

MOSES ~ AND THE TEN LAWS OF GOD

Screenplay by
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BLACK SCREEN.

Screams in the dark. Clashing of metal. War cries.

From within the blackness, dim white swirls of energy float and randomly warble pulses that match the background noise.

Begin to SCROLL: EXODUS: 1 NIV. Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. But, the Isrealites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.

FROM THE MASORETIC TEXTS and DEAD SEA SCROLLS and SEPTUAGINT.

FADE IN:

EXT. ETHIOPIA - MEROE - BATTLEFIELD 1544 BCE - DAY

A bird glides over thousands of soldiers who fight to the death. Swords, spears, clash together between an egyptian army who fight against Ethiopians. Both sides fight with an animal instinct.

A horrific bloodlust.

As the fighting continues, a deep, warm gentle voice narrates...

VOICE (V.O.)

It is said, that god made man in his own image. How then, has it come to this?

A random ehitopian soldier uses his club and bashes down on the skull of a fallen Egyptian enemy.

VOICE (V.O.)

The children of kingdoms fight and squabble over food and territory and never come to a peaceful solution. How has it come to this?

A random egyptian soldier as his sword pierces his enemy's chest.

On the field, a lone egyptian General, who commands on horseback watches his men die by the hundreds. Continuous screams of pain sing across the field.

This General is Moses, (30'S). Who is also A prince of egypt to the house of Bithia who is his adoptive mother and sister to the pharaoh - Seti.

His cheeks have blood stains along with his chest armor.

He continues to narrate...

MOSES (V.O.)
 (Concern for his men)
 This was not meant to be. Our goal
 was to negotiate with Merops, not
 fight his army of thirty thousand
 men. How has it come to this?

His second in command rides up to moses.

Derevas. (30'S) A personal aid to Moses and the army.

DEREVAS
 General. We've finished setting up
 the Ibis birds. It won't be long
 until the snakes are cleared out.

MOSES
 Good. Maybe this will give us a
 chance to infiltrate Merops'
 palace.

DEREVAS
 It won't be easy.

MOSES
 It never is, is it?

DEREVAS
 No sir.

MOSES
 Get the men ready to move out.

DEREVAS
 Yes general.

Derevas rides off as Moses departs to another part of the
 battlefield.

As he rides off, more egyptian soldiers head out onto the
 field.

A moment later...

EXT. FORK OF THE NILE - DAY

Moses arrives and notices a horseshoe shape of the nile's
 edge where Ibis birds are attacking snakes and flying off
 with a fresh kill in their bloody talons.

Moses rides quickly to join some of his fellow fighters as
 they keep the ethiopian army at bay.

EXT. SHORELINE - CONTINUOUS

Moses swings down upon the head of an enemy soldier. Blood and brain matter sprays onto a fighting trooper but does not stop or sway the soldier from advancing through with merciless lust.

The sword of Moses. A reflection of the men in slow-motion.

Moses glances backward to see more of his squads heading towards the palace via shoreline.

Narration of moses continues...

MOSES (V.O.)

My life for my men. So many men and
so few who are able to see the
light of wisdom.

Moses turns slightly to look at the sun as it begins to set.

MOSES (V.O.)

Why?

A nearby enemy rushes to Moses and throws a spear.

Moses sees it from the corner of his eye.

With quick and dextrous motion, Moses swings his sword and cuts the spear down in flight. The pointed tip misses his face.

MOSES (V.O.)

Seti wanted peace. Ramses wanted
slaves. I - wanted only to please
my pharaoh. Yet, so many deaths. So
many sacrifices.

Derevas joins Moses' side as a war horn blares.

DEREVAS

That's the signal general.

MOSES

Move the men in. Perhaps Merops
will finally come to his senses.

DEREVAS

And tharbis?

MOSES

Leave her out of it. I'll speak
with her alone when this war is
over.

DEREVAS

She will never agree. Merops would
kill her first to prevent a
political marriage.

Moses sheathes his sword and rides toward the palace with
Derevas at his side.

Horn blares again.

MOSES

Alert the fleet to send in the
rest.

DEREVAS

Yes general.

Derevas parts from Moses and rides towards the south.

Moses gazes upon a Palace which lies in the short distance.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FLEET - EARLY DUSK

Derevas arrives at a port where many of his fellow soldiers
keep watch as he dismounts from his horse.

He walks over to a fire-pit and grabs an arrow then dips the
arrow tip in oil. He lights the arrow and uses a bow to
shoot up into the sky.

EXT. FLEET COMMANDER - EARLY DUSK

Standing on deck is the ship's commander who spots the arrow
speed into the air as a signal to his men who stand by
holding shields and spears.

COMMANDER

Alert the fleet and send in the
conscripts.

His second in command...

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yes sir.

He moves to the bow of the ship as he grabs a flag and
starts to wave it right to left.

The ocean tides get a little rougher as hundreds of men
climb into boats and start their way to shore.

Back on deck...

COMMANDER

Moses should be in the palace by now.

SECOND IN COMMAND

(Ecstatic)

I heard that the king has an endless supply of gold just for the taking. Jewels too.

COMMANDER

Don't count your eggs before you put them in the basket. I myself heard that the store rooms are also laced with traps. It wouldn't look good to -- see you cut down in mid-count.

The men laugh behind them.

EXT. CLOSE TO PALACE - EARLY DUSK

A vulture flies over, a grim landscape, sand is covered with dead bodies and pools of blood.

The dwindling numbers of ethiopian soldiers fight back the egyptian enemy who outnumber them five to one.

Moses dismounts his horse.

MOSES gazes over this landscape as his hand slips down to his sword. Knuckles are bloody.

War horn blares a third time.

Derevas arrives and joins moses.

DEREVAS

Our last obstacle. How do we get in?

MOSES

Through the front and up the wall.

DEREVAS

What about our contingency plan?

MOSES

They'll arrive soon enough.

Moses unsheathes his sword and moves ahead to join his men.

The fight continues.

Derevas too grabs his sword and starts to cut down any enemy he faces.

EXT. MID-FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Men fighting men. Blood sprays, Limbs get hacked off. Howls of anguish and pain.

DEREVAS
(Through his struggles)
Does this remind you of anything
general?

Moses shakes his head.

MOSES
(Afraid, yet stoic)
Yes. A day where ramses and I
almost killed one another.

Derevas looks at the dead soldiers lying on the ground with mouths and eyes open in horror.

DEREVAS
Seti really let you two have it
good that day.

MOSES
As did my mother.

They are getting closer to the palace.

Daylight grows darker.

The ground suddenly vibrates.

Moses looks back to see the fleet's conscriptions racing out onto the battlefield.

Fresh new fighters pursue the enemy.

DEREVAS
Just in time. General, it's now or
never.

MOSES
Follow me. Sound the advance!

War horn blares from behind their army.

DEREVAS
Squads! Head to the palace! For
Pharaoh!

Men yell and shout as they cut down enemies while they race across the field.

IN THE MEANTIME...

EXT. PALACE - MEZZANINE - THARBIS MEROPS - EARLY DUSK

A king and his daughter. Merops and Tharbis stand side by side as they watch the carnage down below. Merops shoots a hostile look at the Egyptian army as they get closer.

MEROPS

They have no real skill in battle.
But can only win using numbers.

THARBIS

(A curious gaze)
Who is that? (Points)

MEROPS

(Looks surprised)
Moses. Strange that his brother
never accompanied the prince.

THARBIS

A prince fighting with his men?
Why?

MEROPS

(Admiration)
Unlike Ramses who cowers and hides
from battle -- moses is the only
heir to the throne of egypt who
would never back down from a fight.
His - tenaciousness is often his
weakspot, but out on the field his
loyalty to the men is
unquestionable.

Tharbis watches Moses as he cuts his way through her fellow countrymen to the palace walls. All she can see - is Moses.

Heart-a-flutter.

THARBIS

His determination is incredible.

MEROPS

That it is Tharbis. You will never
find a more suitable heir to rule
egypt.

Tharbis remains silent.

EXT. AT PALACE WALL - EARLY DUSK

Moses and his men start to climb up ladders to the least fortified defensive spot on the wall's ledge above them.

MOSES

We move in groups of four! The front group will use a shield to help cover the rear!

DEREVAS

Yes general!

Quickly, Moses and his men climb the ladders as the front defense keep shields ahead of them to avoid arrow attacks.

Shields are turned sideways to prevent tripping.

EXT. THARBIS

Tharbis watches from the other side of the palace wall.

From her point of view, she sees hundreds of men on ladders while flaming arrows from her army are released by the hundreds.

EXT. WALL - MID-SECTION - SIDE-VIEW

Men are shot down with arrows. Screams fills the air as those who are shot fall to the ground.

The setting sun gives off a resultant glare on the wall as more men are pierced with arrows in the back.

Moses does not stop his ascent.

EXT. THARBIS

Tharbis watches Moses get to the top of the wall along with his men and start to cut down foes.

She is thoroughly impressed by his stamina, vigor and fortitude while just a prince.

Far off to her right, smoke billows from the forest regions which tells her that the border has been breached.

Tharbis retreats with her father to the inner cloisters of the palace while guards remain behind to prevent intrusion by the enemy.

THARBIS

Will we be safe in here?

MEROPS

Our inner walls have never been breached before. But I fear that moses will not back down once his troops have taken the outer defenses.

THARBIS

We should not have angered the Pharaoh, he has been...

Merops interrupts his daughter with haste...

MEROPS

The pharaoh is getting old. Much like his ancestors did years before they tried to take our lands like today. You saw how our stores have been dwindling. We had no choice but to raid the fields.

THARBIS

Yes but seti would have agreed to the terms if hadn't been for ramses who convinced him to invade us using moses as his tool.

His reaction to his daughter's comment means that she is right. They head to the throne room with guards who bring up the rear.

MEROPS

You could be right Tharbis. Maybe moses will listen to reason before night settles in.

THARBIS

If it comes to it. I'll offer myself to his judgement.

MEROPS

Hopefully it won't come to that.

THARBIS

What will you do father?

MEROPS

If what moses has to say doesn't please me, then I'll gladly take his head before I die at the hands of his army.

EXT. ON THE WALL'S LEDGE - LATE DUSK

Moses leads his men down a narrow pathway towards the throne room while enemy fighters lunge in to attack with Clubs, spears, swords and fists.

MOSES

You men cover the back. Derevas, you're with me. Try to hold them off as best you can, and don't try to kill them. Wound them if you can. I don't want any more casualties resulting from this war.

DEREVAS

Wound them? Ramses wouldn't have...

Moses spins around to shout his orders with more authority.

MOSES

You will do as I command! No more killings! I'm not Ramses's mirror image. I am Seti's mediator on this matter. Do I make myself clear?!

Derevas gazes into Moses' eyes intently and sees that the order is not to be disobeyed.

DEREVAS

Yes general. I - apologize for my - outburst.

Moses nods and retorts...

MOSES

There will come a time when even the most seasoned warrior has to put a stop to the madness. This war wasn't a whim our pharaoh had designed. It was Ramses only. You of all people know how he thinks. Don't head down that path of destruction like he does.

DEREVAS

Yes general.

MOSES

Good. Round up the prisoners, and get them sent to the healers as fast as possible. I'll go to the throne room and settle this once and for all.

Derevas watches Moses make his way through the fighters with comfortable ease.

He smiles to know that he is on the right path as long as Moses leads the way.

A perched dove watches Moses and his escorts fight on but wound the soldiers as per his orders.

The enemy falls quickly and moan in pain.

Moses cuts across an enemy's leg to put him out of commission. Then another is put down.

MOSES (CONT.)

Give word that we have taken the wall. Fortify all the defenses once I am inside.

SOLDIER

(Excited)

Yes general!

Moses continues on as his men stay behind to wait for reinforcements.

Any enemy of moses sees him coming. Rather than fight, they all back off and surrender their weapons without incident.

Reluctantly, even the stronger enemy soldiers drop their spears and other weapons and move aside for Moses who walks past them with a calm demeanor as he heads for...

INT. THE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Moses walks in to see a few dozen soldiers point their spears at him while he calmly walks toward Marops and Tharbis who sit in front of him.

Moses sheathes his sword and then goes to one knee as he proclaims to the king.

MOSES

I moses, son of Bithia to the house of our Pharaoh, seti the great do hereby proclaim liberation of the capital city of Meroe.

The throne room is deathly quiet while the present guards approach moses cautiously with pointed spears.

Merops raises his right hand as a silent command for them to halt.

Guards back off to assume attentive positions.

MEROPS

When you say liberate. Do you mean to say that you are taking over this empire? One that has been in our family for the last century? I don't think my people would welcome you so easily, son of seti.

MOSES

I am not the legitmate son of my pharaoh. Though, at times I do think of myself as his son. No, the empire will remain yours and intact. But the raids of our crops must stop.

MEROPS

We have a right to live too moses. Children go hungry. And if there is one thing I do not relish is the sound of a child crying because of an empty belly.

Moses looks up to see the eyes of Merops who stares back at him with a steel will.

A hint of admiration. Moses was right.

Tharbis stands up but remains at her father's side.

THARBIS

What do you propose? Ramses won't take kindly to us knowing that there were survivors. Seti might even...

MOSES

Seti would agree with your father. He too doesn't condone hunger.

MEROPS

What about the slaves of Goshen?

The word slave, rings in his head as his eyes avert to a spot on the floor.

MEROPS (CONT.)

How will the pharaoh feed them when they build his city under a whip and such murderous intent?

Moses has no reply. He swallows dryly and looks up at Merops with a determined gaze.

MOSES

I -- do not agree with seti's use of slaves. But, I cannot disobey him either. My mother often talked about seti as being a gentle soul. That he wouldn't -- hurt another. Yet, since his ascension to the throne, I think it's because of his vassals who mounted pressure onto him to keep traditional values intact. I'm sure he fought to break that tradition at one point.

MEROPS

But also risked of losing everything if he kept insisting of abolishing slavery.

MOSES

Yes.

MEROPS

I see. You're a lot like him.

THARBIS

I agree.

MEROPS

If we are to settle this matter in a more -- civilized manner, then I will call off my men.

MOSES

As will I.

Merops glances to one of his guards.

MEROPS

(In Swahili/subtitled)

Call off the attacks. Send word of our retreat.

GUARD

(Swahili/subtitled)

Retreat?

MEROPS

(Swahili/subtitled)

Yes. Do it now. GO!

His guard dashes out of the throne room to deliver the message.

The other guards stand down.

Merops gets up from this throne and walks over to moses.

MEROPS (CONT.)

I doubt some of the elders will
take kindly to my decision.

MOSES

And will most likely try to appeal
to seti. But I think that a new
approach would help benefit both of
our nations.

MEROPS

How so?

MOSES

Seti has been needing a new
garrison to watch over the eastern
gates. Our supply of men is meant
for the military end of things. I
am sure he would agree to it. I'll
even have a home built just for
you, your daughter and your men.

MEROPS

My son will go in my stead. I am
still needed here. But my daughter
can accompany you back to egypt. If
the prince has no objections.

Moses glances to Tharbis to admire her beauty that matches
her tenacity. Only one other has ever set fire to his heart,
and she still waits for his return.

MOSES

Of course.

Both Moses and Tharbis smile at one another.

Her father glances from one to the other, then smirks as he
exits the throne room quietly.

CUT TO:

EXT. FEASTING - BOTH SIDES - EVENING

A roaring fire, a lamb roast. Tired soldiers sit in the
lotus position on the ground as servers dish up meals for
the men.

Honey wine is passed around.

Derevas sits in front of the fire as he eats his dinner.

One of his subordinates who is slightly drunk gets a little out of hand with his comments.

DRUNK SOLDIER

Ah! We could have won. We -- should have -- killed all of them in one fell swoop! But no, prince -- moses had to spare some lives. Ramses would have...

DEREVAS

Speak one more word, and I'll have you placed in chains.

Derevas stands up to face his subordinate who remarkably does not back down.

Alcohol speaks for him.

Amidst the gathering crowd of soldiers, Moses waits close by as he watches Derevas take care of the situation.

DRUNK SOLDIER

You can't touch me. I'm...

DEREVAS

Drunk and useless in fact. I told you not to drink heavily before we got home. You couldn't even hold off for a couple of days.

DRUNK SOLDIER

I -- earned the right --
COMMANDER.

DEREVAS

You earned nothing! You disobeyed orders. Prince moses' orders! And now we have to look after you who is ready pass out in a moment. Have you no self control?

What Derevas does not see as he conducts some military discipline, is his subordinate reaching behind himself to pull out a knife.

Moses sees him pulling out the knife, but remains calm and well kept to see what his officer will do next.

Back to Derevas...

DRUNK SOLDIER

You - and -- moses are made for each other. What do I care -- what happens to...

Before he can finish his sentence, the drunk soldier lunges at Derevas with the knife.

Soldiers back off to allow them the space to fight it out.

Moses keeps to the shadows so as not to be seen.

Back to...

DEREVAS

You really want to have your name
rubbed off the monoliths that much
huh?

DRUNK SOLDIER

It's better than -- listening -- to
that -- to that -- (Gulps some
air.)

The others start to laugh because their drunk soldier is about to throw up.

He lifts a finger for his commanding officer to wait as he struggles against his own body's bowel movement, yet he also drops the knife.

The moment comes... He leans over and hurls his entire dinner with some extra honey wine that hits the dirt and makes a gross splashing sound.

The men laugh and clap.

Moses nods his head side to side and walks away.

Derevas sees moses in the distance.

DEREVAS

Here, take care of him.

A few of the men jump up and take the drunk off of derevas's hands.

He trots to Moses.

EXT. MOSES'S TENT

As he is about to enter the tent.

DEREVAS

General.

MOSES

I saw what happened.

DEREVAS

I'll have him placed in the stockade once we reach port.

MOSES

No need.

DEREVAS

But he...

MOSES

It's fine. There were bound to be insults thrown around sooner or later. Might as well be tonight. Besides, by the way he upchucked his dinner I don't think he'll be feeling very well in the morning. So, if you want to punish him further, make him clean the galley on the way home.

DEREVAS

And the knife attack?

Moses looks at Derevas for a moment.

MOSES

What knife?

Moses enters his tent.

Derevas smirks as he walks back to the men.

INT. MOSES' TENT - NIGHT

Inside, Moses is treated with a sight of total beauty as Tharbis presents herself so boldly, and quite naked in front of him.

On his left is a bathing tub, which is steaming.

Flower petals float on the surface.

What more can a man ask for?

Moses eyes her up and down as he unbuckles his sword and sets it aside on a chair.

THARBIS

I heard what you said outside. Is that not insubordination on his part for trying to attack one of your officers?

MOSES

Maybe to some. But, he's headstrong. I'm not about to imprison the man because of what he thinks is right or wrong. He has a voice too.

Moses closes the gap between them.

Tharbis' beauty is a close match to Moses's first love, Nefritiri. Yet, this night will determine if he is a good match for tharbis as the gap closes further.

THARBIS

True. But that voice almost tried to have one of your subordinates killed.

Moses starts to remove his own clothing.

Tharbis watches with vested interest.

MOSES

If he'd have killed Derevas, he would most likely be quartered in front of witnesses.

THARBIS

Such a gracious attitude towards your men moses. I wonder how long it's going to last.

Gap closes until a foot of space is between them, both are now naked.

MOSES

As long as it can.

Moses places his lips onto Tharbis' lips and both hold each other in an embrace with a heated passion that can melt gold.

They can hear laughter outside.

EXT. FEASTING - BOTH SIDES - EVENING

The men gather around the fire to enjoy each other's company along with their once sworn enemy as they pass around jugs of honeywine.

True comraderie under the canopy of night and with bright stars to add to the peaceful ambience.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORT - DAY

Moses boards a ship while loaders haul in items such as tree bark, linen, gold, silver, and many more treasures.

Tharbis stands next to a deck railing when Moses joins her side.

THARBIS

Seems your men are rather lively
this morning.

MOSES

A good night's rest helped ease and
calm their fervent natures.

