEFORE WE KNEW WE COULD...

THERE CAN BE MIRACLES
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
THOUGH HOPE IS FRAIL
IT'S HARD TO KILL
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES
YOU CAN ACHIEVE
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
SOMEHOW YOU WILL
YOU WILL WHEN YOU BELIEVE...

(TZIPPORAH crosses over to MOSES.)

TZIPPORAH

IN THIS TIME OF FEAR
WHEN PRAYER SO OFTEN PROVED IN VAIN
HOPE SEEMED LIKE THE SUMMER BIRDS
TOO SWIFTLY FLOWN AWAY
YET NOW I'M STANDING HERE
WITH HEART SO FULL I CAN'T EXPLAIN
SEEKING FAITH AND SPEAKING WORDS
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY:

MIRIAM & TZIPPORAH

THERE CAN BE MIRACLES
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
THOUGH HOPE IS FRAIL
IT'S HARD TO KILL
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES
YOU CAN ACHIEVE
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
SOMEHOW YOU WILL
YOU WILL WHEN YOU BELIEVE.

(A YOUNG GIRL enters and starts to sing, gradually joined by OTHERS. As she sings, MOSES rises and joins his people.)

YOUNG GIRL

A-SHI-RA L'A-DON-AI KI GA-OH GA-AH
A-SHI-RA L'A-DON-AI KI GA-OH GA-AH
MI-CHA-MO-CHA BA-ELIM ADONAI
MI-KA MO-CHA NE-DAR BA-KO-DESH
NA-CHI-TAH V'-CHAS-D'-CHA AM ZU GA-AL-TA
NA-CHI-TAH V'-CHAS-D'-CHA AM ZU GA-AL-TA
A-SHI-RA, A-SHI-RA, A-SHIRA...

YOUNG GIRL & OTHERS

A-SHI-RA L'A-DON-AI KI GA-OH GA-AH
A-SHI-RA L'A-DON-AI KI GA-OH GA-AH
MI-CHA-MO-CHA BA-ELIM ADONAI
MI-KA MO-CHA NE-DAR BA-KO-DESH

NA-CHI-TAH V'-CHAS-D'-CHA AM ZU GA-AL-TA
NA-CHI-TAH V'-CHAS-D'-CHA AM ZU GA-AL-TA
A-SHI-RA, A-SHI-RA, A-SHIRA...

HEBREWS

THERE CAN BE MIRACLES
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
THOUGH HOPE IS FRAIL
IT'S HARD TO KILL
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES
YOU CAN ACHIEVE
WHEN YOU BELIEVE
SOMEHOW YOU WILL
NOW YOU WILL
YOU WILL WHEN YOU BELIEVE

MOSES

YOU WILL WHEN YOU...

**MOSES, TZIPPORAH, YOCHEVED,
YOUNG GIRL, AARON, & CHORUS**

BELIEVE!

CHORUS

AH!

SCENE 12 – THE THRONE ROOM

(RAMSES enters, followed by HOTEK, who is in a fury.)

HOTEK

How could you let them go? Do you love your brother more than Egypt?

RAMSES

Don't forget to whom you are speaking. I am Pharaoh, Lord of the Two Kingdoms.

HOTEK

And you should not forget the fate of those Pharaohs who went against the will of the gods. Dynasties come and go. The power of the High Priest is forever. Remember your father. He understood this well.

RAMSES

I do almost nothing else these days but remember my father.

HOTEK

You should remember your firstborn also. And the firstborn of all your people. Their blood cries out for vengeance.

RAMSES

Vengeance...

HOTEK

There are many in your army who feel as I do, who do not wish to see Egypt humbled and humiliated. If you won't pursue the Hebrews, I'm sure your army will follow me.

RAMSES

(after a beat)

Assemble the soldiers.

#23B – Vengeance

I will lead them into the desert after Moses.

(HOTEK bows, with a slight, satisfied smile.)

HOTEK

Pharaoh has spoken...

SCENE 13 – THE SHORE OF THE RED SEA

(MOSES has led the HEBREWS to the shore of the Red Sea, where they can walk no farther.)

AARON approaches MOSES hesitantly as he stands with TZIPPORAH and MIRIAM.)

AARON

Moses. Can you forgive me? I doubted you.

MOSES

No more than I doubted myself. It's good to have someone close to you who will question your decisions.

(AARON looks doubtfully at the sea before them.)

AARON

We've made it to the border of Egypt, but the Red Sea stands in our way. How are we going to cross it without ships?

