

Passover

Play

Cast:

NARRATOR

SLAVE1

PRINCESS

SLAVE 2

MOSES

HEBREW 1

HEBREW 2

G-d

MINISTER

PHARAOH

EGYPTIAN 1

EGYPTIAN 2

EGYPTIAN 2

AARON

NARRATOR: A certain man of the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. She bore a son and when she was how beautiful he was she hid him for three months. When she could care for him no longer, she put the child into a basket and placed it among the reeds for the Nile.

SLAVE1: Look, PRINCESS. There's a basket floating in the water.

PRINCESS: Pull it in and let's see what is inside. Oooh. A baby. Kitchy, kitchy koo. Where did he come from?

SLAVE 2: You see, when two people really love each other and decide...

PRINCESS: Most likely a Hebrew child. But I think I'll keep him. What shall I name him?

SLAVE 2: How about Basket, since that is what he's floating in?

PRINCESS: Basket is a funny name.

SLAVE1: What about Irving? You can call him Irving.

PRINCESS: No, he shall be called MOSES, for I drew him out of the water.

SLAVE1: I like Irving better.

NARRATOR: Some time later, MOSES grew up and he went out to see the suffering on his Hebrew brothers and sisters. He was an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. He looked around to see if anyone was looking. Then you struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day, MOSES saw two Hebrews fighting.

MOSES: Hey, there. Stop that.

HEBREW 1: (mimicking) Hey, there. Stop that. Who made you king? Mr. Big Shot. Mr. Fancy Shmancy Egyptian prince. Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian yesterday?

MOSES: That's supposed to be a secret.

HEBREW 2: That's supposed to be a secret.

MOSES: I've got to escape.

NARRATOR: MOSES fled to the land of Midian and stayed with Jethro and his seven daughters. He married Jethro's daughter Zipporah and had two sons named Gershom and Eliezer.

G-d: There is a lot of moaning going on down there. It is time to remember the covenant. I promised Abraham that his family would inherit Canaan. PHARAOH is dead and there is a new one. Yes, it is time.

NARRATOR: MOSES was tending the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro and he drove his flock toward Mt. Horeb, the mountain of G-d.

MOSES: Look at that. A burning bush. It is on fire but it is not burning up. That is incredible. How is it doing that? I've got to get in closer for a better look.

G-d: Don't come closer. Remove your sandals for you are on holy ground.

MOSES: Who is talking?

NARRATOR: When we last left our story, the Hebrew slaves were in a perilous situation.

HEBREWS: Woe to us. We are in trouble.

NARRATOR: A PHARAOH had arisen in the land who made slaves of the Hebrews. MOSES was sent by God to free his people. But PHARAOH refused to listen to MOSES. Instead, he increased the bitterness of slavery. We left MOSES depressed and demoralized.

G-d: MOSES, I am Hashem who appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I have heard the suffering of the Hebrews and remembered my covenant with them.

MOSES: Nobody will listen to me. The Hebrews won't pay attention. PHARAOH is cruel and mean. I stu, stu, stutter.

G-d: Do not lose heart, MOSES I am placing you in the role of G-d to PHARAOH, and your brother AARON is as your prophet. Now go, show PHARAOH the power I have given you.

NARRATOR: MOSES was eighty years old and AARON eighty-three when they made their demand on PHARAOH.

PHARAOH: Look who is back. MOSES and AARON. And you brought a rod with you. A game? Baseball, high jump, pool?

MOSES: AARON throw the rod down.

PHARAOH: A snake. How impressive. My magicians can do that, too.

MOSES: AARON their rods have all turned to snakes also.

MINISTER: PHARAOH, AARON's snake has swallowed the snakes of all our magicians.

PHARAOH: Big deal.

MOSES: G-d, PHARAOH was not impressed by the snake trick.

G-d: He is a stubborn man.

MOSES: What do we do?

G-d: Do as I say. It's time Egypt had a few plagues. In the morning, go to PHARAOH by the edge of the Nile and strike the water with your rod. The river shall turn in to blood and all the fish will die.

MINISTER: Good morning, great PHARAOH. Would you like a cup of water?

PHARAOH: Yes, thank you. Over there. Do you see them? It's AARON and MOSES. What are those pests up to now?

MINISTER: I haven't the foggiest. Here's your glass of blood.

PHARAOH: Blood?!!!!

MINISTER: Blood!!!! I just turned into blood. The whole Nile is turning red. It must be the work of MOSES.

MOSES: Let my people go, PHARAOH, or the land will become infested with frogs.

NARRATOR: And AARON held out his arm over the rivers, the canals and the ponds, and frogs came up and covered the land.

MINISTER: PHARAOH, what are we going to do? If I step on another from, I'll scream. Last Night, I shared my bed with forty-nine frogs. My baby's first words were goo, goo, ribbet.

PHARAOH: MOSES, Ask Hashem to remove these frogs. I'll let your people go.

NARRATOR: But once the frogs were gone, PHARAOH became stubborn again.

MINISTER: PHARAOH, there are some Egyptian peasants here to see you.

EGYPTIAN 1: Mighty PHARAOH.

EGYPTIAN 2: Master of the Nile.

EGYPTIAN 2: Son of the sun god. Let's get down to business.

EGYPTIAN 1: We can take a joke as well as the next nation, but enough is enough.

EGYPTIAN 2: First we have to drink blood water, then we share our beds with frogs. When you promised to let the Hebrews to, things cleared up for a while.