Tharbis looks at him questioningly, curious by his tone.

THARBIS

How do you manage to overcome so
much adversity? If it were my
brother who faced such odds, he
would have gone insane.

MOSES

I don't know. Perhaps it was
because of my mother's lessons. I
had no father to look up to other
than seti. But it was my mother who
set my feet on the ground to search
for an answer.

THARBIS

An answer to what?

MOSES

I don't know. Since I don't know
the question to begin with.

She studies his eyes for a moment as Derevas makes an appearance.

DEREVAS

General.

MOSES

Are we ready to depart?

DEREVAS

Yes general. On your word.

MOSES

Word is given. Let's go home.

Derevas spins around to order...

DEREVAS

Weigh anchor! Loosen the mooring ropes.

Crew members scramble about as they unfasten lines from the piers and roll them up.

DEREVAS (CONT.)

Hoist the sails!

Sails plume out to capture a gentle breeze.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SHIP - AFTERNOON

Seagulls coast along on the port side as they all sail back home to Egypt.

Each ship bustles activity aboard as crew members tend to their duties.

EXT. SHIP - DECK - CONTINUOUS

Moses walks out onto the deck along with another man. It is the Ethiopian brother Bekila to Tharbis. Sworn in king by his father Merops.

KING BEKILA

Does the fleet normally travel so close together?

MOSES

It helps by staving off possible attackers.

EXT. SHIP - DECK LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

Moses and King Bekila walk alongside one another as crew members keep the sails sturdy and deck clean.

To Moses' right, the drunk soldier from the night before is cleaning rails and wood panels.

KING BEKILA

Such - incredible vastness to the ocean. I never dreamed I would be on a ship sailing to a foreign land.

MOSES

Sights like this are common place among my fellow countrymen. Maybe when you and your sister are

(MORE)

MOSES (cont'd)
assigned to the eastern gates, you
can approach seti about a transfer
to the fleet.

KING BEKILA
He would be willing to do that?

MOSES
There is nothing that seti can't
give permission or his blessings
for. Trust me on that one.

King Bekila smiles as Derevas joins them on deck.

DEREVAS
Last of the fresh fruits are
stored. Hulls are filled to
capacity.

MOSES
Good. Send a dove with a message of
us coming home. We'll be in port by
tomorrow morning.

DEREVAS
Yes general. Um, there was just one
more thing.

MOSES
Alright. What is it?

DEREVAS
The king. Wants to navigate and
steer the ship. Under your
guidance.

Bekila watches Moses' expression for a sign.

MOSES
Why not? He needs to know it
anyways if he's to get a transfer
later on.

DEREVAS
Yes general.

Derevas leaves Moses and Bekila alone.

KING BEKILA
(Apprehensive)
You are sure about this?

MOSES

(With a smile)

My mother always said, that the first step you take is often the most important one. Come on, I'll show you how fast this ship can go.

Both exuberantly walk towards the aft, where the helmsman steers the ship.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORT - EGYPT - NEXT MORNING

Seagulls fly over the hundreds of fleet ships that are moored.

Thousands of soldiers leave the ships with packs, crates, and spoils of war.

Seagulls pass by squawking.

EXT. PORT - CONTINUOUS

Men walk down planks in drone like fashion.

Moses, King Bekila and THARBIS follow closely behind them.

MOSES

Welcome to thebes. Home of seti the great.

KING BEKILA

Such diverse cultures here.

THARBIS

Incredible to see many people trading goods like this.

MOSES

It's just one of many ways to help enrich the lives of its citizens.

EXT. PORT - THEBES - DAY

Moses and company stroll from the port to the city streets of Thebes, where thousands flock together as people trade, buy or barter goods.

Stalls display various items, such as Jewelry, Spioes, Weapons, etc, etc.

KING BEKILA

A person could get lost here.

THARBIS

I wonder how many looms it took to create such fine linen.

MOSES

Most of our textiles come from here, but from the outlying regions to the cataracts, caravans bring in their goods to get refined. Most of the royal court's garments are made here.

King Bekila stops to gaze upon a man using a forge anvil where he hammers out a sword. A few wind-bellow helpers keep the forge heated.

MOSES

The steel is melted and pounded out to give it its shape. Most of the army's weapons are made in the palace. This forge is for the more -- specially designed weaponry.

Tharbis casts a quick glance to one of the Jewelry stalls where long necklaces hang from iron hooks. She peers closer to see her own reflection in one of the silver necklaces.

KING BEKILA

It's not much different than our own artisans.

MOSES

It's all pretty much handed down from one generation to the next. Even though our cultures differ, there's still that deeply engrained notion of how to create. Whether it's a weapon for war, or if it's a vision for art. Just because our skin colors are different, it doesn't define on who we are, or where we are going.

King Bekilasmiles as they all walk towards a group of chariots that await their arrival.

EXT. CHARIOTS - THARBIS - MOSES

Moses helps Tharbis onto his chariot while King Bekila steps up onto his own chariot.

A driver for each take the reigns.

With a snap of the reign, the chariots head down a busy street as vendors shout their wares.

EXT. CHARIOTS - THARBIS - MOSES

THARBIS

How could men build such structures
like this?

MOSES

For the past four hundred years our
men and -- slaves, has built nearly
all of the temples and shrines that
you see before you.

With a heavy heart, moses glances to a few slaves who are
being whipped by their benefactors.

MOSES (CONT.)

Although most who do build them,
never survive to see their own
creations.

Tharbis notices how sad moses is as she too glances over to
see a man using a whip on a woman's back.

THARBIS

Maybe that will change if you took
the throne.

MOSES

That's not possible. I may have
been adopted into a royal house
hold but, I could never sit on the
throne. Only a true born of royal
blood can be a pharaoh.

Tharbis expresses sadness as they pass by the poor woman who
is still being whipped without mercy.

EXT. CITY STREET

Moses rounds a bend to see the house he grew up in nestled
behind some of the shops. Many shop owners and fellow
kinsmen rush out to greet moses with claps and cheers.

His close guards try to keep them back.

SHOP OWNER

Moses! Good to have you home.

MOSES

Good to be back.

SHOP OWNER

One of your prisoners?

Moses and Tharbis glance at each other, then back to the shop owner.

MOSES

She's my wife.

The shop owner suddenly has a perplexed and speechless expression as he looks at both his own wife and moses.

He wants to say something, as he holds up a finger, then remains silent as moses continues on to the palace.

EXT. CHARIOTS - THARBIS - MOSES

Tharbis and moses laughs because of the poor man's response time.

MOSES

Ah they'll be gossiping about that for awhile.

THARBIS

How do you think Seti will accept me as? A wife? Or a nuisance?

MOSES

Possibly both. It's not like this hasn't happened before in the courts where one of his retainers latched onto a new wife to settle scores between families.

THARBIS

Yes but -- ours is - political.

MOSES

(Saddened)

I know. I just hope that when the time comes, I can convince Seti into releasing the slaves and to consummate our marriage.

Tharbis reminds moses to the other side of the coin...

THARBIS

Nefritiri is not going to like this either.

MOSES

Let me worry about Nefritiri. She may be a spoiled child, but can often surprise those that challenge her. She also has a weak spot for humanity.

THARBIS
When it suits her.

Moses glances down at Tharbis to see that her comment is meant not to insult but to warn MOSES.

MOSES
Yes, when it suits her.

THARBIS
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...

MOSES
No. You're right about her --
moods. Maybe I can use that.

EXT. CITY STREET - PALACE

More people gather around to see Moses and his new companion climb down from the chariot. King Bekila joins them as they all walk up a flight of steps of the palace.

Guards keep the people safely away from them.

CITIZEN
Welcome back moses!

CITIZEN #2
Moses! Yeah!

Continued cheers of fellow city folk as moses and friends enter the palace.

INT. SETI'S PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Guards approach and take up positions on both sides of a giant hall in single columns.

Moses leads them to the royal chambers.

INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR

Moses walks ahead of the party across a shiny marble floor.

Each of their reflections can be seen as Moses turns to two giant doors and opens them with relative ease.

Inside...

INT. ROYAL COURT

Seti and a few of his retainers converse only to be interrupted by Moses' appearance.

SETI
Moses! Welcome home.

MOSES
Pharaoh. (Goes to one knee)

SETI
And these people you have brought
in?

MOSES
May I present to you, King Bekila,
son to Merops and his sister
Tharbis, who you already have been
made aware of.

SETI
Yes yes. Please come in, sit with
us. I want to see my new daughter
in law up close.

Tharbis approaches seti without hesitation. No sheepish or
shy aura about her.

Her beauty surpasses most of the on call house maidens.

SETI
A well grown woman. I can see why
you married her moses. But beauty
alone cannot extinguish the flames
of jealousy I'm afraid.

MOSES
Nefritiri will understand the
situation. Given that she has
already made arrangements ahead of
time.

SETI
That's an understatement. But for
now, please sit at our table.
Tharbis, you can sit beside me.

THARBIS
Thank you, pharaoh.

SETI
King Bekila. You can sit beside
moses. Where is ramses?

JANNES
He is in meditation pharaoh.

SETI

Again? How many of these -
meditations must I endure? Go get
him.

JANNES

Yes pharaoh.

JANNES. A palace priest who boasts magic as his ally. Also
one never to be trusted.

Moses eyes avert to each retainer as they quietly speak in
whispers at the table.

Seti pours a goblet of water and offers it to Tharbis.

THARBIS

Thank you, pharaoh.

SETI

It's hot out today. Normally I
wouldn't sit in the palace but
today it's much cooler in here. So,
moses... You say you have a
proposal to offer me?

MOSES

I do. I have talked it over with
Merops before we set sail back
home, and offered his people their
own plot of land to cultivate. In
exchange we need personal guards to
watch over the eastern gates. Both
the king and I agree that placing
them in charge of this task will
help route out possible invaders.

Seti thinks for a moment.

SETI

Does this mean we should add a new
list of conscriptions? We cannot
deplete our manpower to assist you.

KING BEKILA

That is why I have brought along
ten thousand extra men. It will
facilitate the gate's safety once
the fortifications have been
completed.

SETI

Ten thousand? Interesting. Both the
west and northern regions would be
kept safe from outsiders.

A couple more seconds to think.

Then...

SETI

I like it. I agree with moses on
this plan.

From behind seti... His son's voice offers an opinion...

RAMSES (O.C.)

That would be an unwise decision
father.

Seti turns to see his son entering the royal chambers.

Ramses. (30'S) A brash, headstrong son who thinks his word
is the only word to be spoken and understood.

How wrong he is, when it comes to Seti's will.

SETI

What makes you so sure ramses? For
the past month your unwillingness
to build my city has taken its toll
on the council. Now you say I make
unwise decisions?

RAMSES

Why do the enemy not stand for the
next ruler of egypt?

Ramses stands beside the table and casts an eerie glare to
King Bekila and Tharbis.

MOSES

Perhaps, it's because you're not
the ruler yet.

RAMSES

I will be soon enough. Then you -
my brother can kneel too.

Such brotherly love, that moses dismisses the jibe as
nothing more than foolish pride.

SETI

Enough of this. Ramses, you go too
far. Since you're not able to
build, maybe it's time to put that
nose of yours into the dirt like
everybody else.

RAMSES

Me? In the dirt? To do what?

SETI

You've heard the rumors. Now I want you to go out and prove it.

RAMSES

The - so called freer of slaves?
Another fable made up from some
desperate mud pit donkey.

The use of his colorful insults grate on Moses' nerves as ramses walks around the table as he complains endlessly to his father.

RAMSES (CONT.)

I have better things to do than go looking for some...

SETI

(Very angry)

You will do it!! By my will ramses!
You will find him. Do not mistake
me for some aging fossil.

Ramses is beside himself. He has never heard his father shout like that before.

RAMSES

Yes father. I apologize...

SETI

Don't apologize. Just do it. Then you can impress me once you have bound him in chains and brought before me. Is that clear ramses?

A moment of silence.

RAMSES

Yes father. By your will it will be done.

Ramses leaves the royal chambers in haste.

Seti inhales deeply and looks over to Tharbis with concern.

SETI

I'm sorry you had to see and hear that. My son can be -- difficult.

THARBIS

Don't be. My father knows all too well of our own stubbornness.

She looks over at her brother.

SETI
Family can surprise us in so many
ways.

MOSES
And disappoint at times.

SETI
You must be referring to the time
when you and ramses tried to cut
nefritiris hair off?

THARBIS
(Surprised)
What?

Moses looks down at his lap, blushes slightly as he averts
his gaze to King Bekila.

SETI
Don't sit there and try to make it
look like it was all ramse's fault.
You were standing there holding the
shears.

MOSES
I didn't think you'd remember that.

SETI
Or how you oiled down the stairs so
that memnet slipped and broke her
arm?

Both the king bekila and tharbis giggle at Moses' expense as
seti continues on down memory lane.

It leads well into the afternoon and night.

Later that night...

INT. BITHIA - MOSES - NIGHT

Moses enters his mother's chambers as she writes down notes
using HEIROGLYPHS on a SLAB of PAPYRUS PAPER.

She wears a LOOSE fitting gown tied off at the waist with a
GOLDEN ROPE. A few house maidens tend to their duties when
BITHIA sees her son.

BITHIA
(Smiles brightly)
The prodigal son returns --
finally.

MOSES

I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner.

Both embrace in a tight hug.

BITHIA

After two years out there the least you could have done was let me know how you were faring. A simple dove would have sufficed.

MOSES

I know, but these peace talks was important to seti. If he had sent ramses in, then ethiopia would have succumbed to far worse.

BITHIA

Isn't that the truth? So -- what's she like?

MOSES

Tharbis? Incredibly strong willed. You'd like her.

BITHIA

Sounds to me that your mind is made up.

MOSES

Hardly. I still have to convince nefritiri that it's only a political marriage.

Bithia's face softens.

BITHIA

She might try something that she'll regret.

MOSES

Doubtful. I know how she likes to manipulate seti's way of thinking. But she would never strike at someone like a cobra. Not without good reason.

BITHIA

Still, I'd take precautions in case something were to happen to your bride. Nefritiri may be the next queen to ramses, but she will never love him like she loves you.

MOSES

(Deep sigh, smirks)

So -- other than the obvious family troubles, how are things in our house?

BITHIA

Well, we acquired a few new maids.

MOSES

What happened to Urso and Calia.

BITHIA

They asked to leave for another house. Seems my daily routines got them overworked.

Moses tna Bithia stroll to the outside veranda together. Bithia holds his arm.

A mother and son moment.

MOSES

That's the fourth time this month alone.

BITHIA

What can I say? I'm a hard woman who likes to keep her house tidy and spotless.

MOSES

Tell me about it.

BITHIA

Don't you start now. Or I'll replace my staff with just you. (Chuckles.)

They stop at the veranda's edge and gaze up at the night sky. Bithia hangs onto Moses' right arm for support.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TREASURE CITY - A FEW MONTHS LATER - A HOT AFTERNOON

Moses stands at the base of a Monolith and gazes at its intricate Symbols and Heiroglyphs in wonder while the local slaves work to the bone around him. If any one wanted to, and with so few guards, the slaves could attack him.

Moses turns to see a few slaves drop some freshly molded bricks only to smash to pieces.

A nearby WHIPMASTER sees it and becomes angry.

WHIPSMaster

(Raises whip and starts
to strike)

What are you doing!? You useless --
half witted -- donkey herders --...

As the whipmaster is about to lash again, his wrist is
caught by Moses.

The poor slave looks up to see a savior.

MOSES

That's enough.

WHIPSMaster

But my prince, if they don't do
their work with more diligence
then...

MOSES

I'm well aware of what they need to
do. But it would be less prudent to
whip him until he's half dead. Not
very cost efficient wouldn't you
agree?

WHIPSMaster

Prince ramses wouldn't have...

MOSES

(Seething anger)

I'm not ramses!! Let me make this
perfectly clear, the next time I
see you lash another slave without
just cause I will personally have
your intestines removed and then
feed them to the lion pit while
you're still alive. Understand me?

The whipmaster knows immediately not to push the matter any
further.

Moses releases his grip.

MOSES

Go back to work. You - slave.

SLAVE

Yes prince moses?

MOSES

Pick up of what can be used and
move on. No need for further
delays.

SLAVE

Yes my prince. Thank you.

As the guard leaves, he glances back to moses with some contempt.

Other slave watch and whisper to one another as moses walks alone among the workers.

Nearby, a stone carver watches moses casually stroll along passing brick makers, straw cutters and pits full of mud. By the royal appearance of moses, the stone cutter expresses confusion rather than dislike.

When Moses veers in his direction, the stone cutter resumes his work. What he doesn't know, is that moses is watching him.

EXT. STONE TABLET WALL - JOSHUA - MOSES

Moses stops and gazes at the complex patterns of heiroglyphs chisled into the limestone.

The stone carver, Joshua (30's) continues to work silently, but every so often glances back to see moses standing behind him.

MOSES

You're quite the artist.

Joshua turns to see who is talking to him.

JOSHUA

Um, my prince? Were you speaking to me?

MOSES

Who else? How long have you been a stone cutter?

JOSHUA

Since I was a boy. My father was a stone cutter and he taught me some of the basics.

MOSES

Incredible detail. Did your father teach that to you as well?

JOSHUA

No -- I... I learned from another person.

MOSES

I'd like to meet this person.

JOSHUA
I'm afraid that's not possible.

MOSES
What's your name?

JOSHUA
Joshua, my prince.

Moses walks away, but is stopped by Joshua.

JOSHUA
Prince Moses. I -- uh..

MOSES
You - what? Spit it out.

JOSHUA
I uh, saw what you did at the brick pits for one of us. I'm grateful.

MOSES
Do you know the person in question?

JOSHUA
Yes. He's a good friend of my family. Thank you.

Moses crosses his arms over his chest as he approaches Joshua without fear.

MOSES
You don't act like a slave.

JOSHUA
How does a slave act?

MOSES
I don't know. I suppose with more -- humility towards their overseers.

JOSHUA
Men are the ones who made slaves. God is the one who made man.

MOSES
What god? I've never heard of him. Does he have a name? Our courts are filled with dozens of gods, but not one can accomplish anything that we ask them to do.

JOSHUA
What have you asked them to do?

MOSES

- - To wipe my ass.

Joshua stands there perplexed for Moses' vulgar comment. But suddenly, starts to laugh.

Slaves who are close by stop to see what the commotion is about as both Moses and Joshua laugh together.

JOSHUA

To wipe my ass? (Hearty laugh)

MOSES

And to pick my teeth.

Both begin to roar with laughter in the middle of the slave pits.

Slaves glance at each other in confusion.

One slave whispers to another.

SLAVE #2

Maybe it's the heat.

SLAVE #3

Could be. Or the water is going bad.

As the laughter fills the now quiet grounds of slave central, a group of horse riders along with one chariot arrives.

It is Ramses.

Both stop laughing.

RAMSES

What is the meaning of this rabbling about? Moses? I should have guessed it was you.

MOSES

(Humorously)

Hey ramses, when was the last time you asked one of our gods to wipe your ass?

Joshua bursts out laughing, then the other slaves join in.

Ramses is not impressed one damn bit.

RAMSES

ENOUGH!! Moses, you're tasked to building the city, how long is it going to take to put it together?

Moses approaches ramses.

MOSES

What do you see around you?

Ramses glances around to see structures, whipmasters, slaves, Suffering.

RAMSES

I see a city, but seti's jubilee is closer than you think. You still have two more months to complete its construction.

MOSES

And I'll get it done. But first, I have an announcement to make.

Moses turns to the slaves.

MOSES (CONT.)

All slaves are to stop working.

Mumbles and groans from the slaves.

JOSHUA

Stop working?

RAMSES

What was that?

Ramses realizes that he no longer matters.

MOSES

You heard me. I am giving the slaves a day of rest starting today. And on top of that, by observing their rations being handed out, I'd say a good helping of wheat is in store.

Moans of surprise and whispers from the SLAVES.