(MOSES laughs.)

MOSES

I didn't mean question my decisions right now! There's driftwood on the shore. And there must be boat builders among you.

(corrects himself)

Among us. Go and see if anyone can fashion rafts to ferry everyone across.

(As AARON leaves, MOSES turns and sees TZIPPORAH, who is looking out over the Red Sea. He crosses over to her.)

What do you see out there?

TZIPPORAH

It's what I don't see.

#24 – Act II Finale (Part 1)

I'm never going to see my father again. And my sisters. My people. Now *I'm* the stranger in a strange land.

MOSES

This was never your fight. I have no right to ask you to cross a sea and give up the life we promised each other. To give up your freedom.

A-NI CHOF-SHE
E'-HEH-YEH CHOF-SHE...

TZIPPORAH

IT'S TRUE—I WILL NEVER NOW BE FREE...

MOSES

I understand if you turn back.

(TZIPPORAH gazes out at the sea, then turns back to MOSES.)

TZIPPORAH

CAN I ACTUALLY IMAGINE, IN A MOMENT'S DOUBT,
THAT I COULD TAKE MY LIFE BACK, AND JUST TURN ABOUT?
BUT THOUGH WE KNOW FULL WELL THIS CHOICE IS
NOT WITHOUT ITS TEARS
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS, MY LOVE,
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS...

(They embrace, but are suddenly interrupted when a horn sounds.)

#24A – Act II Finale (Part 2)

MOSES

What is that?

(The horn sounds again, as AARON runs in, followed by MIRIAM and some of the HEBREWS.)

AARON

It's the Egyptian army! Ramses has led them after us!

HEBREWS

(ad lib)

What do we do? We're trapped! We have no weapons. They'll slaughter us! Moses, save us!

(MOSES peers in the distance behind them.)

AARON

Ramses betrayed us! It was a trap.

HEBREW 1

What are you going to do, Moses?

MOSES

I don't know.

(The horn sounds again, this time closer. The HEBREWS are in a panic. MOSES walks to the edge of the water and looks down.)

AARON

There's no way out.

MIRIAM

(sings to MOSES)

MANY NIGHTS WE PRAYED
WITH NO PROOF ANYONE COULD HEAR
ALL AT ONCE, AN ANSWER CAME
IN WAYS WE NEVER PLANNED

MOSES

SO WE ARE NOT AFRAID
FOR WE'VE SEEN MIRACLES APPEAR
IS THERE ONE MORE MIRACLE...
IS THERE ONE MORE MIRACLE
IF I STRETCH FORTH MY HAND...?

(He stretches his hand out over the water, raising the staff into air.)

HEBREW 2

Nothing's happening!

HEBREW 3

We're lost.

AARON

The Egyptians are getting closer...

(MOSES remains, his hand stretched forth and the staff raised. And now, the memory of YOCHEVED appears.)

YOCHEVED

DELIVER US

NOW YOU WILL DELIVER US

AND UNTIL THE END OF HISTORY, WILL THIS DAY BE SUNG...

(The water starts to eddy and circle.)

AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH

(The sea begins to part.)

AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH...

ALL

AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH

AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH...

(Great walls of water rise up on either side of a path through the middle of the sea. The HEBREWS gaze at the passageway in wonder.)

MOSES

Aaron, Miriam, lead the Hebrews across to the other side. I'll be the last through.

(MOSES turns to TZIPPORAH.)

There's one final thing I must do in Egypt. Perhaps you should go.

TZIPPORAH

Where you go, I will go.

(She holds MOSES' hand.)

RAMSES comes into view. He stops, astounded by the sight of the parted sea. HOTEPE follows.)

RAMSES

(to HOTEPE)

Do you call this another trick?

HOTEPE

We can move faster than them, your Highness, and catch them in the sea before they reach the other side. We will teach all slaves what they will suffer if they dare to rebel. We will kill them all.

(MOSES walks towards them.)

MOSES

Ramses!

HOTEP

Starting with this one here. Let me have the pleasure of killing him myself.

RAMSES

No. I will deal with him.

(RAMSES draws his sword and steps forward to meet MOSES.)

MOSES

(kneels before RAMSES)

Ramses, listen to me. I can't run from what I did. I grieve for your son. For all the sons of Egypt. So I give myself to you. You can kill me, or keep me at court. Whatever you wish. But let the Hebrews pass through the sea to freedom. Let me be the ransom for my people.

(TZIPPORAH runs and kneels by MOSES' side. RAMSES pauses, taken aback by MOSES' offer.)