EGYPTIAN 2: Then you got stubborn. So we get lice. Everybody but the Hebrews are scratching like crazy. Next we get swarms of insects.

EGYPTIAN 1: You know, it is very hard to do business when there are swarms of insects. Then comes pestilence. All of our farm animals are lying sick. But does PHARAOH let the Hebrews to? No... he's hard-hearted.

EGYPTIAN 2: Last week, everyone breaks out in boils. The dermatologists had patients lined up for blocks. This week, it's hailing. The hail is the size of a cow's hoofs.

EGYPTIAN 2: PHARAOH, we're patient people, but have mercy on us. These plagues are making us neurotic. What do you say, mighty PHARAOH?

PHARAOH: Off with your heads!

NARRATOR: So PHARAOH remained stubborn and he would not let the Hebrews to, just as Hashem had foretold through MOSES

NARRATOR: Our top story tonight. After weeks of blood water, frogs, swarming insects, pestilence, boils and hail, PHARAOH has consented to meet once more with MOSES and AARON, leaders for the "Let My People Go Committee."

MOSES: PHARAOH, let my people go. How long will you be hardhearted?

MINISTER: PHARAOH, perhaps you should listen to MOSES.

PHARAOH: Nobody threatens the great PHARAOH.

MOSES: If you refuse to let my people go, says Hashem, G-d of the Hebrews, I will bring locusts to your territory. What the hail didn't destroy, the locusts will eat. They'll eat everything from grain stalks to chin whiskers.

PHARAOH: You can't threaten me.

MINISTER: Oh great PHARAOH. We really didn't want locusts. There is no market for locusts. Lighten up, oh wondrous leader.

PHARAOH: Be gone from here, Hebrew nobodies.

MOSES: Nobodies? My, my, my. We certainly are getting touchy.

NARRATOR: And locust invaded the land of Egypt in a thick mass. They hid the land from view, for the land was covered with them. They ate all the grasses of the fields and the fruits of the trees so that nothing green remained in Egypt. And PHARAOH summoned MOSES and AARON.

PHARAOH: Friends, dear friends, pals, buddies.

AARON: And not I suppose we should think he's serious. I don't trust him.

PHARAOH: Hey, I've sinned. I made a mistake. I stand guilty. Can you forgive me?

MOSES: Will you let us go?

PHARAOH: Friend, pal, buddy. You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours, so to speak.

MOSES: Very well. With a strong west wind Hashem will lift the locusts from the land. Now, about your part of the bargain.

PHARAOH: Bargain? You're lucky to be alive. Scram, get out of here.

AARON: I guess this means that you still won't let us go.

PHARAOH: Hey, who turned out the lights? Where did everyone go?

MINISTER: We seem to be having a blackout, PHARAOH.

PHARAOH: Ouch, you are standing on my foot. It's the middle of the day and I can't see one *argmah* in front of my face.

MINISTER: MOSES just pointed his staff towards the sky and suddenly there is this giant cloud of darkness.

PHARAOH: MOSES again. Ow, you're sitting on my hand. That's it. Call MOSES.

MOSES: You rang?

PHARAOH: Get rid of the darkness and I'll let the slaves go.

MOSES: This is the last time, PHARAOH. We and our cattle and our families and our possessions must be allowed to leave.

PHARAOH: Okay, okay.

MOSES: There. The darkness is gone.

PHARAOH: Ah, there you are. Listen you, I will decide when and if you go. If I ever see you again, I shall kill you.

MOSES: PHARAOH, you're right. You shall not see me again. But your people shall come begging that we be allowed to leave.

G-d: MOSES, this is Hashem.

MOSES: Yes L-rd. I am here. What do we do next? The darkness was very effective. PHARAOH is going nuts. But he is one hardhearted fellow. None plagues haven't softened him.

G-d: It is time for the final plague, MOSES Are you ready?

MOSES: Final? As in death?

G-d: Tell all the people to ask for jewelry and gold and silver and clothing from their Egyptian neighbors. Toward midnight, every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die.

AARON: We live in Egypt. Are we going to die, too?

G-d: Good question. This month shall be the first month of the year. We might as well start a calendar if you're going to be your own nations. On the tenth of the month, take a lamb and on the fourteenth, you shall sacrifice it and eat it roasted. Then take of its blood and mark the doorposts of your houses. Those homes with blood markings, I shall pass over.

AARON: Pass over? What a great name for this night. Passover.

MOSES: It is certainly better than Bloody Door Day.

G-d: This day shall be remembered always. Seven days you shall celebrate this event. No one shall eat leavened bread from the fourteenth to the twenty-first of this month. Now, I hope you remember everything I said. Go tell the people.

NARRATOR: In the middle of the night Hashem struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of PHARAOH to the firstborn of the captive in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

PHARAOH summoned AARON and MOSES in the middle of the night.

PHARAOH: Get out of here. Go. Leave us alone. Take our gold and silver. Leave now. *Adios. Au revoir. Sayanara.* Go. And before you go, bless me.

AARON: Why, MOSES - I do think that PHARAOH is letting our people go.

MOSES: Now I think he's serious.

NARRATOR: After 210 years of slavery and oppression the Jewish people left Egypt with over 3 million people (including women and children) And Hashem commanded MOSES and AARON: For seven days there shall be no leavened bread eaten.

Since G-d saved the firstborn, let all firstborn animals be sacrificed to Him, and let all firstborn male children be redeemed. By strength of hand Hashem brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.