RAMSES

You wouldn't dare. Not the grain stores. That is meant for OUR gods.

MOSES

Do they really eat it? Or do they just wipe their ass with it?

Moses walks over to Joshua.

MOSES (CONT.)

I need two dozen or more men to help me. Can you round them up?

JOSHUA

Uh, yeah. Yes of course.

MOSES

Then get to it.

JOSHUA

Right away.

Joshua runs off to fetch strong hands.

Ramses starts to become enraged with moses as he walks over and grabs Moses by his necklace.

RAMSES

You filthy swine. Seti is not going to be swayed by this -- treachery. Mark my words moses, your day is coming.

Ramses releases his grip and leaves the site.

Slaves gather around Moses.

SLAVE #4

Moses, bless you.

Slaves continue to offer their blessings to him.

Like a bug, it flies above moses as More slaves gather around as if attracted to his essence.

Moses gazes at each of their faces to see hope light up in their eyes.

Beyond the gathering, Joshua arrives with his strong men.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THRONE ROOM - SETI - DUSK

Seti engages in silent meditation alone sitting on a plush cushion.

Some of his scribes sit close by as they write everything down that seti or any other royal palace attendant perform.

Jannes walks in to interrupt seti.

JANNES

Pharaoh.

SETI

I said, I didn't want to be disturbed.

JANNES

Apologies my lord but, there is grave news about -- moses.

Seti's eyes open and gazes at Jannes.

SETI

Go on.

JANNES

He has -- raided the granaries and emptied them all out.

SETI

What about the reserves?

JANNES

Those too. There is nothing left but a pittance of grain for maybe a dozen people and our gods.

SETI

Gods. Useless even when their own grain is stolen under their noses.

Seti stands up to address Jannes more officially.

SETI

Where is moses now?

JANNES

He is -- is --

SETI

Is what?!

JANNES

He is, feasting with the slaves.

For a moment, seti thought he heard his own advisor say that moses was eating with the slaves.

SETI

He's what?

JANNES

He is eating with the slaves. Near the river with a group of men.

Seti gasps with fright to know that his own nephew is engaged with the slaves without warning or proper protocol.

Seti stares at Jannes hard, his eyes squint in anger.

SETI

Where?

JANNES

Over by the wharfs, close to the shoreline with a bonfire lit.

Seti straightens up. A worried look on his face.

SETI

Was there any indications by your star readings that this would happen?

JANNES

No, my pharaoh.

Seti walks away a couple of feet, then spins around.

SETI

Get my chariot ready. And contact my escort.

JANNES

Yes my pharaoh.

Jannes leaves the throne room. Seti stands alone wallowing in concern.

MEANWHILE...

EXT. WHARFS - BONFIRES - DUSK

Moses and Joshua sit together among friends as they laugh, eat, and act merry despite the consequences soon to come from seti's anger.

Moses looks at the flames and nearly hypnotizes him when Joshua nudges his shoulder.

JOSHUA

Moses, you okay?

MOSES

Hm? Yeah, yeah I'm fine.

JOSHUA

You don't look it. Are you worried what the pharaoh is gonna to do?

MOSES

(Shows respect)

You know, that's the first time you called me by my name without the title. Thank you.

JOSHUA

A man should be called by his name. That's what friends do.

MOSES

Friends?

JOSHUA

You don't consider me a friend?

MOSES

Of course I do. But our worlds are so far apart. I often wonder why I was allowed to live in such -- luxury.

JOSHUA

Perhaps it was what god intended.

MOSES

God? You talk about him, but don't know his name - why?

JOSHUA

I suppose it's because of his mysterious nature. Many of our priests have tried to acquire his name, but with no success.

MOSES

Maybe it's a name not worth mentioning. Our priests named each god once their likenesses were carved from the stone you work on. But it feels too -- juvenile to believe that they exist at all.

JOSHUA

Have you ever met one of the gods face to face?

MOSES

Not a single one.

JOSHUA

Maybe they don't like to be hounded by us children as we are often called.

Both snicker at the jibe.

Joshua stands up when a deep rumbling in the earth is felt.

Moses joins him.

Other slaves stand and turn to see the Pharaoh's chariots rush IN.

Slaves run away.

Joshua and Moses stand together to face the music from Seti.

Ramses rides his chariot in from the other direction, to cut off any means of escape.

When they all meet in the middle...

Seti steps down and walks over to the bonfire.

Moses swallows dryly while seti approaches him in a calm manner.

Seti's guards rush in and surround only Joshua.

SETI

Seems you've been enjoying yourself
moses. What's the celebration?

MOSES

Life.

SETI

Life? You mean raiding the
granaries to feed the slaves? What
gave you the right? You have no
authority to pillage the god's
sacred grains.

MOSES

Sacred? Why would a god need to
eat? By all accounts pharaoh,
feeding slaves is what gets a city
built. A dead slave is one less
hand to lift a tablet with your
likeness on it.

RAMSES

Be careful what you say -- brother.

MOSES

I fed the slaves because they were
weakened from the continuous toil
and needless back breaking work.

(MORE)

MOSES (cont'd)

They were losing their will to live
my pharaoh.

SETI

And offering a small portion of
wheat helped them sustain their
dignity for just a bit longer? What
then? Slaves were meant to build
our great cities.

MOSES

At what cost? My pharaoh, please,
just this once let the people
consider this as a merciful gesture
on your part.

SETI

My gesture? It was you who broke
into the granaries.

MOSES

Yes I know. But I felt that in
doing so and there by taking the
blame for it, you would -- overlook
this and allow them a day of rest.
Have you seen the city?

SETI

Yes. And I must say I am quite
impressed with its --

Seti knows and now realizes because of Moses' innocent
nature towards man.

The grain is not the issue at all.

Seti relents.

SETI (CONT.)

I see now why you helped them. But
moses, many in our royal courts
will not look kindly to this
incident.

RAMSES

Father!!

SETI

That doesn't mean I won't punish
moses for this. Perhaps a new
strategy can come out of this. One
that will both benefit us and the
slaves.

RAMSES

You're wasting your time on this father. He will continue to defy your will.

SETI

Be that as it may. He still got the city built. At least - three quarters of the way through. Well done moses.

MOSES

(Bows)

My pharaoh.

SETI

However, with the raid on the granaries, it would seem that you would owe the vassals and the gods some compensation. Do you agree?

MOSES

Yes pharaoh.

SETI

I'd say - - six talons of gold.

Moses swallows deeply. The amount is steep. More than he first imagined.

MOSES

Six talons. Agreed.

SETI

It will put you out rather harshly. But -- knowing you, there will be a time when I shall call upon your services again.

Seti turns to Joshua.

SETI

You can let him go.

JOSHUA

Thank you pharaoh.

SETI

Moses, I know how much you like to keep people happy in your own way. But, that can be dangerous to some. Do you understand?

MOSES

Yes seti.

SETI

Good. Now, I must go back.

Moses watches seti walk back to his chariot as Joshua joins moses at his side.

They watch as the chariot leaves the bonfire site.

Ramses however looks as if he wants to kill moses. He too leaves.

Moses sits down again in front of the fire, then looks up at the night sky. Stars have come out to say hello.

JOSHUA

I felt something strange when I was surrounded.

MOSES

(Crooks a smile)

Like -- you wanted to wipe your ass?

Both look at one another, then laugh.

As Moses tosses a log into the fire, Joshua hauls out a water satchel and opens it to take healthy sip, then hands it over to Moses.

JOSHUA

Ramses is not going to let this go so easily moses.

MOSES

I know. I know.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SECRET MEETING - GOSHEN - NEXT DAY

A man stands next to a door as he watches local slaves who are not working, move around the little village with baskets or wagons.

Another man walks up to him.

Password exchange...

MAN

(Whispers)

Flowers grow brighter in the sun.

DOOR MAN

But the rain often comes soon after.

MAN
(Whispers)
Rain is needed.

DOOR MAN
He knows about moses.

MAN
Are they in?

DOOR MAN
Yes, go on in.

Door man gazes about as the man slips inside the sod house and closes the door behind him.

INT. SOD HOUSE

A group of aged men sit at a table. Elders of the village along with a few armed guards.

Man sits across from them to give his report.

MAN
It's possible that the deliverer
isn't who we thought it would be.

The elders look at each other and wonder...

ELDER
What do you mean? Wasn't the
seer...

MAN
No. He was wrong.

ELDER
Then who is it?

MAN
(Hesitant)
... Moses.

ELDER #2
Prince moses? Impossible. He is an
egyptian. A false god. A mere
mortal with no morals to speak of.

MAN
Then why is it, that he raided the
entire grain stores and offered one
day of rest? It also angered seti
and ramses.

ELDER

Perhaps. But, this random act of so called kindness is what the egyptians are known for. Promises of this and promises of that led our people into bondage over four hundred years ago. It was a dream for our people to live in prosperity and to grow. But, when we came forth to help them build the first monument -- and when we were supposed to be compensated for our efforts, the chains were placed on us to keep us from leaving. The chains maybe gone now, but our wills were left scarred. It was then that Joseph helped us stand on our feet again with a new purpose. Although he may be gone, his will has been kept alive to burn into our minds and souls.

MAN

That's all well and good. But - I've seen what moses is capable of. He is not someone who would use another to gain trust for. He was even accosted by ramses at one point.

ELDER #2

If that is true, then it maybe a ploy by both of them. We the council have watched them grow since their childhood, but - ramses has grown distant even from seti. Maybe - just maybe moses could be the one. We will have to wait and see.

MAN

By then it will be too late. Seti's health I hear is fading.

Grumbles from the council.

MAN (CONT.)

And if he dies, ramses will bring down his wrath on all of us without mercy.

ELDER

It is in god's hands now. I just hope that by the end of the year,
(MORE)

ELDER (cont'd)
 our people will be led out of egypt
 to freedom.

A quiet image of all from the DOOR.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. YOCHABEL'S SOD HUT - NIGHT

An old woman: Yochabel (90's) - (Birth mother to moses) Sits alone in her hut and breaks apart bean shoots for dinner. Her second born son Aaron walks in the hut along with her daughter Miriam who haul in their harvest of more beans.

They set them down in front of Yochabel.

YOCHABEL
 Thank you. Were there any extra for
 our neighbors?

MIRIAM
 A bit more. Aaron and I will go out
 tomorrow again to pick the rest.

YOCHABEL
 Good. Arron can you fetch some more
 water?

AARON
 Yes mother.

Aaron sets out of the hut again carrying with him a water jug.

Miriam sits next to her mother.

MIRIAM
 There was trouble down at the
 wharfs last night.

YOCHABEL
 What happened?

MIRIAM
 Moses - happened.

Yochabel stops her work and looks over at miriam.

YOCHABEL
 Moses?

MIRIAM

I heard a rumor that it was moses who raided the wheat stores and gave it to the workers along with one day of rest.

YOCHABEL

Already...

MIRIAM

Mother?

YOCHABEL

It's nothing. I just thought after he saved me from being killed by my own stupidity that he would forget about the slaves and their safety. Seems I was wrong.

MIRIAM

Ramses wasn't much help. In fact he's been trying to find a way to hurt moses.

YOCHABEL

Moses will -- find a way. He always does.

A nearby oil lamp starts to dim.

Yochabel gets up and grabs a small jug to fill the lamp's well with more oil.

MIRIAM

Do you think that moses --

YOCHABEL

If moses, what?

MIRIAM

That he might be the deliverer?

YOCHABEL

Doubtful. He may have a strong heart and a sense of justice among his peers, but - I don't think that from all of his duties would he ever be appointed to such a - - holy position. Not even god would approve of it.

MIRIAM

Are you sure?

Yochabel stares ahead to nothingness. A reflection of the lamp's flaming wick glimmers in her eyes.

YOCHABEL

Yes. I'm sure.

Yochabel sits back down at the table as Aaron returns and joins them.

All three pick apart bean shoots in their quiet home.

INT. ROYAL ARCHIVES - MOSES - NEFRITIRI - NIGHT

Both Moses and Nefritiri engage in a passionate embrace with their lips locked onto each other. Her gown opens to show her seductive legs and shapely figure under the archive's oil lamp lights.

They come up for air.

NEFRITIRI

I missed you so much. I was almost at my wits end when you couldn't come to my house.

MOSES

I -- had a lot of duties to perform.

NEFRITIRI

I know. Like keeping your wife in check.

She wiggles out of his embrace and walks over to a shelf stuffed with scrolls.

MOSES

How many times must I go over this with you? She is just --

NEFRITIRI

Your political badge of honor. I know. I don't have to like it.

MOSES

I love you. Only you.

Her smirk says it all. That her charms and grace has him wrapped around her finger.

NEFRITIRI

How much do you love me?

MOSES

If I could, I would wrap it up and
seal inside a box just made for you
to open and close when ever you
please. All except for the times
when seti sends me out again.

Nefritiri spins around. Her beauty captivates Moses' senses
as she strolls over to him on tiptoes.

Before she reciprocates his compliment, she jumps up and
grabs around his neck and pulls him in close to kiss him
hard. Both of her legs wrap around his waist.

His hands are on her rear.

MOSES

Nef... Uh we're in the archives,
what if someone catches us?

NEFRITIRI

Let them catch us. I just want you
all to myself.

Moses's legs shake and vibrate as he tries to keep them
steady in the awkward embrace.

NEFRITIRI

(She removes her gown
entirely)

Make love to me. Right here, right
now.

Moses leans against the shelves to keep himself steady while
Nefritiri reaches down to his manhood under his uniform.

A difficult task but for a woman with a firey passion, yet
she has no trouble of finding on what she wants.

She faces him as she settles onto his staff of power. They
begin to move in unison trying also to be quiet in case
others might be inside the archives.

If the desert heat wasn't bad enough, then their relentless
love making just made the heat worse.

NEFRITIRI

(Almost frantic)

Look into my eyes. Don't look away.
Don't look away. Don't look away.
Ung! Ah.

Moses concentrates on his lover's eyes and passionate stare
as she starts to move with a bit more ferocity.

Her naked form shimmers from the faint lamp light as she thrusts up and down.

Her arms tighten around his neck.

Moses sweats profusely.

NEFRITIRI

(Sobs, very happy)

Yes... Yes, yes, moses that's it.

There, right there... Ah! Gods. Ah!

Ah!

Her voice echoes in the archives.

Moses slides to the floor while she holds onto his neck line. She sits on his legs hugging him and nuzzles her cheek into his chest. She starts to recover her composure but feels another round is more appropriate since they haven't seen each other some time.

As Moses closes his eyes... A flash of an image pops into his head that shows a burning bush.

He opens his eyes startled by what he saw.

Nefritiri notices it.

NEFRITIRI

What's wrong moses?

MOSES

Uh, nothing. It was nothing.

NEFRITIRI

(Grins like the devil)

Nothing huh? Well then, I guess you don't have a problem satisfying my cravings do you?

She pulls moses to the right and both land on their sides on the floor.

LAUGHTER (O.C.)

INT. RAMSES'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ramses sits alone in a chair against a bare wall. His thoughts dwell on his brother moses who seems to make Ramse's life more difficult that it should be.

As he ponders, a man walks in.

A creepy fat man with next to no human attributes to speak of but is a slave like the others in Goehsn.

His name is Dathan. (40'S)

He stands before Ramses who remains seated.

DATHAN (O.C.)

You summoned me? My prince?

RAMSES

Yes. You've heard about the so called deliverer?

DATHAN (O.C.)

I have.

RAMSES

I want you to find out who he is. I don't care how long it takes, or where it will lead you, but I want evidence that he is real.

DATHAN (O.C.)

The people's confidence in me is quite -- shaky at best -- my prince. I don't think that...

RAMSES

(Looks up at Dathan with angry stare)

I don't hire you to think. That's for me to do. All you need to do is find this man. Comb every street, every home, every secret hideout that the slaves have or keep hidden from us. Don't stop until you've found him and report back to me is that clear?

DATHAN (O.C.)

Yes -- my prince.

Ramses reaches behind his back and pulls out a bag full of gold coins and tosses it to dathan.

RAMSES

Get out of my sight.

DATHAN (O.C.)

My prince.

A quick bow, and Dathan leaves.

Ramses stares at the far wall.

He can his own reflection in the wall's surface.

RAMSES
I won't fail you father.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOSES'S BED CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Moses sleeps on his side. A glare of moonlight slices through the shears beside his bed.

Moses' eye lids jitter as he dreams.

A faint voice calls to moses.

Blackness engulfs and into his dream.

INT. MOSES' DREAM - DAY

Moses is standing alone in the middle of a desert. It is daytime, but also dim in brightness. He does not know where he is as he calls out.

MOSES
Hello? Hello!! Anybody here?

He turns slowly around to see nothing but desert sand. No Mountains, or Rivers or any signs of civilization.

He starts to feel isolated, scared and alone.

Moses chooses a direction to walk to and heads off.

EXT. DESERT - DREAM - CONTINUOUS

After what seems like hours to moses he stops to catch his breath. The heat of the desert does not work against him surprisingly enough. He should be thirsty, but remains cool and quite sanguine.

MOSES
Hello!!

A deep resonating voice answers...

VOICE (V.O.)
Dost thou come to me to seek
salvation?

A heart beat sound accompanies the voice.

MOSES
Hello? I uh, don't know where I am.
What is this place?

VOICE (V.O.)
I have always been here.

MOSES
No, where am I?

VOICE (V.O.)
In a place of no time. No past or present. Thee has come to me for answers.

MOSES
And - who are you?

VOICE (V.O.)
Time to come to me soon enough. Thy path has been set. Search for me and thou shall find me.

MOSES
A hint would be nice.

VOICE (V.O.)
Your hand shall guide you. I will bide my time to wait. For thee has been chosen.

MOSES
Chosen? For what?

Silence in the desert.

MOSES (CONT.)
Chosen for what?

As Moses turns around for a sign, Ramses uses a spear to kill Moses with.

INT. MOSES'S BED CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Moses wakes up startled but, lets out a sigh of relief.

He gets up out of bed, and moves to a table to pour some water into a goblet. After a healthy gulp he remains still to think of his dream.

Bithia walks in and joins him at his side.

BITHIA
Are you alright? I heard a strange noise.

Moses looks at his mother's sweet gentle eyes to see her concern.

MOSES

I just had a bad dream. Quite disturbing.

Bithia turns and walks towards Moses' honey-wine jugs.

BITHIA

Would you like me to warm up some honey wine? It'll help you sleep better.

Moses smiles then joins his mother with an embrace.

MOSES

(Lovingly)

No. I don't need any honeywine. Even princes have bad dreams.

BITHIA

Not my son. Not if I have anything to say about it. (Tightens embrace)

Moses rests his chin on top of her head.

He gazes to the outside world where he sees the many lights that shimmer from windows of fellow royal court members.

MOSES

Do you -- believe - in god?

Bithia looks up to hold Moses' gaze.

BITHIA

God? Who have you been talking to?

MOSES

No one. I just thought that since the slaves believe in such a person, then this god must be either real or made up to give them hope. It's probably why their determination to leave our lands is so strong.

Bithia parts from her son and stands before him.

BITHIA

Moses...

MOSES

(Low, Urgent)

I know what you're going to say. I just needed to know what your beliefs are. You never did tell me about what god you pray to.

BITHIA

(Hurried)

Moses, it's treason to even think about such things. Even talking about it is considered blasphemy.

MOSES

Mother, I may be many things but I've never went behind yours or seti's back. I just need to know if you think our gods are real.

BITHIA

I don't know.

(low voice)

I used to think they might be at one point in my life.

(cryptic)

However, after watching the tides of the nile or when thunder clouds appear I felt it was the gods toying with us. (A little louder) But understand moses... the forces that guide us are not always so benevolent as they might seem.

Moses turns on his heel... and stares at his empty bed.

MOSES

Benevolent.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GOSHEN - DATHAN - DAY

Dathan walks down a lonely dusty street as slaves rummage for water or food. They suffer but Dathan does not.