HOTEP

Your Highness, the Hebrews are getting away. Order the soldiers to follow them into the sea!

#24B – Act II Finale (Part 3)

(The memory of SETI appears.)

SETI

ONE WEAK LINK
CAN BREAK THE STRONGEST CHAIN...

HOTEP

There is still time to catch them!

SETI

ONE WEAK KING
CAN END THE LONGEST REIGN...

HOTEP

We can kill every one of them!

SETI

ARE ALL MY WORST FEARS COMING TRUE?

HOTEP

Honor your father. Take your vengeance.

SETI

IS THAT ONE WEAK LINK
THAT ONE WEAK LINK
THAT ONE WEAK LINK...

HOTEP

This is why you came here!

RAMSES

No. I came to end this. There has been too much death. A chain of death stretching back to my father and before. I'm going to break the chain. I'm going to be the weak link.

(RAMSES puts his sword back into its sheath.)

MOSES

Ramses...

HOTEP

You think you can change everything that's passed down to us through the centuries?

RAMSES

Not everything.

THERE'S A WAY OF HONORING THE PAST
WITHOUT BEING TRAPPED BY IT.

HOTEP

(hisses at him)

There will be a change at court when we return!

(HOTEP hurries off. RAMSES turns back to MOSES, who smiles wryly at him.)

MOSES

We'll have work to do, putting the priests back in their place. I'll be at your side.

(He looks back at TZIPPORAH.)

RAMSES

No. Your home is out there, with your people. This is the only gift I can give you now. If Hotep is right, my power will soon be over. Go.

(As MOSES clasps RAMSES' hands, the memories of TUYA and JETHRO appear.)

TUYA

THIS IS WHY YOU WERE BORN

JETHRO

THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR

TUYA & JETHRO

THIS IS WHO YOU BOTH WILL BE
THE REST OF YOUR LONG LIVES THROUGH...

MOSES

My sister Miriam is the one with the gift of prophecy. But at this moment, I feel I can see... Ramses, you will be a strong ruler. You will expand the lands of Egypt farther than they've ever been. You will build the greatest empire on Earth... without slaves. You will be called Ramses the Great. And we Hebrews will have our little kingdom by the sea.

TUYA, YOCHEVED, SETI, & JETHRO

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE

(MOSES and TZIPPORAH walk into the parted sea.)

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO...

(HOTEP appears, leading his TROOPS.)

HOTEP

(to his MEN)

After the Hebrews!

RAMSES

No! I order you to stop!

(But the SOLDIERS march on into the sea. HOTEP turns triumphantly to RAMSES.)

HOTEP

They're following *me* now!

HOTEP & SOLDIERS

BY THE POWER OF MUT... NUT... KH'NUM... P'TAH...
ANUBIS... ANUKIS... HEMSUT... TEFNUT...
MESHKENT... MAFDET... SOBEK... SEKHMET...
SOKAR... SELKET... RA!

(As they come to the middle of the Red Sea, the waters flow back into place.)

ALL

AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH
AHH AHH AHH AHH AHH!

(HOTEP and the SOLDIERS are drowned.

MOSES climbs to the top of the farther shore and turns back towards Egypt. MOSES and RAMSES stand gazing towards each other across the sea.)

MOSES

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS TO COME...

RAMSES

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
NO ANCIENT LAWS TO SHOW THE WAY...

MOSES & RAMSES

BUT AS EACH DAY, I SEARCH FOR WHAT TO DO
I'LL KNOW THERE IS A BROTHER WHO IS SEARCHING TOO
I'LL KNOW THERE IS A BROTHER OUT THERE
WHO CAN UNDERSTAND:

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
ONE DAY WE WILL VANISH
LIKE FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
LIKE ECHOES OF A FADING CHIME
OUR BODIES WILL BE GONE
BUT DEEDS CAN LIVE ON
FOR WE CAN BE BOTH MERELY HUMAN AND SUBLIME
BOTH FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND
AND FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME...

ALL

WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES
YOU CAN ACHIEVE
WHEN YOU BELIEVE SOMEHOW YOU WILL

MOSES & RAMSES

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND

ALL

NOW YOU WILL

MOSES & RAMSES

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND

ALL

YOU WILL WHEN YOU BELIEVE

YOCHEVED, TUYA, JETHRO, & SETI

WHEN YOU BELIEVE

ALL

YOU WILL WHEN YOU BELIEVE!

END OF ACT II

#25 – Bows

#26 – Exit Music