His overweight appearance tells them, that Dathan is quite content to be one of Ramses' lapdogs.

No one looks at him out of fear for their lives. He is their overseer after all.

EXT. GOSHEN - STREET LEVEL

Just ahead of Dathan, he sees a group of men huddled together by a lonely looking house.

Dathan chooses an alley and quickly moves to take a different route away from their sights.

EXT. ALLEY

He trots with a bit of difficulty in order to get a better vantage point to hopefully listen in on what the men are talking about.

EXT. LONELY HOUSE

The huddled group of men speak low but clear enough to be heard from an alley entrance where Dathan suddenly appears.

He hugs the wall of a sod hut and listens in.

MAN #1

Are you sure? There can't be any mistake about this.

Dathan's ears perk up... He inches closer to the walls edge.

MAN #2

(Worried)

I'm just afraid that ramses will find out about it. He has eyes and ears everywhere.

MAN #3

Not to mention that talking about this can get us killed. We don't even know if the deliverer is even real.

MAN #1

He is real.

EXT. ALLEY

Dathan's eyes widen as the word Deliverer is used.

MAN #2 (O.S.)

If it's true, it'll be a massacre all over again as it was years before.

EXT. LONELY HOUSE

Man number one moves closer to his men and says one name...

MAN #1

The elders think it might -- be Moses.

EXT. ALLEY

Dathan's expression becomes pale, and almost topples over.

The tip of his sandal accidentally scrapes the dirt.

EXT. LONELY HOUSE

Man number one hears it and turns to look at the alley entrance to see a small dust cloud swirling.

He bolts over quickly.

MAN #2

What is it?

MAN #1

I thought I heard something.

From the entrance, he sees nothing down the alley way except for some sandal prints left behind.

MAN #3

We can't stay. We'll split up and rendezvous later at our alternate spot.

All of them take a direction each and leave the area.

EXT. ALLEY

Dathan is practically breathless as he reaches the end of the alley and stops to rest.

Sweat beads down his lumpy forehead as he holds a hand on his chest. His eyes quickly dart right to left for signs of anyone who might be watching him.

When the coast is clear, he moves on.

EXT. JOSHUA'S HUT - LILIA - ROYAL GUARDS - AFTERNOON

Joshua is fighting the guards as his bride to be, Lilia is taken out of the house by force.

She shrieks for fear of Joshua's life.

JOSHUA

What are you doing? Why are you taking her?

HEAD GUARD

Don't be so overdramatic slave. She won't be harmed -- much.

The men laugh at Joshua's expense.

Joshua takes a swing and hammers one of the guard's on the side of the head and knocks him out.

Another guard uses the butt end of his sword and creams him in return, knocking him out.

They pick him up and toss him in a cart, while LILIA is placed into another cart and whisked away to an unknown location.

LILIA
JOSHUA!!

Nearby onlookers just stare and do nothing while the egyptian guards ride off with their prizes.

LATER ON...

INT. BAKA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Lilia wakes up to see that she is in another house. Fine decorations, plants, house maids and carved furniture. A LAVISH spread meant for one purpose only.

In fear, Lilia gets up from the floor and tries to escape when her wrist is caught by a very strong man, then tossed to the floor once more.

She looks up to see... Baka. (50'S)

A tall, muscular man whose presence gives off an eerie scent of death as he removes his garments with no shame or embarassment. Even in front of his own house maidens.

LILIA
(Meek, sobbing)
Please, don't --

BAKA
Don't -- do what? I've kept my eye
on you slave. Such -- beauty that
it can't be compared to even our
own women.

A house maiden looks at Baka's bare back while he is naked in front of Lilia. Baka approaches her slowly, with assured steps to make his body muscles ripple.

This is too much for Lilia as she closes both eyes and screams.

Baka grabs Lilia and ravishes her brutally.

On a nearby wall their shadows are seen as she lets out another ear piercing scream.

EXT. SLUMS - JOSHUA - NIGHT

A group of guards tosses Joshua to the dirty, muddy road and laugh in his face. They walk away leaving Joshua to wallow in self pity of not being able to save LILIA.

Although it's night, it's also chilly. He shivers and glances around to see if anyone will help him.

He gets up and chooses a direction to walk to.

A very lonely walk.

FADE TO:

INT. BAKA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lilia is lying face down on the floor naked and sobbing. Baka is sitting close by watching her with vested interest as he sips from a goblet.

His house maidens walk over and help Lilia to her feet.

BAKA

I think joshua will grateful now that you've become a worthy companion to him. I must say however, you had very little education when it comes to love-making. Such innocence. No wonder you slaves were so easily subdued.

She hobbles to a bed and the house maidens help her lie down on her stomach. They begin to rub her down with body oils.

BAKA (CONT.)

I may yet keep you a bit longer. Who knows? You might even become one of my concubines. At least until I'm granted permission from the pharaoh.

Baka's face contorts to grin with a devilish smile as he observes his maids working.

CUT TO:

INT. MOSES'S STABLES - DAWN

Joshua sleeps in the strawbeds of a horse stall. His body is wracked with caked on dirt that look like scabs.

Moses enters the stable.

He sees Joshua sleeping on his side.

Moses kneels and shakes Joshua awake.

MOSES

(Whispers)

Joshua, joshua. Wake up joshua.

Joshua stirs and slowly wakes up. He cranes his head upward to see Moses above him.

Like an angel of salvation.

JOSHUA

Moses.

Moses passes over a satchel of water. Joshua sits up to take it and drinks heavily.

A few coughs later, Moses helps him stand up.

MOSES

What are you doing here? If any of the guards caught you you'd be sent to the lion pits.

Joshua stares down at the satchel. Moses notices how his hands shake.

JOSHUA

(Forlorn, desperate)

I'm sorry. But you're the only one I can turn to.

MOSES

What's happened? Why are you so - filthy?

JOSHUA

It's lilia.

A worried Moses exchanges glances with Joshua.

MOSES

Lilia? What do you mean?

JOSHUA

She's been taken -- by baka. His guards stormed into our home and took her to him.

MOSES

How do you know it was baka?

JOSHUA

The chariot and carts had his seal
on the front.

Moses unties one of the horses from its mooring rails.

MOSES

Damn him. Baka knows it's forbidden
to mingle with the slave women.
Even seti decreed that law.

Moses mounts and spurs the horse as guards enter the stables
with spears.

MOSES

Don't harm him. Bring him some food
and water, and then set him on his
way.

GUARD

(Confused)

My lord?

MOSES

Do it! A great injustice has just
occurred and I'm going to find out
why.

GUARD

Yes prince moses.

Moses and his horse thunders out of the stables.

JOSHUA'S face expresses on how broken his will is while the
guards help him exit the stables. He glances back to see
Moses on horseback riding away.

EXT. STREETS - MOSES RIDES - MORNING

From a veranda, a citizen watches Moses race down the street
to the ELITE housing of the pharaoh's retainers. One of
those houses stands taller than most.

Baka's house.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Moses rides like the winds as he traverses around street
vendors or pedestrians.

Moses weaves and bobs around obstacles shouting out...

MOSES

Make way! Make way!

A few bystanders turns to see Moses as he zips past and startles them.

EXT. BAKA'S HOME - ONE HUNDRED FEET AWAY - MORNING

Moses dismounts his horse and slaps its rear end to send it off back to the stables.

He then moves cautiously around the wall that surrounds Baka's home.

EXT. WALL CORNER

He hugs the wall while a few guards walk towards his location as they chatter of their master -- Baka.

GUARD #1

You should have heard them last night. Master baka went all out again.

GUARD #2

You know he's supposedly well hung like his prize horse I hear.

GUARD #1

Ah! Another rumor.

On the ground, Moses can see both of their shadows get closer to the wall's edge.

Moses backs off a few feet while he keeps on eye on their shadows.

Their shadows stop.

Moses waits as they continue to gossip.

GUARD #1 (O.S.) (CONT.)

Why is it that the rich always grabs the beautiful women first? For once I'd like to have my own whore to use for a night like Baka does.

GUARD #2 (O.S.)

Tell me about it. I have to look at my wife when I come home and find that her teeth have shattered from drinking too much wine.

Both men laugh and turn to walk back from where they came from.

Moses fixes his gaze on the shadows, then inches to the wall's edge to see them round the far end of the wall and disappear.

He moves forward, quietly.

EXT. FRONT GATES - CONTINUOUS

Moses carefully opens the gates and enters Baka's property.

EXT. BAKA'S DOMAIN

Moses glances around for signs of guards or Baka himself. All is quiet -- so far.

Moses keeps to the shadows provided from trees and bushes as he makes his way closer to Baka's home.

A house maiden walks out of the house with a pitcher and moves to a well. From the corner of her eye she can see -- Moses standing close to a tree.

He places his finger to his lips, and motions her to leave the property quietly.

She obeys and exits via the front gate.

EXT. FRONT GATES - CONTINUOUS

The maid leaves hastily and runs off, just as Dathan appears by his lonesome.

He stops at the gate and peeks in to see...

EXT. BAKA'S DOMAIN - MOSES

... Moses as he stealthily moves up to the house and hears Baka's voice from inside.

BAKA (O.C.)
Come to me... Come to baka my
lovely whore.

Moses his eyes... His fist clenches tightly as he builds the courage to rush into Baka's home to see...

INT. BAKA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

... Lilia as she is being ravaged again by Baka. Both of them are naked while the house maidens stand by watching such a horrific act of utter filth from such a prominent man.

MOSES
BAKA!!

Baka turns to see Prince Moses.

BAKA

(Startled, surprised)

What are you doing here? Breaking into my house without just cause.

MOSES

Cause? You were told years ago that the slave women are forbidden territory! And here you are, lusting after another one. When are you going to learn? The pharaoh is going to hear about this.

As Moses turns to leave, Baka in his naked state, grabs a nearby knife and lunges at MOSES while the house maidens flee.

Lilia drops to the floor in a daze while both men fight it out.

From her POV on the floor, she watches moses stave off Baka's advances. Such a sight to see while half aware of her surroundings.

Moses dodges Baka's knife with ease and finds an opening. He then disarms him and wraps his right arm around Baka's neck and squeezes hard.

Baka starts to choke, wheeze and struggles to breathe. He bashes Moses' forearm to free himself, but to no avail.

Baka's life quickly drains out of his body in front of Lilia who is half conscious on the floor.

LILIA

(Weak, half hearted)

Moses -- stop. Please - stop.

Moses' strength says it all, as Baka's neck cracks!!

LILIA

(Closes eyes, weeps)

No. Oh, no.

Moses drops Baka's dead corpse.

Then moves over to lilia to help as he removes his cape to cover her nakedness.

EXT. FRONT GATES - CONTINUOUS

At the same time... Dathan has enough information to be a witness against moses.

Joshua arrives and quickly ducks away to a shadow to avoid Dathan.

Dathan turns to see nothing.

He leaves.

Joshua then moves to the front gates and enters.

EXT. BAKA'S DOMAIN

Joshua enters the court yard to see that it is empty of guards and quickly rushes over to the pavilion to see Moses walk out with Lilia in his arms.

Joshua falls to his knees in front of him.

JOSHUA

Moses? What did you do?

Moses stands before him -- like a savior or god.

MOSES

Baka won't be a problem anymore. I took care of it. (Looks at Lilia)

Joshua sheds tears upon his cheeks.

JOSHUA

Do you know what this means? If the pharaoh finds out what you've done, you'll be executed. Dathan was outside -- watching.

Hearing such news Moses turns pale, his face is grim.

MOSES

Take her. Take her and go. I'll - I'll figure this out. Go.

Joshua grabs Lilia from his arms and exits the grounds.

Moses stands alone in the middle of the courtyard and thinks.

For a brief instant, he gets an idea. Then moves back into the house to do something about Baka's body.

LATER ON...

EXT. SAND DUNES - DAY

Moses is digging a grave at a remote location far enough away from the city of Thebes.

Digging by hand.

He stops for a moment, and looks over at Baka's dead corpse.

Moses cringes in fear and hastens his digging.

MOSES

(At Baka)

You idiot! If you'd just -- curb
your libido none of this would have
been necessary. Now look at you.

Digs faster - - faster.

His emotions build until finally, they burst.

MOSES (CONT.)

AHHHH!

Moses stares ahead blankly... The emotions lessen, but keeps
his resolve to the task at hand.

He does not look at baka as he finishes his digging.

MOSES (CONT.)

(Incoherent)

Stupid man. Such - - useless waste.

Moses stops digging and moves over to drag Baka's body to
the grave.

Rolls him in.

Moses stands there, looks down for a moment, and fills the
grave.

Once the grave is filled after a good hour, Moses leaves but
does not realize that he is leaving sandal prints behind for
anyone to discover.

He walks as if in a daze back to thebes.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE PALACE - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Ramses stands next to a cart's back end where his guards
keep a body covered.

He lifts the cover to see Baka under it.

RAMSES

When I found out that moses was
behind in his work of building the
(MORE)

RAMSES (cont'd)
treasure city, I thought it had
something to do with our architect
here. Where did you find him?

ROYAL GUARD
A few leagues south of the city.
There were footprints in the sand
that led us to his -- body. They
didn't bother to cover them up.

The corpse's neckline display stresses in the skin and
redness.

RAMSES
He was choked to death. Neck
broken, lesions too. Whoever did
this had strength. I doubt it was a
slave.

ROYAL GUARD
The prints in the sand suggests
that whoever it was - was egyptian.

RAMSES
How can you be so sure?

The royal guard removes his sandal and shows ramses the
sole.

ROYAL GUARD
See these stitches? They are the
same in the sand. The slaves use a
more cropped stitch to their soles.

Ramses looks at the sole and then his guard.

RAMSES
Perhaps you killed baka.

The royal guard grumbles as Ramses hands him his sandal.

RAMSES
Relax. It would take forever to
find whoever killed him. But to be
safe, post extra guards outside the
palace, and bolster more men for
nefritiri.

ROYAL GUARD
Understood my prince.

RAMSES
Go.

The royal guards leave ramses with the body.

Yet just to Ramses left, wanders over the ill-reputed Dathan who has a smug look on his face.

Ramses hears him coming.

RAMSES (CONT.)

I hope that you have some good news for me?

DATHAN

I do.

RAMSES

And?

DATHAN

It was an egyptian who killed baka.

Ramses turns around to face Dathan.

RAMSES

How can you be so sure? Unless you knew who it was.

Dathan glances over to the corpse then to Ramses.

A hard gaze.

DATHAN

As you appointed me your - - eyes and ears. I found that there is a group of rebels who have been meeting in secret and speaking about -- the deliverer.

RAMSES

(Angry, irritated)

I didn't ask about the deliverer. I was asking about who killed Baka. So, who was it?

DATHAN

The deliverer.

RAMSES

Dathan --- I'm going to...

DATHAN

The deliverer this group spoke of is moses. Just as he is the same man who killed baka. It seems that baka was -- in a fruitful game of
(MORE)

DATHAN (cont'd)

lust with one of the slave women. A woman of incredible beauty. Companion to a stone cutter named joshua.

RAMSES

Joshua. He was the same man I met when I tried to get my father to arrest moses for stealing our grain and feeding the slaves.

DATHAN

Precisely.

Ramses' excitement grows knowing that Moses is to blame for this debacle.

RAMSES

Where's moses now?

DATHAN

No one knows. Once he buried the body he went into hiding. I haven't been able to track or find any leads as to his whereabouts.

RAMSES

Then find him. I don't care how long it takes, find him.

DATHAN

What about the cutter and his woman?

RAMSES

I'll deal with them. But, if you can find moses, I'll grant you anything you want. Including the woman.

DATHAN

Then I'll be on my way.

Dathan leaves ramses alone.

Ramses crooks his mouth to show a thin grin, which grows to a full smile.

A dream has come true.

EXT. BRICK PITS - MONTHS LATER - DAY

A disguised Moses covered in mud, clay and cut straw bits shovels dirt next to a line of men who do the same work.

Since his disappearance, the whipmasters have not lost their touch when he spots one lashing a slave for dropping his load of dirt.

The whip cuts his back open and exposes muscle tissue.

WHIPMASTER

Get up! Get back to work you filthy pig! Move it!

SLAVE

Ah! Ahh! Please!

WHIPMASTER

Move it! (Lashes harder)

Moses is disgusted by the bloodlust from the whipmasters. But does not involve himself as he finishes loading dirt and moves on to the mud pits.

Moses' eyes scans the area for any sign of possible trouble.

The blistering heat causes some of the slaves to collapse.

Low standing guards drag them away roughly.

EXT. BODY PIT

The low guards toss them into the pit to join other corpses.

Flies, rats, and other scavengers feast on the bodies.

EXT. MOSES - DISCOVERED - DAY

As Moses dumps his load of dirt into the pits a tall guard approaches Moses and manhandles him.

TALL GUARD

You slave. Come with me.

MOSES

But I need to finish my work.

TALL GUARD

You'll get work. Move.

Moses drops his gear and accompanies the guard.

Other slaves watch quietly.

Moses casts a worried look.

EXT. YACHT PIER - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Moses stands alone in front of a row of guards while one of them grabs a pail of water and soaks Moses with it.

For a moment, no one seems to recognize him... Until...

EXT. NEFRITIRI'S BARGE - CONTINUOUS

Nefritiri exits her cabin and almost collapses as she sees...

NEFRITIRI

Moses?

The guards stand ready with their spears pointed.

Moses knows that there is no way out or any possible escape.

TALL GUARD

Moses? We've been looking for you.
The pharaoh has many questions to
ask. So, don't make this more
difficult than it has to be.

Nefritiri walks down the plank from her barge. Moses looks to the side to avoid eye contact, but nefritiri is not afraid to confront him.

When she stands in front of Moses...

Tears trickle down her cheeks as her right hand slaps him hard on the cheek.

The sound can be heard all over the wharf.

A guard smirks to see that Moses surrenders with no incident.

NEFRITIRI

How could you? How could you betray
seti like that? After all he's done
for you! How? (SLAPS AGAIN)

He remains silent, calm, sanguine.

TALL GUARD

Take him away.

As they remove moses, Nefritiri has one last comment to him.

NEFRITIRI

You know what I had found out recently?

The guards turns moses around to face her.

NEFRITIRI (CONT.)

(Upset, saddened)

Our -- dear memnet told me that you -- moses. Are a son - of a slave. I killed that bitch to keep it secret from him. Now - I, am going to lose everything because of you. Because of this secret, your mother will go into exile or worse. Tharbis and her aids are going to be imprisoned and ramses -- ramses is going to kill you. For what? Over baka's lust for a mere slave?

MOSES

Slave? Such a convenient word to use for you -- isn't it? Isn't it?

The guards help him get closer to nefritiri, but keep him back far enough to let him have his say.

MOSES (CONT.)

What I saw -- out there, is beyond human. People breaking their backs for seti's treasure city. And what reward do they get in return? Scraps from his table and relentless cruelty from his whipmasters. They are broken to the point of challenging the guards for a quick death!

Nefritiri's eyes never leave his. She exudes an admiration for Moses even through his treachery.

MOSES (CONT.)

I thought you of all people would see their suffering, but you don't see anything but aspirations to the throne. (TEARS WELL UP) I took a stand against baka because he broke a sacred law that seti set forth to be obeyed. But, it seems that even his decrees are being ignored by his closest aids. So -- why shouldn't I apply the law myself?

NEFRITIRI

You killed an egyptian. An important man. He would have been deposed for a length of time, but seti would not have killed him. Only a savage -- (CRIES) like you would ever do that.

Moses freely sobs as the guards haul him away roughly.

Nefritiri weeps and kneels on the pier to wallow in self pity.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PRISON CELL - MOSES - RAMSES - WEEKS LATER - NIGHT

Moses sits alone naked on the cold stone floor.

He then hears footfalls walk calmly down the hall.

Moses looks up and readies himself.

At his cell door, Ramses arrives and squats to eye level.

RAMSES

To think that you - son of a slave could live under our roof for so long. I never once thought that was possible. Such a surprising turn of events. Even before your mother's death...

MOSES

Bithia is dead?

RAMSES

No. Your natural mother -- yochabel died in her sleep. Probably after she found out that you were caught as a murderer. Your whole world is crumbling moses.

From an adjoining cell, a prisoner watches them talk.

RAMSES (CONT.)

For years I tried to put the blame on you for many of my failings. But Seti was too clever to know how your heart felt for that to work. I just had to bide my time. Now that it's come to this moment, I don't even know what he is going to do with you. (SMIRKS) But I can pretty
(MORE)

RAMSES (CONT.) (cont'd)
 well imagine the punishment he's
 going to come up with. It's going
 to be glorious.

MOSES
 Why after all this time of growing
 up together, did we become enemies?
 I thought of you as my brother.

RAMSES
 Simple deduction. I just hate you.

Moses glances away from Ramses.

RAMSES (O.S.)
 Don't worry moses. I'll take good
 care of nefritiri. She won't love
 me like she did with you. But, that
 really doesn't matter now does it?
 A woman should be just there as
 decoration. A painting for the
 courts to admire. Wouldn't you
 agree?

Ramses walks away from the cell.

Moses hugs his knees closer to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COPPER MINES OF GEBER - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Vultures fly over the mines as workers push and pull carts
 in and out of a mine's shaft. Among them in front of a line
 of carts is... Joshua who helps another prisoner in chains
 push a cart towards a pile of rocks, where sorters searches
 for the valuable copper ore.

Both are drenched in sweat under the midday sun that beats
 its hot rays down upon the weary prisoners.

JOSHUA
 (Tired, weak)
 How long have you been here?

PRISONER
 Around -- ten years now.

JOSHUA
 Ten years.

PRISONER

It's not so bad. Once you get used
to the rotten food and stagnant
water they shove at us.

JOSHUA

(Weaker, faints)

I have to get back to thebes. Lilia
-- lilia...

As Joshua falls so does his prisoner/partner because of the
chain that binds them together as one.

A guard rushes over with a spear.

MINE GUARD

Is he dead?

PRISONER

No. Just collapsed.

MINE GUARD

Then take him to the barracks.

PRISONER

Yes sir.

The prisoner then picks up Joshua and loads him onto his
bowed back for a hike back to the barracks.

With some difficulty he hobbles on.

Dust clouds from the worker's feet surrounds him and Joshua
but he is used to such nuisances.

INT. BARRACKS - MOMENTS LATER

Prisoner enters the barracks with joshua on his back and
moves over to a blanket not far from the entrance.

Prisoner sets Joshua down on the blanket but leaves his left
wrist free so that the chain can remain loose. He sits
beside Joshua and uses a cloth to wipe his face down with.

He glances over to the entrance to see his fellow inmates
toil endlessly.

PRISONER

Only death separates us from this
place. You'll soon learn this my
friend.

Prisoner glances down to Joshua who breathes with
difficulty.

Joshua's eyelids show R.e.m. He dreams.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BAKA'S HOUSE - NOW DATHAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dathan is dressed in regal garments while his house maidens work around the home tending to their duties.

In the middle of the main room is Lilia tied to a post naked and on display for Dathan to admire when ever he pleases.

He walks over to Lilia and starts to explore her shapely body with growing lust with his pudgy hands and stubby fingers.

She shows shame as she tries to convince him to let her go.

LILIA

Please, please free me. I - can't stand...

DATHAN

Stand to be with me? You did relent and allowed me to take you as my property. I even spared joshua's life in return.

Dathan rubs his hands over her outer thighs only to embarrass her even more.

DATHAN (O.S.)

So what if he got ten years there. He'll die in less than a year. Now being in my presence -- well, you'll get to know riches beyond imagination. Let me show you.

His right hand creeps between her legs.

LILIA

(Frantic, shrieks)

No! No!! OH GOD PLEASE!

Maids continue to work and pay no attention to Dathan as he ravages Lilia so brazenly and without mercy.

She cries and tries to wiggle herself to keep Dathan from advancing further, but it is no use. His lust knows no bounds as he disrobes to show his disgusting fat form in all its glory.

A ceiling shadow displays her shape and form while her voice bellow sobs that echo.

INT. PRISON CELL - MOSES - DAY

Moses hears heavy footfalls of soldiers. He stands up to face the cell door without embarrassment from his nudity.

Soldiers arrive at his door and a guard opens it.

Three enter to place chains on his wrists, ankles and waist.

Once done, another guard slips a pole behind his back to keep him subdued.

Moses is then led out naked to face his doom by Seti.

INT. PRISON - HALLWAY

Moses is led through the dark corridors of the dungeon.

INT. ROYAL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Seti sits on his throne while his royal retainers stand behind him in a long line east to west like a human wall.

From his position, he sees the doors open and there in front of Seti, is Moses. Naked being led in by his royal guards. Nefritiri is not present.

Nor is BITHIA.

It is between just he and Moses.

SETI

(Whispers)

Where is Moses? What have you done with him?

MOSES

Pharaoh, I -- have no excuse. I am a slave. A son of a slave. One that killed baka with my own hands because of his -- hunger.

SETI

You killed our chief architect. One that has stood beside me for years as one of the most noblest of men. Yes, he - took females but that was his right.

MOSES

Even though he broke your own laws?

SETI

(Broken, saddened)

He was egyptian. You - were --
egyptian too. I even thought of you
as my own son on many occasions.
Bithia is to be exiled never to be
seen or heard from again. Why?
Moses? Why? Why has it come to
this?

Those words ring out inside of Moses' thoughts.

An endless chime that haunts him as Seti gets up from this
throne to approach moses.

Seti removes his regal helmet and drops his scepters.

The anger within his royal body starts to show itself in the
form of a hand that strike Moses on the left cheek.

SETI

I loved you. Made you my pillar of
justice to this world. Only to lose
it all in one swift stroke.

Ramses shows up out of nowhere.

RAMSES (O.C.)

Do you wish me to kill him?

Seti looks over to ramses in slight confusion.

SETI

And you...

By his father's tone of voice, even ramses cannot escape his
wrathful displeasure.

SETI (CONT.)

You who continuously badgered him
from when he was a child to
adulthood. Getting him into all
forms of trouble only to look the
other way. A spoiled child, a
ruthless child! Now his
executioner. Are you happy now
RAMSES?! ARE YOU! (Sobs)

Ramses shows no emotions of any kind.

SETI (CONT.)

Fine. You kill him. I wash my hands
of it all!

Seti walks out of the throne room with his retainers.

Ramses approaches Moses and looks at him for a moment.

He smiles devilishly.

NEXT DAY...

EXT. CHARIOT - MOSES - RAMSES - DAY

A long line of chariots races across the desert sands with Ramses in the lead. Moses is dressed in just a tattered gown which is low enough to cover his knees.

MOSES

Where are we going ramses?

RAMSES

To the farthest reaches of our borders.

MOSES

A long ride just to kill me.

RAMSES

Oh, there's a surprise - don't worry.

In the sky are a group of ibis birds that glide over the line of chariots as they reach a stone obelisk two hundred feet high.

They all stop at its base.

EXT. MONOLITH - CONTINUOUS

Moses hops down to the sands as Ramses gathers a few things from the floor of his chariot.

Moses stares at the giant obelisk.

Behind him, Ramses carries a bundled pack. He opens it and tosses Moses a cloak.

RAMSES

Your natural mother made bithia hold onto this. Before she died, she made bithia promise to hand it over to you. Since she's in exile now, the matter was handed to me. As a courtesy to her I agreed to give the cloak to you instead.

Guards release him from his chains.

Moses slips on the cloak, which has a levite embroidered pattern, which signifies his family's household.

Another guard hands Moses the pole he was bound in. Then he hands over a water pouch.

MOSES

You're releasing me? Why?

RAMSES

Think of it as stifling seti's dreams of you. If I had killed you he would be in a tortuous amount of pain and anguish by your ghost. I want him to hand egypt to me with his sanity intact. I'll just tell him that you escaped from our custody and that you killed more guards to assure your freedom. I'll even sacrifice my one of my own fingers in the process.

Moses is stunned by this turn of events. He has nothing to say to Ramses.

He turns around to face his freedom.

In the deepest parts of an unforgiving desert.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Don't ever come back moses. If you do, then you will know how my anger can dictate my hands at your throat. Go. Leave the slaves to me.

Moses walks past the obelisk while behind him, Ramses and company ride off in their chariots back to thebes.

He stops to look back to see dust clouds cover their tracks.

Moses then turns to resume his exile.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - NEXT DAY - HIGH NOON

Moses walks along a jagged row of rocks towards a set of mountains that extend east and west as if forever.

Hot sands at his sandaled feet make it difficult to walk across.

Moses stops to take a drink from his water pouch.

Once it has emptied, Moses tosses the pouch away.

He shows signs of dehydration.

Chapped lips.

Burned skin.

BLEND TO:

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - DAYS LATER - HOT SUN

Moses weaves and swerves side to side as if drunk. Lack of sleep hinders his walk as he tries to keep in a straight line.

He sees strange images on the desert sands. Images of people or animals warbling heat waves that rise off the tundra.

There is no wind to help cool his body.

Just a stagnant heat all round him.

With no strength left, he collapses face first.

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - NIGHT

As moses lies unconscious on the ground, he dreams...

INT. DREAM - A FACELESS GHOST

Moses stands in the middle of the desert once again to see nothing. His clothes reflect the cloak he wears, and is healthy, vibrant.

VOICE (V.O.)

Dost thou seek me?

MOSES

Who are you? Why am I here?

VOICE (V.O.)

Thou hast come to search for thine answers. Answers to my existence. Thou will come to the great mountain -- SINAI in the hopes that thee will finally come to know thyself.

Moses expresses confusion from such an enigmatic and cryptic comment.

MOSES

Just -- tell me your name. So that -- I'll know who I'm talking to.

VOICE (V.O.)

I am is the voice that you have
come to know. Seek the voice on
SINAI and it shall be revealed to
thee.

MOSES

When? How long will it take?

Silence.

MOSES (CONT.)

Hello? -- Hello!?

Silence.

MOSES (CONT.)

... Sinai.

The word echoes in his dream.

Moses looks at the ground. He closes his eyes.

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - NIGHT

Moses wakes up.

With some effort, he stands up to face a fruit tree standing
in front of him, which was not there before.

He glances around to see nothing but empty sands and rocks.

Carefully, he reaches out to touch the bark and finds it to
be real as his fingers trace the bark's features. Moses
looks up to see a bushel of dates hanging low enough for him
to grab.

He wastes no time in grabbing them and starts to eat them
almost whole.

After a couple of gags, he clears his throat to eat some
more.

The sweetness and irristable taste causes moses' eyes to
droop and become dozy once more. After eating enough, he
falls down and lands unconscious again.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - MORNING

He sleeps on his side with the bushel of dates as his
pillow.

A faint Bah! from a sheep wakes him up.

Thinking that Ramses might have gone after him, he quickly gets up, and hides behind some giant boulders.

EXT. BOULDER

He watches quietly. From his viewpoint, he can see a herd of sheep huddled together under the morning sun, which starts to crest over a mountain top.

What he does not see -- and behind him, is a woman armed with a staff.

She approaches Moses cautiously.

Moses does not hear her.

At least not until her toe disturbs a pebble, which makes Moses spin around.

The woman then tries to bash his skull in.

WOMAN

Who are you?

Moses tries to answer while dodging her swings, when he suddenly hears shrieks coming from the short distance.

Without thinking, he bolts to the sound.

WOMAN

Wait!

EXT. WATER WELL - SISTERS

Moses arrives with his staff to see a group of men vying for the water well, which is clearly off limits to them.

THUG

Move it tramp.

SISTER NUMBER ONE

That's our well. You don't have any right to it.

SISTER NUMBER TWO

Go find your own well. Our father owns this one.

THUG

We don't know your father.

SISTER NUMBER THREE

You can read can't you? Look.
(Points to INSIGNIA)

THUG

Nope. Get lost. We'll be done in a minute.

MOSES

You'll be done now.

THUG

Who the hell are you?

MOSES

A passing wanderer who asks what right do you have to the well that clearly doesn't belong to you?

THUG

Hear that boys? A lonely wanderer just suddenly made my day. (Throws a punch)

Moses quickly dodges and offers his own fist under the man's chin -- hard!

A loud hollow clunk sound follows.

His friends join in, but are held back by Moses who wields his staff as if it was part of his body.

Crack across one of their skulls.

Another, then another. Six in all.

The women all stare in amazement to see such bravery from such a valiant stranger.

When the last man is defeated...

MOSES

Learn this, and learn this well. You who raise sheep know full well that who so ever draws water first are the rightful owners to it. Be grateful that I don't abuse the judgement on you further.

THUG

Fine. Fine. We'll go.

MOSES

Tell the rest of them to wait for their turn.

THUG

Yeah yeah.

The thug leaves with his cronies and move on to pass the message.

Sheep Bah!! As thanks to Moses.

The woman who tried to knock him senseless approaches him.

WOMAN

Who are you?

MOSES

Moses. I'm - son of Yochabel. From egypt.

SISTERS

Egypt?

WOMAN

Wh - Why have you come all this way?

MOSES

To look for something.

WOMAN

Something?

MOSES

Since I told you my name, what's yours?

WOMAN

I'm Zipphora. Eldest daughter to my father, the shiek of Midian. And these flock of cackling hens are my younger sisters.

MOSES

A pleasure.

The sisters croon and giggle to Moses' comment.

Moses glances over to the thugs who remain stationary at a good distance away.

MOSES (CONT.)

Do they always try to steal your water?

ZIPPHORA

No. This was the only time. But they have tried other childish acts of disturbances against my father.

MOSES

Why not have them banished then?

ZIPPHORA

If my father did, then the other elders he's involved with would raise concerns. Some of those - men are their sons.

MOSES

I see. Family strife often brings misery on some level.

Zipphora looks on Moses to see that he is no ordinary man or wanderer. Even his vocational skills are top shelf.

ZIPPHORA

Are you hungry?

Moses looks at Zipphora.

MOSES

I uh -- have these.

He holds up a sprig of dates still tied to his waist.

Sisters giggle.

ZIPPHORA

That's not enough to fill up your belly. You need better food. Come and meet with my father.

MOSES

I don't want to impose.

ZIPPHORA

If you were I'd let you know.

Her sisters begin to haul back their water and herd the sheep.

MOSES

Thank you.

Zipphora leads them all back to their home.

Moses follows.

INT. BARRACKS - JOSHUA - DAY

Joshua sleeps and thinks about... Lilia.

Visions of her fill his thoughts.

Images flash by -- Lilia smiling, singing, bathing with Joshua.

Images are replaced with horror, Baka, Dathan, with Lilia suffering between them.

Joshua breaths quickly. His eyelids move trying to open.

JOSHUA
Lilia... Lilia... No, NO NO!!

He jolts awake and sits up.

His partner watches with a Stoic gaze as if he's seen it all before.

Joshua glances to his chained partner.

JOSHUA
(Whispers)
What happened?

PRISONER
You collapsed. You've been asleep
for two days now.

Joshua sighs relief.

JOSHUA
Why didn't I die?

PRISONER
A dead worker is a useless worker.
The guards don't care how long you
sleep for to gain your strength.
Just as long as you're useful in
the mines. Here, eat.

His partner hands over a bowl of soup with meat pieces.

Joshua looks at it, and wants to throw up.

JOSHUA
No. I can't eat this.

PRISONER
You have no choice. Eat and get
better. Or wither up and waste away
to a husk. Because if you do die,
the guards will feed your body to
the dogs.

Joshua then tries his best to eat the filthy soup.

Prisoner watches slightly amused.

PRISONER

Who is lilia?

JOSHUA

(Hesitant, unsure)

She's my -- my companion.

PRISONER

Ah. A good woman?

JOSHUA

I would die for her. But she's being kept against her will.

PRISONER

That's not how you spoke of it during your nightmare.

JOSHUA

What? How dare you eavesdrop. That's private.

Prisoner holds up his wrist.

PRISONER

Did I have a choice?

JOSHUA

You could have covered your ears.

Joshua slurps his soup with more zeal.

PRISONER

Listen, for what it's worth -- I, too had someone in my life. A remarkable woman. One who -- would do anything for our family.

Joshua's curious nature gets the better of him.

JOSHUA

What happened?

PRISONER

We were heading towards Cannen. A caravan was moving supplies across the desert, and we offered to help in exchange for lodging and food. Things were going well, until a band of thieves managed to overthrow our escorting guards and took the supplies along with our women. Some of the children were taken too. Including my son and daughter.

Joshua stops eating to listen closely.

PRISONER (CONT.)

Afterward the surviving men decided to go after them and hunt them down. I volunteered to be in the search party. It took several days to find the thieves. They were using an abandoned Caracal cave to store the caravan's supplies. Our stolen wives and children were kept in cages, ready to be sold to slavers. We had to move fast. But -- they must have anticipated our attack at some point. When we got close enough there was a trap laid out for us. A pitfall was used, which had numerous spikes buried deep.

Prisoner holds his left leg up to show a wide scar.

PRISONER (CONT.)

I was one of the lucky ones.

JOSHUA

So they took you too and brought you here?

PRISONER

It was a fair trade. My life for my family's. If I resisted, they warned me that they would gut both my son and daughter in front of me.

JOSHUA

I'm -- sorry.

PRISONER

No need to apologize. It's been ten years since that day. I just hope that my wife and children are doing better than I am.

Joshua puts down his bowl.

JOSHUA

What if we could get out of here?

Prisoner looks surprised, but feels that Joshua needs to face reality.

PRISONER

And go where? It's hundreds of leagues in every direction. There is no safe haven out there. Just endless desert. With no hope of survival. You would need weeks of water to even make it half way.

JOSHUA

I know but I can't just -- give up. I need to save Lilia. And to find the deliverer.

PRISONER

The who?

JOSHUA

One that will free the slaves of Goshen.

PRISONER

You really believe that? The heat must have affected your reasoning.

Joshua looks at his partner blankly... a touch of irritation overcomes him.

JOSHUA

Look, you may have given up but I need to do this. I have to go back.

Joshua stands up pulling his partner's wrist at the same time.

PRISONER

Whoa! Easy. I still need my arm.

JOSHUA

Do the guards switch at certain times?

As he stands...

PRISONER

Yes. Every five hours. But the last change was an hour ago.

JOSHUA

I can use that.

Joshua pulls out from under his tunic a crude set of tongs.

PRISONER

Where did you get that?

JOSHUA

I made it.

PRISONER

How without heat?

JOSHUA

I have my talents other than being
a stone cutter. Give me your wrist.

Prisoner offers his wrist and Joshua uses the tongs to pull out the pin that keeps the shackle closed.

He then replaces the pin with a small twig and colors it with some soot from a nearby fire pit.

Prisoner is impressed by such ingenuity.

Joshua puts away the tongs when a guard appears before them.

MINE GUARD

Good, you're finally awake. Ready
to work slave?

JOSHUA

Yes.

MINE GUARD

Then follow me.

Joshua glances at his partner and smiles amusingly.

JOSHUA

Just stick close to me. I think I
know a way out of the mines.

PRISONER

You're insane. You won't make it.

JOSHUA

(Whispers)

Yes I will.

Prisoner looks shocked. He squints as they follow the guard to the mine entrance.

INT. JETHRO'S HOME - DUSK

Moses sits in front of an old man. A wise and sage chief of his children and of his people. Zippora waits behind the chief who is also her father -- Jethro.

JETHRO

How was the meal? Was it to your
liking?

MOSES

Yes, thank you.

JETHRO

Zipphora told me on what you did at my well. I thank you for that. Most of the local men have very poor manners but they are hard workers. Don't judge them too harshly. They are simply -- misguided is all.

MOSES

I just don't like seeing a woman manhandled. It doesn't sit well with me.

JETHRO

I understand. So, what brings you out here?

MOSES

I come from egypt.

JETHRO

You walked on foot across the desert? Without water? Surely the god without a name was watching you closely.

MOSES

(Perplexed)

Who is this -- god?

JETHRO

We don't know his true name. We only know that our people are his witnesses for what is to come.

MOSES

What does that mean?

JETHRO

It means simply that -- men shall inherit the earth. But men often squander their own potential for riches or glory. You don't seem like a person who is on the path for riches.

MOSES

I'm searching for answers to questions I don't understand.

JETHRO

From a philosophical stand point,
you might be one that wants to know
what god is. Or what his whole
purpose might be.

MOSES

I've had -- dreams lately. Strange
dreams where I am speaking to
someone I can't see. And, he spoke
in a very strange tongue.

JETHRO

The angelic form. Sometimes it's
hard to make out but most times he
will add a certain clue to a
person's journey. Perhaps the clue
in your dreams is something
obvious.

MOSES

He did say... Seek me out at SINAI.

Both look at one another and do not say another word.

Zipphora expresses concern.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SHEEP FIELDS - YEARS LATER - DAY

Moses walks among the sheep herding them gently with his
staff and offers a soft chirpy sound from his tongue.

As he moves them to another part of the field to eat more
weeds his eye catches a faint glimmer far off in the
distance.

Moses stops to gaze at it.

He waits a couple of seconds, then sees the glimmer again.

Then a human shape wandering aimlessly.

It reminds him of what he went through.

EXT. MOSE'S SON - AGE FOUR - CONTINUOUS

His young son GERSHOM (6) runs to his father to deliver a
message.

GERSHOM

Mama says it's time for lunch.

Moses looks down to his small, and handsome angel.

He then picks him up in his arms.

MOSES

I would love to gershom, but I want you to run back and tell your mother that papa, had to look into something. Will you do that for me?

GERSHOM

Okay. But - don't be late for lunch. Or she'll get mad.

MOSES

(Laughs)

Good man. And it's a deal.

Moses sets him down.

MOSES

Now go quick and tell your mother.

GERSHOM

Okay!

Gershom runs back full gallop.

Moses smiles brightly as he watches his son scamper away but averts his gaze back to the wandering stranger.

He sets out to investigate.

LATER ON...

EXT. JOSHUA - NEARLY DEAD

A group of vultures fly over Joshua as he walks with no rythm in his strides.

The chain dangles from his wrist loosely as a reminder to him when he could have removed it completely.

EXT. MOSES - CONTNINUOUS

As Moses advances further to the stranger, he suddenly notices similarities to someone he knew in egypt. For a moment his walk stutters slightly then resumes steadily ahead.

The closer he gets to the stranger, the more he recognizes.

He realizes...

MOSES

(Whispers)

Joshua.

His walks turns to a trot.

EXT. JOSHUA - CONTINUOUS

He can see someone running towards him. A DARK FIGURE he cannot make out, but looks threatening.

Through his heavy breathing and faltering steps he tries to move in another direction.

EXT. MOSES - CONTINUOUS

Moses turns the trot to a full run.

MOSES
Joshua!! Joshua!!

EXT. JOSHUA - CONTINUOUS

Joshua stops to look at who is calling his name. His eyes try to focus but the heat has made it difficult to even do that.

With no where to run, Joshua gives up and waits for his capture.

But instead of accepting it on his feet, he topples over and faints from exhaustion.

EXT. MOSES - CONTINUOUS

He sees Joshua fall face first into the dirt.

MOSES
(Very happy to see)
Joshua!

He catches up and slides on his knees to see his friend still alive and barely breathing.

Moses gently combs Joshua's hair with is fingers then helps him to his feet and turns around to load him onto his back for the walk home.

JOSHUA
(Weak, Muffled)
Moses? Is that you?

MOSES
Take it easy. I got you. I got you.

A wandering sheep watches from behind Moses as he lugs Joshua back to his home through dense bushes and sage brush. Not caring if the thorny leaves scratches his skin.

A happy day for moses.

INT. MOSES'S TENT - NIGHT

Joshua wakes to find he is sleeping in someone's bed.

He bolts upright to see moses and his family eating dinner around a fire pit.

Moses notices he is awake.

MOSES
Come over, sit by the fire.

As Joshua gets up he looks at his wrist to see the shackle is gone.

MOSES (CONT.)
I took the liberty of removing it.
Come.

JOSHUA
Thank you.

Joshua approaches the fire pit as Zipphora dishes up a meal for him.

He sits down next to Moses.

JOSHUA (CONT.)
How long was I out?

GERSHOM
All day.

Joshua glances down to see the young boy eating some vegetables.

JOSHUA
Really? That long?

Gershom nods quietly.

MOSES
Where did you come from? Why were you chained?

JOSHUA
I was sent to the copper mines of Geber. In exchange for Lilia's life by Dathan. He rules goshen now.

MOSES
What do you mean rules?

JOSHUA

His, appointment was assured by Ramses once you were caught. But I thought you were -- (GLANCES to GERSHOM) you were...

MOSES

No. Ramses decided to let me go and to never return. He told Seti that I (LOW) killed more guards to grant me my escape from thebes.

JOSHUA

Has he no shame? What about Seti? What happened to him?

MOSES

I don't know. After my altercation at Baka's house, Seti looked as if -- as if he...

JOSHUA

... Died that day. At least his heart died. He loved you more than he did Ramses. Even I could see that.

MOSES

It was the hardest decision of my life. Bithia was exiled. Tharbis was arrested along with her people and then imprisoned. My birth mother -- died before I was sent forth to my death walk on the desert.

JOSHUA

Birth mother? But you're egyptian.

MOSES

No -- I'm not. I was born Moses to Yochabel and Amram. Both of whom were slaves of goshen. But my adoptive mother Bithia named me.

JOSHUA

(Uncertainty, surprise)
Then, you might be the one.

MOSES

One what?

JOSHUA

Our deliverer.

MOSES

Joshua. That's a fable told down through the generations. Surely you don't believe in such a...

JOSHUA

I do. Yes I do. It was foretold during Seti's father's time. That a man would go into goshen with the word of god as his herald. And there he would bring the people of isreal out of egypt and bring them to the promised land. It all fits.

Moses gets up and walks around the tent as Zipphora sits next to her son and helps him eat his dinner.

A worried look washes over her.

Gershom looks up at his father, unnerved. Joshua gives him a small self-deprecating smile...

JOSHUA

You are the one.

Terrified, Moses walks out of the tent to breathe fresh air.

EXT. MOSES' TENT - CONTINUOUS

In front of him are many other tents of Jethro's fold.

Moses tries to catch his breath and looks up at Mount Sinai's peak.

Jagged rocks that glow a light as if the sun has set behind it.

He remembers the voice from his dreams.

VOICE (V.O.)

Seek me out -- on mount sinai.

Moses removes his headwear and rubs his scalp gently. His hair is loose and falls to his shoulders.

MOSES

(Utters to self)

The one? Chosen for what?
Deliverer? Ridiculous dream. I'm
losing my mind.

Moses walks alone under the viel of night towards the gathered tents of Jethro's community.

EXT. TENTS - NIGHT

Moses walks among his fellow kinsmen as they laugh, eat, and play music on old bowed instruments. Children run around playing.

Moses stops in front of Jethro's tent, then enters.

INT. JETHRO'S HOME - DUSK

Jethro is sitting alone reading scrolls when his eyes avert to see Moses in front of him.

JETHRO
You look troubled.

MOSES
I have a problem. May I sit with you?

JETHRO
Please.

Jethro pushes aside his scrolls to allow Moses to sit beside him.

Moses sits down to join his father-in-law.

JETHRO (CONT.)
So tell me, what's bothering you?

MOSES
You know about Joshua?

JETHRO
Yes. I heard you took him into your home. Is he a friend to you?

MOSES
Yes. In a manner of speaking. I - met him when I was (hesitates) a member of a rich family.

JETHRO
You mean a prince? Don't you?

Moses casts a quick glance at Jethro.

MOSES
How do you...

JETHRO
Judging by your appearance and the way you carry yourself said to me,
(MORE)

JETHRO (cont'd)

that you were once part of the pharaoh's royal court. I don't know all of the particulars of why you fled egypt to this land but, I am relieved that you did come this way. My daughter is happy, I have a grandson to cherish. What else is there?

MOSES

It's joshua. He thinks there's some deeper meaning to my life. And to the people of goshen. I myself am -- a son of slaves.

JETHRO

I see. I can understand some of your reasoning.

MOSES

He thinks I'm a deliverer.

JETHRO

Do you?

MOSES

I -- don't know. I get these dreams in my head from a voice who has no face. He just -- tells me what my next move will be, as if I should follow his instructions without question.

Jethro smiles at Moses with both love and admiration and places a gentle hand on Moses' right leg.

JETHRO

If it is god, then he is designing a plan for you moses.

MOSES

A plan?

JETHRO

Most of our ancestors often had visions of strange tales that they had to decipher. For - what ever purpose it was I can't say. But, it helped them to discover the true meaning to god's will. Perhaps his plan for you is to somehow lead your people out of egypt.

MOSES

How? I don't have an army. Or weapons to hold off the pharaoh's legions which number in the thousands.

JETHRO

It is not by violence that is needed. It is his word that will be your weapon. Trust him moses. And all will be revealed to you in time.

MOSES

This is all so - - confusing.

JETHRO

As it should be. Now, I have to rest. Tomorrow is a big day with the festival.

MOSES

Thank you for listening to me.

JETHRO

You are my son. I will always have time.

Moses gets up and leaves the tent with a quick bow to Jethro.

Jethro beams a smile to Moses as his son-in-law exits.

JETHRO (CONT.)

God will be ready for you moses.

EXT. SHEEP FIELDS - AFTERNOON

Moses tends to his sheep as Joshua helps by herding part of the flock to another area to graze.

Gershom plays close by while Zippora rounds up her own herd.

A picturesque view of the valley at the base of Mount Sinai.

Thousands of sheep wander aimlessly in groups with their owners who look after them.

Dogs chase down and lead the strays back to the herds.

Moses laughs and plays with Gershom as they chase one another.

Joshua watches as he enjoys the freedom, but shows sadness and a hint of despair for his love of Lilia.

Moses falls to the ground and Gershom pounces on his father's stomach with happiness.

MOSES

Whoa! Careful, this is an old man you're defeating.

Moses grabs Gershom and hugs his son close.

But then -- his eyes catches a glimpse of fire on the slopes of Sinai.

As Gershom giggles Moses concentrates on the fire.

Jopshua sees that Moses is staring up at the mountain, and averts his eyes to see what Moses is looking at.

When he sees nothing, he walks over to Moses with a curious expression.

JOSHUA

Moses? Is something wrong?

Moses and his son stands up.

MOSES

Do you see that?

JOSHUA

What? I don't see...

MOSES

Yes you do. Don't you?

JOSHUA

Looks like a brush fire. Happens all the time.

MOSES

(Squints)

Not like this. It's just one. But for some reason It's not burning to ash. I'm going to go see what it is. You take Gershom to his mother for me.

JOSHUA

Alright. What do I tell her?

MOSES

Tell her, I'll be back before
nightfall. If it's burned out by
then -- then your theory was right.

JOSHUA

And if I'm wrong?

Moses looks at Joshua.

MOSES

Then we'll see what happens next.

Moses heads out towards the mountain as Joshua leads Gershom
back by the hand to Zipphora.

EXT. ZIPPHORA

Zipphora sees Joshua walking towards her with her son. Moses
is nowhere to be seen and she becomes concerned.

ZIPPHORA

Where's Moses?

JOSHUA

He went up the slopes to check out
a fire.

ZIPPHORA

(Grim look)

What?

JOSHUA

It's just a fire.

ZIPPHORA

And you let him go?

JOSHUA

The mountain is free for all. He
said he'll be back by nightfall.

Zipphora picks up her son and holds him close to her Bosom.

ZIPPHORA

Mount Sinai is a holy place. It's
where God sits and watches all of
us. To go up the slopes means
death. Moses might not come back at
all.

JOSHUA

Do you want me to go after him
then?

ZIPPHORA

No. No. This is -- his task. I
can't interfere with his destiny.
If god takes him, then so be it.

She breaks down and sobs as she holds her son close.

Joshua turns to look at the mountain with dread.

JOSHUA

He'll come back. He'll come back.

They all stare at the mountain.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SLOPES OF SINAI - MID-DAY

Moses has some trouble climbing up the rocky slopes. His sandals slip off of smoother rocks to throw him off balance. He falls and lands on his stomach just shy of a cliff's edge.

He watches a few smaller rocks tumble down into a ravine.

Moses shows fear for the first time in his life.

Concerned, he utters to himself.

MOSES

What are you doing up here? It's
just a bush on fire.

Carefully, he backs away from the edge and stands up.

Moses can see the bush not far off now. It still burns but with more radiance between two tall columns of stone, which were carved out by nature's fury.

Moses inhales deeply and walks to the gap and enters between the columns.

EXT. BURNING BUSH - MID-DAY

Moses enters a barren area, where no other plant or bush exist. Only rocks and boulders surrounds the only bush which sits in the center.

He carefully approaches the bush.

The leaves, branches all remain intact. No charring or scorching is present. Each leaf are healthy, and vibrant in color.

Yet flames engulfs the bush completely.

MOSES

(Whispers, awed)

This - can't be. It's not possible.

Moses reaches to touch a leaf.

VOICE (V.O.)

(A whisper)

Moses.

For a moment, he thought he heard a voice as he gazes around to see... nothing.

He attempts to touch the leaf again.

VOICE (V.O.) (CONT.)

Moses.

Moses backs away from the bush and shows fear.

MOSES

Um - I'm here.

VOICE (V.O.)

Remove thy sandals from thy feet.
For thouest stands on holy ground.

His eyes dart side to side as he answers the voice again.

MOSES

Holy? Are you - god?

GOD (V.O.)

I am. I am all that is holy to the universe and to those who serve me.

MOSES

Who? Who serves you?

GOD (V.O.)

All my children who seek thine wisdom. For those are thy true believers.

MOSES

True believers? Then -- why haven't you helped the slaves in egypt? Why do they need to keep suffering?
(Anger builds) How many deaths do you have to watch for you to...

GOD (V.O.)
 (Angry, Wrathful)
 You who bedded with the same
 taskmasters do not have thou
 question me!

A lightening bolt strikes a boulder.

The sky rumbles, darkens, and the ground shakes. Boulders
 close by crack open. Trickling lava seeps from the cracks,
 which tells moses to shut his mouth.

Moses quickly kneels on the ground to remove his sandals
 without question.

MOSES
 I -- I -- apologize! I - didn't
 mean any offense!

Moses bows his head and closes his eyes.

MOSES (CONT.)
 (Whispers)
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Rumbles cease, boulders heal themselves as lava reduces to
 ash instantly.

The sky brightens and Moses opens his eyes and looks up at
 the bush.

GOD (V.O.)
 Moses... Thou has seen such misery
 and despair among thine children. I
 have felt their afflictions and
 suffering.

A tear falls down Moses' cheek.

GOD (V.O.)
 I will send thee - moses to pharaoh
 so that he shall know of my will to
 release thy people. From there,
 thouest will bring them all forth
 to this mountain, where I will set
 upon them my laws.

Moses shows a positive aura about him. His hair and facial
 hair starts to change from dark to light grey.

MOSES
 But, how? I have no weapon or tool
 to use to sway the pharaohs' word.
 I don't even have enough influence
 to barter such an order.

Silence for a few seconds.

GOD (V.O.)

I will teach thee what thou will say and do. You will be my torch and guiding hand for all thine children when the time is ripe. Now, you must go and bring the children here... (Moses interrupts.)

MOSES

But, if the people ask, who sent me? And if they need to know his name what do I tell them?

GOD (V.O.)

Thou shalt say... 'I AM' has sent me forth unto you. I AM - are the trinity of those who worship thine light.

Moses hangs his head in front of God. Tears continue to fall. His body starts to glow a shimmering light that surrounds him like a cocoon.

He opens his mouth slightly, and some fine mist escapes.

Moses kneels in front of the bush.

It then glows brighter, brighter, until light engulfs everything.

EXT. MOSES' TENT - EARLY DUSK

Joshua sits alone outside the tent and whittles a piece of wood with a sharp knife.

Gershom plays close by, while Zipphora walks side to side concerned for Moses inside of the tent but near the entrance.

JOSHUA

Has anybody ever climbed the mountain before?

ZIPPHORA

No. It's normally forbidden, but not restricted fully. Most of the councilmen decreed that if anyone climbs the mountain and do not return means that they gambled with thier own lives. That the council will not be held responsible. Only god could has the final word.

As Zipphora turns to look at Joshua -- Joshua spots Moses walking home with his staff in hand.

JOSHUA

Then you might want to reconsider
of who is allowed on the mountain.

ZIPPHORA

What?

JOSHUA

(Smirks)

Come outside and see.

Zipphora joins Joshua's side to see her husband walking home among the sheep herds.

ZIPPHORA

Moses.

Joshua smirks.

JOSHUA

Something different about him.

ZIPPHORA

He's seen him. Face to face. That
-- shouldn't be possible.

JOSHUA

With moses nothing ever is. But,
how he survived is nothing short of
amazing. The climb must have been
treacherous.

ZIPPHORA

His hair.

EXT. MOSES - CONTINUOUS

Moses' hair is deeply grayed. Strands of darker tones accent his features more to show someone wise, sage and powerful.

As Moses walks home, he waves to them silently, while he sees Gershom running towards him.

Sheep bah! as they forage for fresh plant life, but they also walk with Moses as if they are drawn to his power.

As Gershom arrives...

GERSHOM

Papa!

Moses scoops up his son and cradles him in his arms as Joshua and his wife approaches slowly.

ZIPPHORA

Moses?

MOSES

Zipphora. You were right.

JOSHUA

You've seen him?

MOSES

He's not - someone in physical form but made up of -- spirit and light. I - could hear his thoughts inside of my head.

JOSHUA

What did he say?

MOSES

That I should go to egypt.

ZIPPHORA

No. No, that would cause your death. The pharaoh will kill you the moment you set foot on egyptian soil.

JOSHUA

How many men do we need?

MOSES

Men? None.

JOSHUA

None? No weapons? No plan of attack? It's crazy to think that...

MOSES

Only his word will help save the people of goshen. That -- and this staff.

Moses holds up his staff. They all look at the simple looking column of wood in both wonder and confusion.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SETI'S FUNERAL - WEEKS LATER - NIGHT

A procession where thousands of loyal followers of Seti march to a Mausoleum on foot behind priests that lead them in rows of two columns.

In front of Ramses, his father's gloriously decorated casket is carried by heavily muscled eunuchs. All are dressed regally for the wake.

Nefritiri expresses the most grief as she tries keep composure. Ramses however, shows nothing but a blank stare for his once famous father who never appreciated the small accomplishments through out his life.

NEFRITIRI

It was too soon.

RAMSES

His time was right. Leave it to father to pick his own moment to die without regret.

Nefritiri her gaze from Ramses with contempt.

Ramses notices her disgust, but dismisses it as passing moment.

RAMSES

Once you are queen, you will bear me a son. Daughter's are useless in this kingdom.

Nefritiri spots a few faithful followers among the crowd of people who watch them from a distance.

A little girl waves to Nefritiri sheepishly.

Nefritiri returns the wave only to be interrupted by Ramses.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Are you listening? Or are you thinking about moses again?

NEFRITIRI

Who I think about is none of your business -- ramses. I'll bear your child, but if I bear a daughter -- and -- a son, then you will have the full responsibility to raising him on your own. Keep me out of it.

Even though his expressions are next to none, he does give a hint of displeasure to Nefritiri's attitude towards him.

RAMSES

(Quietly, covertly)

Of course. It's only fair. And you will have the honor of raising your daughter outside of the city's gates never to be seen again.

NEFRITIRI

One can only hope.

The funeral mass walk up a flight of steps where two dozen guards wait and stand at attention.

As the mass ascend the steps, the guards can also see the thousands of citizens who watch with torches. (Weeps, and cries ring out.)

The people's weeping echoes...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEFRITIRI'S BED CHAMBERS - MID-WIFE - 9 MONTHS LATER - NIGHT

Nefritiri is lying on her back breathing heavily while a mid-wife helps to deliver her baby. Ramses is close by, nervois looking and concerned for the baby's arrival.

MID-WIFE

Excellent. Another push. I can see the head now.

NEFRITIRI

(Struggle, in pain)

AH! No!! Ahh!

MID-WIFE

More. More. Almost there.

Nefritiri then pushes with all her might as sweat drips down her face.

Her shape is scrunched, squeezing her baby out to the world as the mid-wife pulls out her baby gently.

Then...

A meek cry from the infant turns to high shrills of anguish after the baby appears.

MID-WIFE

(Excited)

You have a son.

The baby is cold being pulled from its warm sancutary. So the mid-wife wraps a blanket around the baby's quivering body.

Ramses could't be more pleased.

RAMSES

A son?

He approaches the bedside to see his son up close and personal.

NEFRITIRI
(Exhausted, tired, sullen)
A son.

Mid-wife hands the baby over to Nefritiri to cradle her son in her arms.

Ramses sits beside her.

NEFRITIRI (CONT.)
Amun her Khepeshef. That will be your name. (Falls asleep)

Ramses grabs their son gently to hold in his arms while the mid-wife leaves the room.

He looks down at his wife.

RAMSES
Remarkable. Such a fine son you bore. Perfect, healthy, regal. A king among kings. Why couldn't we love each other like you did with moses?

Baby sleeps in his arms all cozy in his blankets.

RAMSES (CONT.)
Things would have been so different.

He walks away with Amun and leaves the room.

Through Nefritiri's weariness, she calls out...

NEFRITIRI
Moses. Moses, you fool.

Tears fall down her cheeks.

She turns on her side and cries in herself to sleep.

A very lonely moment.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - LONG JOURNEY - SIX YEARS LATER - DAYTIME

Moses leads a caravan to egypt. At the front is Joshua on horseback to keep a watchful eye on their surroundings.

Jethro's caravan brings up the rear to add to their numbers.

Camels, horses, livestock, sheep all follow Moses towards an uncertain destiny.

MOSES

(To Zipphora)

I hear that two of your sisters
have got themselves a companion.

ZIPPHORA

Yes to two upstanding partners.
Father was almost getting impatient
that he nearly picked out possible
suitors for them.

MOSES

Not that it would matter much.
They'd probably say yes to an ox if
it helped them with the housework.

Zipphora chuckles.

ZIPPHORA

Yes, that's true.

MOSES

Zipphora...

Moses wrangles his camel to join up with Zipphora.

ZIPPHORA

What is it?

MOSES

When we arrive, we'll stay in my
mother's shelter. Both my brother
Aaron and Miriam will be there, but
they agreed ahead of time that they
will stay with other family
members.

ZIPPHORA

Why? It's their home too.

MOSES

I know. But, they feel that too
many in one household is --
overwhelming.

ZIPPHORA

Oh.

MOSES

They'll come around every so often
to help keep up the house.

ZIPPHORA

Alright.

As they ride side by side...

MOSES

I can't guarantee that ramses will overlook my coming back. He warned me once that if I should return he would seek my death.

ZIPPHORA

(Very sure)

With god on your side, that will be impossible for him to do.

Just ahead of them riding on his own camel: Is ten year old Gershom who they both watch in silence as proud parents.

MOSES

Gershom is going to be ecstatic to see the city.

ZIPPHORA

He only knows the desert. I hope it won't be too much for him.

MOSES

He's our son. He takes after you most of all.

ZIPPHORA

And uh, what does that mean?

MOSES

Hardheaded, stubborn, lively and more often than not brave when it comes to facing danger.

She extends her hand for Moses to grab onto, which he does without question and holds it tightly.

Caravan is nearly two miles long. Sun shines down on the sands. Heat waves warble, but none who ride or walk show signs of dehydration.

A resilient desert people.

FADE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS - FIVE MILES FROM THEBES - DUSK

Moses exits his tent and looks at the great city of Thebes with a nostalgic expression. Tiny lights of torches flicker in the city's shadows.

Joshua joins him.

JOSHUA

I met with the elders. They've agreed to meet with you. Aaron wants an audience with them too.

MOSES

Aaron? Why?

JOSHUA

He's also a priest. He wants to validate your audience with god.

MOSES

(Uncertain)

That might not be a good idea.

JOSHUA

Why? You said it yourself, that we weren't going to use violence. Just your staff. Which to me sounds like a dream that has no substance.

MOSES

You doubt it will work?

JOSHUA

I'm not saying that. From what I've seen so far before we left, that the odd occurrences between you and god has been -- strange.

Moses places a hand on Joshua's shoulder.

MOSES

I just need to convince ramses. No one else.

JOSHUA

I'm sorry -- seti died.

MOSES

I am too. Even through hard times I often thought of him. He wasn't like the others pharaohs before him.

Both stare at the city.

INT. PRISON WING - TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Two tall stone statues against a wall face Tharbis and her subordinates. One of her aids is being dragged over to a stone altar and made to lie face down.

An executioner close by wields a wide sharp halberd.

Ramses enters the room to watch gleefully.

THARBIS

(Whispers through gritted
teeth)

You filthy animal. We were granted
amnesty by your father.

RAMSES

That was when he was alive. Now
that I am pharaoh, I think it's
time to cut all ties with our
enemies once and for all. (Nods to
executioner)

Executioner approaches the frightened aid and raises the
halberd.

With a mighty swing he chops off his head, and it ROLLS to
Tharbis while the body convulses and flails around
frantically.

Ramses smiles wide as he watches the corpse's antics.

Such cruelty on his part.

Tharbis watches in horror as each of her aids are executed
with no mercy.

As each of her aids scream out, their voice is cut off by
every swing of the halberd.

A scribe writes down everything he sees.

Ramses raises his hand for his executioner to stop, then
calls...

RAMSES

Amun. Come in.

Tharbis's eyes widen to large saucers as she sees his six
year old son entering the chambers.

THARBIS

(Shrieks)

You filthy pig! You bring your son
to watch? Are you insane?!

Ramses laughs out loud as does Amun.

The executions continue.

Her expression changes from angry to total fear as she listens to her men's voices shrill in anguish.

The chamber lives up to its name.

On another chop.., and last scream! A vile laughter from father and son.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOSES'S TENT - MORNING

Moses stands in front of his tent as Joshua arrives on horseback with another horse for Moses. Zippora exits her home to be at his side.

MOSES

I'll see you at the house once I have spoken with the elders.

ZIPPHORA

Be careful. I know you are part of the city's people, but -- some of your kin might not take to you so kindly.

MOSES

That's why I'll have aaron to help me. Don't worry.

JOSHUA

Ready?

MOSES

As I'll ever be.

Moses then mounts onto his horse and holds his staff tightly as he and Joshua ride off towards Goshen on the far side of Thebes.

Later...

EXT. GOSHEN - DAY

Moses arrives in the city of goshen to see its streets nearly empty of slaves. Hardly anyone around, but most likely toiling with Ramses' city.

JOSHUA

It's quiet. Too quiet.

MOSES

Workers are more than likely working themselves to death because of ramses.

JOSHUA

This way.

Joshua and Moses ride side by side down an empty street between sod houses.

MOSES

Have you tried to contact lilia?

JOSHUA

No. Not yet. But I will soon.

MOSES

Dathan might not like that.

JOSHUA

Dathan is the shit that's scraped off my heel. I'm not scared of him.

Moses looks over at Joshua as he squints his eyes.

JOSHUA

What?

MOSES

Shit that's scraped off my heel.
I've heard it all now.

Joshua grins half-heartedly when suddenly...a group of men cut off their path and wield clubs and sharp homemade blades.

THUG

Who are you? What do you want?

JOSHUA

I seem to have lost my oil lamp.
Could you help me find it?

Moses shoots him a look of confusion.

THUG

We have lamps for sale. How many do you need?

JOSHUA

Ten.

THUG

This way.

Joshua looks at moses whose mouth hangs open as if to say something, but instead nods no silently as they follow the men in front of them.

JOSHUA

You can call them the militia. They volunteered to be the elder's eyes and ears.

MOSES

You're just full of surprises.

Joshua beams a smug look.

Moments later...

EXT. ELDER HIDEOUT - DAY

Moses and Joshua dismount their horses and follow one of the men who leads them through a door to a sod house attached to another.

They all enter.

INT. ELDER HIDEOUT

The interior is bleak, musty, arid and dry.

Sparsely decorated.

A perfect spot for a secret meeting.

The man leads them to an adjacent room where Moses sees...

Aaron. (40'S)

AARON

Moses. Good of you to come.

Moses looks at each of the elder's faces who are old, but wise looking men who are dressed in long gowns with headwear that display crests of their own households.

ELDER

Moses. So you are the so called deliverer. Tell me, what is the psalm of creation?

Aaron walks over to Moses and stands by his side and face the council.

Joshua remains still, silent. His voice does not count in the meeting.

MOSES

I don't know. But I do know that my task set before me is to convince Ramses to let the people go.

ELDER #2

Who sent you? God?

MOSES

Yes.

ELDER #2

What is his name?

MOSES

He said, I am has sent thee unto you. Obey his will and all shall inherit freedom when the time is ripe.

The elders huddle and whisper together.

As they settle down...

ELDER

We don't doubt that you had -- some experience with a presense. But we need proof that this meeting is not all just conjecture. How can you prove this to us?

Moses looks at his brother Aaron.

MOSES

Do you trust me?

AARON

Yes. I do.

Moses then hands the staff to Aaron.

MOSES

Then do this, point the staff up and touch the herbs.

At that moment, Aaron grasps the staff and touches a bushel of herbs that hang from the ceiling beams.

In an instant the whole bushel transforms back from dry to healthy leaves, stalks, and buds. Flowers grow to show off its beauty.

The elder's eyes cannot conceive on what just occurred. One stands up to pick one of the flowers and smells it.

MOSES

Convinced?

The elder glances from Moses to Aaron with new hope in his eyes. A tear forms as he holds the flower in front of him.

ELDER

What do we do?

Moses approaches the elder and places a hand on his aging shoulder.

MOSES

Tell the people, that ramses time for ruling over the slaves is coming to an end. And I'm going to end it.

Joshua smiles and then leaves the hut.

EXT. LILIA - GARDEN - NIGHT

Lilia with her limited freedom walks around the garden by herself. She looks listless, tired, sullen as she admires the garden's foliage of flowers, and palm trees.

Yet in the garden's bosom, where one bush sits proudly shows a pair of eyes through the branches and leaves.

Then...

JOSHUA (O.C.)

(Whispers)

Lilia.

SHE STOPS and uses her eyes when...

JOSHUA (O.C.) (CONT.)

(Whispers)

Lilia.

LILIA

Who's there?

JOSHUA (O.C.)

(Whispers)

It's joshua. To your right. Walk to the flowers. Do it casually.

Lilia moves over to the growth of flowers that hang over the wall's edge. Low enough for someone to climb over and hide in the garden.

LILIA

Joshua? Is that really you? Where are you?

JOSHUA (O.C.)

(Whispers)

Right in front of you. Just keep looking at the flowers. Dead ahead.

She peers closer to see her companions eyes, which she can never mistake.

LILIA
(Smiles, Tears, happy)
Joshua.

JOSHUA (O.C.)
(Whispers)
Shhh. Just listen.

Lilia nods her head.

JOSHUA (O.C.)
(Whispers)
I've come back with moses. We're here to set the slaves free. It will...

LILIA
(Whispers)
I thought you died in the mines?

JOSHUA (O.C.)
(whispers)
Me die? Never. Just - listen. Tell the people that their freedom is coming soon. When, I don't know. But with moses' help it will be much sooner than ever.

From behind Lilia...

DATHAN (O.C.)
Lilia? Lilia! Where are you woman?

LILIA
Out here.

At the door, Dathan shows himself half dressed eating more food.

DATHAN
What are you doing out there?

LILIA
Just singing to myself.

DATHAN
Well do it inside the house. I'm in the mood again. Hurry it up.

Dathan walks back in the house.

JOSHUA (O.C.)
 (Whispers)
 Just -- just hold on lilia. Hold
 on.

LILIA
 I have to go.

JOSHUA (O.C.)
 (Whispers)
 I know. I know.

Lilia turns to run back inside of the house.

Joshua's face contorts and clenches his fists tightly until
 blood starts to trickle.

He quietly weeps and buries his fists in his face. Quiet
 thrusts of sobbing.

He then leaves the property over the wall like an assassin.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THRONE ROOM - RAMSES - NEFRITIRI - AMUN - VASSALS - DAY

Moses enters the royal chambers with Aaron behind a group of
 delegates from other provinces. It's a lively day as guests
 arrive.

Aaron leads moses to the pharaoh, who does not see him --
 yet.

The royal chambers bustles with chattering delegates as
 Aaron stops in front of the pharaoh.

AARON
 Aaron. Son of amram and Yochabel.

RAMSES
 Why is a slave here in our royal
 court?

Moses steps out from behind Aaron and presents himself to --
 Ramses.

Ramses stands up and slowly moves toward MOSES.

Nefritiri does not say a word. She only is transfixed on
 Moses.

MOSES
 Good to see you -- brother.

RAMSES

Moses? Incredible. After all these years I thought you of all people would be dead and long gone from my memories. And yet, here you stand. Ready to make my life miserable all over again.

MOSES

Sorry to disappoint you -- brother.

RAMSES

Why are you here? I told you once long ago how I would kill you if you ever returned to this place.

MOSES

I'm here to offer you a few words.

RAMSES

(A coy grin)
And that is?

MOSES

Release the slaves. Or suffer a fate far worse than death.

RAMSES

(Laughs incoherently)
Is that all? Release the slaves just like that? Are you stupid?! They are mine. My property. My legacy! Who are you...

MOSES

Aaron. Show ramses what it means to obey the word of god.

RAMSES

God? (Glances to his vassals humourously) God? Please... Show me. Show me what you got.

Aaron drops Moses' staff to the floor.

All eyes watch as the staff transforms into a thirty foot king cobra, that slithers, as its forked tongue wiggles out to sniff the air.

Guests move back in fright.

The cobra then lunges at Ramses but stops at eye level.

The cobra's tongue continues to smell the air but ramses is not in the least phased by such a demonstration.

Instead... As he peeks at moses from the cobra's left side...

RAMSES

Seriously, is that the best you can do -- Moses? Jannes!

His royal priest and one other aid step up with a staff of their own and drop them beside Ramses.

They too transform into cobras but are much smaller in size and thickness.

Moses' gaze shows uncertainty from Ramses' reciprocation. But does not falter as his cobra wildly coils and strikes each of Ramses' snakes with blinding speed.

Each snake withers up and dies instantly and are then swallowed whole in a matter of seconds.

Ramses is beside himself.

Moses' staff returns to its solid form.

RAMSES

So your cobra was hungry. It's not enough to sway my decision. The people stay -- here.

One of Ramses' generals offers his two cents...

GENERAL

Can I gut him?

RAMSES

Leave him alone.

Ramses sits back down on his throne.

RAMSES (CONT.)

I can't wait to see what you'll come up with next. Have a good day -- moses.

Moses and Aaron leaves the courts as Moses picks up his staff from the floor.

NEFRITIRI

Seems you were just bested -- pharaoh. If I were you, I wouldn't allow him to plot any further...

RAMSES

Then it's a good thing you're not me. Is it?

NEFRITIRI

I'm just saying that he can be relentless when it comes to obstacles. Like ethiopia. He won the people's hearts and brought them home to our lands. If he wished it, he could have overthrown your seat before you had a chance to bury Seti. That is - IF he didn't kill Baka.

RAMSES

(Glances to Nefritiri)

Perhaps. But, he's nothing more than a nuisance with a grudge, and he's only one man. Other than his brother Aaron.

NEFRITIRI

Yet it took less than ten seconds to consume the snakes. No creature is that fast.

RAMSES

Are you saying I should let the slaves go?

Ramses looks at his queen.

NEFRITIRI

No. I'm saying to soldify your resolve. Let him rant on. This is egypt. Crown jewel of the nile. No god can topple it, not even our own gods.

Ramses stares at the back of Moses as he exits then vanishes under the sun's bright rays outside.

Ramses expresses hatred, through his hardened gaze.

Later on...

EXT. GOSHEN - DAY

A dog looks up at Moses ss he stands with Aaron while the people of goshen go about their business. The city bustles with activity until a straggler walks over to them.

STRAGGLER

So, is it done?

MOSES

Is what done?

STRAGGLER

Your negotiations with the pharaoh.
Are we going to be set free? Or are
we doomed to die in this -- sewer
of a city?

Behind the straggler's back he holds a stone in his hand.

MOSES

It will take more time it seems.

AARON

Be patient. Miracles don't happen
too often even in such places as
this.

STRAGGLER

Is that right?

MOSES

Please. It will work...

Without warning, the man strikes Moses on the top of his
head and runs off.

Moses drops to his knees in pain as Aaron aids him.

No one stops to help.

All Moses can hear is a ringing inside of his head as Aaron
shouts at him.

His eyes avert to a small girl who watches alongside her
mother who fetches water from a well.

The little girl opens her mouth and says with the voice of
god...

GIRL

Get up.

AARON

Moses! Are you okay?

MOSES

Y - yeah. It's just a scratch. It
didn't go deep.

AARON

Miriam can look at it. I'll let
joshua know of what happened.

Some blood trickles down the side of his head but the
ringing in his ears have stopped.

MOSES

No, don't. It's fine. I was expecting something like this to happen. This is not going to be easy.

AARON

Hard work never is.

MOSES

Did joshua get a hold of...

AARON

Yes, Tharbis is on her way back home. She still doesn't know why ramses spared her from his executions.

MOSES

To leave her wanting revenge so he can push back with even more ferocity. He loves to kill after all.

INT. ELDER HIDEOUT - DAY

Moses walks in, the elders sees some blood stained on Moses' left temple.

A look of concern from the council.

ELDER

Are you alright moses?

MOSES

Yes. A - little matter of - faith.

ELDER

I see. They aren't to blame. The suffering has been going on far too long for people to remain patient.

MOSES

I agree. I think it's time to accelerate ramses' decision. One miracle won't be enough.

ELDER

What do you plan to do?

MOSES

To give him what he wants.

The council's faces show confusion, almost to the point of total misunderstanding of what Moses just said.

EXT. NILE - NEXT DAY

A light breeze caresses the Nile's water as priests and Ramses walk over to a stone idol to pay homage to their god. It is a large procession that happens once a year.

Moses approaches a line of guards only to be stopped by one of them.

GUARD

Stop. You're not wanted here slave.
Go back if you don't want my sword
buried in your skull through your
nostril.

From behind the guard.

RAMSES (O.C.)

Let him pass.

Guard stands aside but keeps his eye on Moses with utter disgust.

Ramses smiles with an odd crook of his mouth as he sees Moses walking towards him.

Moses stands beside the shoreline.

A moment of silence from both men.

Then...

MOSES

Ramses, I don't know why your
stubbornness has run so deep in your
body. But, this is not going to go
the way you want it to.

RAMSES

Oh? Then please, tell me how this
is going to go? My eyes and ears
are all yours Moses. As you saw in
the throne room, the snake was
nothing. Nothing but a parlor
trick.

Moses hands Aaron his staff.

MOSES

Aaron.

AARON

Parlor tricks are for children.
Today, you will experience fear by
god.

Aaron then slams the staff's length into the water of the Nile.

Instantly, a powerful plume of water geysers in front of the holy congregation.

The onlookers stumble back as the plume reaches one hundred feet high and changes from clear to blood red.

When the water settles, the color spreads out like a verdant blanket across the gulfs and on to the distant shores up the entire length of the Nile.

One of Ramses' officers reaches down to soak his fingers in the foul water and tastes it.

OFFICER

Blood! It's blood. It's BLOOD!

Priests and followers scramble to ready themselves for the days to come as Moses reminds them...

MOSES

Seven days is the length of time that the people will thirst. No more, no less. Ramses, this will not work to your advantage. I promise you that.

Ramses is stunned by the turn of events. He too tastes the water only to spit it back out as his entourage hurries to fill jars.

It is mayhem on the shores as Moses walks away alongside Aaron.

Ramses looks at his blood-stained hand. Thick, viscous and foul-smelling.

EXT. THEBES - SEVEN DAYS LATER - DAY

A huge army marches out of their barracks and patrols the city streets. People are in confusion and don't know what to do.

Chariots race by the marching soldiers within inches.

EXT. PALACE - VERANDA - RAMSES - CONTINUOUS

Ramses watches his flocks from his veranda.

RAMSES

Look at them. Running around like -- blind invalids. Ready to rebel at a moment's notice.

Behind him is Nefritiri.

NEFRITIRI
Maybe this will help you.

She hands him a scroll.

He READS it.

Once finished, he glances to his wife and smiles, then --
leaves her alone.

EXT. PALACE STEPS - RAMSES - FOLLOWERS

10,000 citizens gather as Ramses addresses his people...

RAMSES
People! Hear me!! Everybody! I have
good news! It's not blood. It's
nothing to fear!

His people stop and listen holding their water jugs.

RAMSES (CONT.)
I just heard from our forces from
the south. It's red mud. Mixed with
rotten poison berries. This crisis
is not what you think it is. It's
another trick to hinder us. Do not
fear, the Nile will clear itself in
a matter of days. Go back to your
homes and families. Let us worry
about this false prophet. I promise
you, that it's all over!!

EXT. MARSH LAND - MOSES - AARON - DAY

Moses and Aaron search for another tool to use to spread the
word. As they trudge in ankle deep mud, Moses spots a
bullfrog perched on a rock.

Stealthily, both walk over, and Moses hands Aaron the staff.

Aaron takes it and points the tip downward and grazes the
frog's back ever so gently.

It croaks.

Then, it hops off the rock and buries itself in the mud.

The ground rumbles. Bubbles form on the mud's surface, which
then transforms into thousands of separate pockets of air.

The mud churns, twists and bends out of shape.

Moses and Aaron hurry to exit the marsh.

Once on the shoreline, they watch as thousands of bullfrogs leap out of the wet mud and take to land hopping over each other or side by side.

MOSES

This will hopefully send the message to him.

AARON

How long will this one last for?

MOSES

No more than a day. More than enough time.

A bird flies over the mass of frogs as they make way for the city. Both Moses and Aaron stand in the middle of the swathing carpet of croaking amphibians.

EXT. PALACE STEPS - RAMSES - FOLLOWERS

Ramses feels a deep rumbling in the earth. He can feel the steps shake, and lightly vibrate.

As for the people, don't know where the noise or vibration come from, but soon they all hear the croaking chirps get closer.

RAMSES

It's alright! It's... (trails off)

His eyes look to the west and sees a dark patch that crawls across the ground.

His eyes widen.

Ramses heads back up the steps into the palace.

EXT. THE PEOPLE FLEE - CONTINUOUS

The people scramble to escape the incoming darkness that croaks with a menacing roar.

Screams and shrieks abound in the streets as bullfrogs invade shops, vendors, homes, and water wells.

Guards are useless as they try keep them back by swinging their swords in futile attempts to ward them off.

GUARD

Ahh!

A large group of frogs leap onto the poor man and drown him a croaking wave.

The frogs move on.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

As a flock of birds fly over the city, thousands of people try to keep ahead of the swarming frogs as thebian citizens split up and take other routes only to be cut off by another wall of frogs.

People are buried by the fast moving mass.

Screams fill the air.

Frogs move towards the palace.

The loud croaks chirp with a deep echo.

INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR

Ramses turns to see a dark wall of frogs close off the front entrance only to pour into the great HALLS.

RAMSES

MOSES!!

He makes a mad dash to the throne room.

EXT. THRONE ROOM - AN AUDIENCE WITH FROGS - CONTINUOUS

Ramses rushes to his throne and hides behind the throne's back rest.

Frogs smother the floor and spreads out only to stop just inches shy of the throne.

Ramses watches them, terrified. Sweat beads down his face.

Croaks diminish to mere chirps.

The madness has ended... For now.

Above Ramses, Nefritiri and Amun watch from a mezzanine above the throne room floor.

RAMSES

Damn you moses. DAMN YOU!!

Croak!

He hides from the frogs.

Nefritiri offers a sly smile down at her husband.

NEFRITIRI

Feeling helpless husband? Not very
pharaoh like in your son's eyes is
it?

Ramses pops out from behind the throne to challenge her.

RAMSES

Shut up! It's another one of his
tricks! A simple task to train them
to go into a frenzy using -- using
-- a form of bait!

NEFRITIRI

If that's true, why did you run?

RAMSES

And get buried like some animal?
While you stand up there safe from
this - this - carnival of frogs?
You're one to talk.

Nefritiri doesn't argue but walks away.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Yes. Yes, walk away. Walk away and
get someone to clean this up!!!

Croaks fills the room.

Ramses kneels and shrieks his irritation.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Yah!!!

Shout echoes...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. YOCHABEL'S SOD HUT - NIGHT

Moses sits at his mother's table thinking while Zippora
works behind him to prepare a meal.

His right carasses the table's surface, and knows that his
father built it with his own hands before his death.

Slight scrapes suggest from grazing fingernails over the
years.

He smiles whimsically.

ZIPPORA

Feeling hungry?

Moses turns to watch his wife.

MOSES

Yes.

ZIPPHORA

It'll be done soon. A mix of herbs,
spices and lamb meat with my
special aromatic flower buds.

MOSES

Sounds good.

Zipphora notices a subtle change in her husband, but can't quite make it out.

ZIPPHORA

That was quite the display today.
Frogs?

MOSES

It represents the decadence that
ramses portrays. That having too
much of something often leads to
true corruption. Yet, he's still
adamant of keeping the slaves bound
to him.

ZIPPHORA

Why the blood in the Nile? Why use
something so -- grotesque?

Moses stands and approaches his wife.

MOSES

The blood tells of the -- past
where Egypt was stained with rivers
of blood after my birth. I once
learned that Seti's father decreed
that all the first born males
should die to prevent the
deliverer's appearance. From what I
heard, it was -- beyond
description. Beyond understanding.

Zipphora shows her concern as she hugs her husband close.

He tries to respond in kind, but his emotions seem to fade away and regards Zipphora as only a comforting thought.

They part ways, and he sits back down at the table to think.

She knows and suspects that she is losing him.

Meanwhile...

EXT. DATHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lilia is outside in the courtyard and stands in front of the flower bed talking with Joshua quietly who hides from prying eyes.

JOSHUA

(Whispers)

Has it been too difficult?

LILIA

(Whispers)

Some days have been. But, his moods have become less and less frequent. Perhaps he's losing interest. Not that it's a bad thing for me.

JOSHUA

(Whispers)

I promise to get you out of here.

LILIA

(whispers, weeps)

Please. I don't know how much more I can endure this -- this deviant.

From inside the house...

DATHAN (O.C.)

LILIA!

She turns to face the house with haste and yells at dathan without thinking.

LILIA

WHAT!!!

She can hear the footfalls of Dathan approach the door. His hulking fat mass appears before her.

DATHAN

You would dare to shout in my presence? After all I have given you?

LILIA

(Through tears and sobs)

Given me? GIVEN ME!? You ugly fat BASTARD. LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME! You made me a whore. A whore! A tool for you to use at your - beck and call. You're nothing. Nothing!

He raises a hand to strike her when Joshua appears from the flower bed and stands before Dathan surprising him.

DATHAN

Joshua.

JOSHUA

(Gritted teeth)

I'll have you flayed if you strike.
Heed - my - words.

DATHAN

Heed? Heed? It was Lilia who volunteered in exchange for your life you little imp. Be grateful that I didn't cast her out to the cold, alone and naked.

JOSHUA

I warn you Dathan...

DATHAN

(Gritted rotten teeth)

You'll do nothing. The pharaoh has appointed me as governor of goshen in return for exposing Moses for what he is... A vagabond. Nothing more, and nothing less.

Dathan grabs Lilia and pulls her to the house.

DATHAN

Get off my property or I'll call in the guards to have you ripped and torn to pieces.

Door slams shut leaving Joshua to stand alone in the middle of the court yard.

He leaves quickly.

EXT. OPEN GRAVE - BODIES - DAY

Hundreds upon hundreds of bodies lie on top of each other. Moses and Aaron cover their noses and mouths as they gaze at such a horrific sight.

Moses coughs, and sheds tears because of the awful stench.

MOSES

My god. He didn't even order to cover them with soil.

AARON

His activities involve in watching the guards toss them in -- in groups. One of his recreations he likes to call it.

Moses spots on one corpse tiny specks of insects that hop from one body to the next.

He uncovers his mouth.

MOSES

Strike the ground.

Aaron swings the staff hard and the ground shakes and rumbles to disturb the insects.

Lice bugs hop off the dead and move to the city.

They watch as the wisps of lice swarm like a low flying cloud above the ground.

INT. RAMSES'S BED CHAMBERS - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Ramses sleeps soundly on his bed. A light breeze whisks into his chambers to wake him gently.

Then, he opens his eyes to see dots bouncing on the covers.

Tiny specks, which look like dust until a few land on his arms, face, scalp and the rest of his body.

He gets up quickly to feel his body itching but is amplified many times over.

RAMSES

Ah. AH! AHHH!

He gets out of bed and twists around trying to scratch off the nuisances.

Then he hears through-out his palace others who have now become infected with lice.

EXT. PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Screams bellow from within the palace, which blends in with those on the streets who become a victim.

Guards rip off their armor and clothes until naked. Some leap into wells and take their chances.

Victims scratch their arms, legs. Blood surfaces from open wounds because of fingernail cuts.

The suffering continues with a relentless fervor.

INT. ELDER HIDEOUT - NEXT DAY

Moses stands in front of the council who have pock marks on their cheeks, chins, and foreheads.

ELDER

(Concerned)

How long can this continue moses?
When you set upon them, I didn't
think it would happen to us too.

MOSES

That is what the trials are. To
endure the pain and anguish set by
god. If we didn't suffer as they
do, then what would be the point of
it all? Look at me and aaron. We
were affected too. We'll continue
to endure it as long as it takes.

AARON

Use the salves we brought you. It
will help ease the itching.

The elder holds up a small vial of salve.

ELDER

How many more of these -- plagues
will you invoke on ramses?

MOSES

So far there's been three. In my --
visions there are ten.

Elders chatter and whisper with one another.

Aaron and Moses stand firm and ready.

ELDER

Ten? Ten plagues? Why so many?

MOSES

Each one set upon us becomes part
of our future. Without them, ramses
would only strengthen his resolve
and force the slaves to work well
into the night. These -- miracles
are to whittle his adamant notions
down to a crawl. So far it's
working.

ELDER
 (Accepts the reality)
 Then -- we will -- concur.

Moses and Aaron bow before them and leave the hut.

EXT. ELDER HIDEOUT - DAY

Moses exits and leans over to vomit. Aaron watches others who walk by as Moses tries to compose himself.

After he wipes his mouth...

MOSES
 They're going to get worse.

AARON
 I expected as much. What happens now?

MOSES
 Now, we call upon the darker side of nature.

Moses walks away, Aaron follows him.

EXT. CITY STREET - IN FRONT OF THE PALACE - DAYS LATER - AFTERNOON

Noisy commotion in the city as the people watch Moses and Aaron stand together in front of the palace. Their faces are healed.

Ramses rushes down the steps along with his guards.

RAMSES
 MOSES! You're responsible for all of this! I'm not free...

Moses wields his staff on his own and plunges the butt end of it into the ground.

MOSES
 (Authoritative)
 YOU WILL -- OBEY -- GOD!

A bright flash of light engulfs the area.

At the butt end of the staff, Moses lifts it up slowly to allow one horsefly to emerge from the ground.

Then as the butt end lifts up more... The one fly increases a million fold and turns into a gigantic swarm of horseflies.

The dark swarming cloud surrounds around both Moses and Aaron stopping Ramses in his tracks.

Behind them, the people scatter.

Ramses looks up to see the swarm heading towards the palace but also spreads out over the city.

MOSES (CONT.)
His will be done.

Both walk away together, unscathed.

EXT. VERANDA

Nefritiri watches the buzzing swarm head in her direction. Amun is beside her. She picks him up and rushes inside of her room.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHIP PIERS - A MOMENT LATER

Horseflies zip over ships that sit moored to the docks.

The swarm flies overhead and veers downward to overtake and coat the docks with their presense.

Joshua sees them coming, and dives into the Nile.

Under the water, he can see the darkness buzzing above him. The sound is muffled, but clear enough for him to hear it while he holds his breath.

A frightened look on his face.

EXT. FLIES MOVE ON - CONTINUOUS

As the swarm flies off to another part of the city, Joshua emerges to see it moving on as he wades in the water.

At the same time he sees many portsmen fighting off the horseflies that bite into their skin.

Anguished cries of torment from the Egyptians.

INT. RAMSES - HEALERS - DAYS LATER

Ramses sits in a chair as his aids apply ointment to his freshly scarred and bitten skin.

Tiny pockmarks resemble smallpox.

RAMSES

Where is moses? I summoned him
hours ago!

NEFRITIRI

(Coy, mocking)

Why should he obey you? He's just a
prophet with a stick in his hand.

RAMSES

Look at me! Do you call this an
accident? Flies of all things.
Flies in our bed, our food, our
water!

NEFRITIRI

The flies are another as you say a
trick. He used sulphur to create
that light, which camouflaged the
flies presence until the last
minute.

RAMSES

A few! Which turned into millions
how do you explain that one? Huh?

NEFRITIRI

Flies attract each other. Perhaps
he has a potion to heighten their
maturing and breeding natures.

RAMSES

Yes. Yes, you may be right. I do
remember reading about how flies
swell to great numbers when
breeding season starts.
(Revelation) Like a week ago.

NEFRITIRI

Precisely. He used that to his
advantage.

Footfalls approach.

Ramses looks up angrily at Moses who calmly strolls in with
Aaron at his side.

RAMSES

(Defiant)

It won't work moses. I know how you
did it. A simple potion to
stimulate the flies breeding
nature. You toyed with their
instincts making me believe that it

(MORE)

RAMSES (cont'd)
was your -- god who called them
into existence.

MOSES
Ramses, if you have any - humanity
left, you would free the slaves.
Did you know that before I -- was
banished to the desert, Seti once
spoke to me and asked on what I
would do if I was pharaoh. You know
what I told him?

RAMSES
I haven't the foggiest. Please,
tell me what your enlightened sense
of worth said to him.

MOSES
I said, if I was pharaoh. I would
free the slaves. You know what he
said to me?

Nefritiri mouths of what Moses' reply from Seti would be..

MOSES (V.O.)(O.C.)
He said, 'I hoped that you would.'

Moses and Aaron turn to walk out of the chamber.

RAMSES
That's it? That's all he had to
say? No confounded riddles or
epitaphs to make it more
interesting? You know, my father
was a great man, but I will rise
higher than him. Do you hear me
moses? Do you hear me!?

They can only watch in silence of his broad shoulders which
seem to brighten as he exits to the outside.

EXT. LIVESTOCK FARM - A MONTH LATER - AFTERNOON

A field of dead cattle, sheep, pigs. Farmers look frazzled
to see such extensive damage to their livestock as bloated
carrion expunge pus, maggots.

Ramses arrives on his chariot. He hops down to join the
farmers.

RAMSES
How many have we lost?

FARMER

Nearly all of our livestock. Two thousand head of cattle, sheep and swine have all died.

Ramses kneels to take a closer look at the corpses.

RAMSES

How did they die?

FARMER

We don't know pharaoh. We found no lesions, or cuts or bite marks to suggest a kill. They just collapsed and started to rot.

RAMSES

How long have they been dead?

FARMER

Just under an hour.

The pharaoh stands up to gaze into the eyes of his farmers.

RAMSES

(Astounded)

That's not possible. These corpses look like they've been rotting for months.

FARMER

That's just it, this is the herd we moved from the north end of the field to here. Which was an hour ago.

Ramses eyes scans the field to see the expanding landscape of dead livestock in all directions.

RAMSES

Are some of the livestock salvagable?

FARMER

No pharaoh. None.

Ramses covers his mouth with a hand as he soaks in the horrific sight with both eyes wide open.

When he's seen enough, He closes his eyes.

FADE TO:

EXT. THEBES - BOILS - THREE DAYS LATER - NIGHT

The city streets are empty. Moaning cries fills the night air with more suffering.

EXT. PALACE - CONTINUOUS

No guards stand watch outside the palace walls or in front of the doors.

INT. AMUN'S ROOM - MOTHER AND SON - NIGHT

Nefritiri applies a creamy ointment onto her son's skin as he lays on his front.

Boils riddle his skin with reddish anger. His mother uses her fingertips gently.

Nefritiri's cheeks are randomly pocked with boils.

Her son weeps from such pain.

NEFRITIRI

I'm sorry Amun. I'll try to be more gentler.

AMUN

(Through tears and sobs)
Why does father keep the slaves? It burns so bad.

NEFRITIRI

Because your father is an id...
(Stops) he's being stubborn. But, he won't bend because of this. He's facing a stronger foe. A man of true intention.

AMUN

Why doesn't father imprison him then?

His mother smiles...

NEFRITIRI

Because they were once close friends.

Amun turns to face his mother but lies on his side.

AMUN

They were friends? Then why are they fighting?

NEFRITIRI

Well when they were your age, they often had fights or got into trouble together. A lot. Seti, your grandfather always put the lash to their behinds when they did but, forgave them none the less. Except your father became even more stubborn. Mostly because -- moses would listen to seti and to heed his words. Your father didn't. He thought that your grandfather loved moses more than ramses.

AMUN

Did he?

On the back of Amun, the boils look menacing as he talks with his mother.

NEFRITIRI

(Whispers)

Yes. Yes he did. Very much.

Amun lies face down again.

NEFRITIRI (CONT.)

Do you feel a bit better?

AMUN

(Drowsy)

Uh-huh.

Nefritiri douses the oil lamps next to Amun's bed and leaves his room.

INT. THRONE - RAMSES - BOILS

Ramses looks weakened as he sits in his chair. His body wracked with boils head to toe.

Nefritiri walks in.

RAMSES

How is Amun?

NEFRITIRI

He's asleep. He'll be in pain for some time. I hope, that you will speak to moses about this.

RAMSES

Why? It's just another one of his ploys. Another part of his useless
(MORE)

RAMSES (cont'd)
 plan. You said so yourself. That
 the boils came from bad water.

NEFRITIRI
 I did. But you keep insisting on
 facing him which makes his resolve
 even more great. Just -- kill him.

RAMSES
 And make him a martyr? Are you
 insane? The moment I pierce his
 heart is the moment that all of the
 slaves will rise up and overthrow
 this kingdom. No -- he'll continue
 as before. And I'll defy him all
 the same.

Ramses leaves his chair and walks out of the throne room
 along with some of his priests who follow him.

As he leaves a boil on his face pops open, and leaks pus.

RAMSES
 Ah! Damn it!

INT. YOCHABEL'S SOD HUT - NIGHT

Moses' skin have angry lesions that are red. Zipphora helps
 to ease the pain with clean water and a salve.

Her skin too shows blisters.

ZIPPHORA
 This can't go on moses. Our son is
 running a high fever because of it.

MOSES
 Do you wish to leave?

ZIPPHORA
 (Whispers)
 No. But, the hardship shouldn't
 fall on us just because ramses is
 being -- defiant against you.

MOSES
 Not against me. Against god.

She looks into his eyes to see -- Just two eyes. His
 paternal light has diminished, at least for his family life.

ZIPPHORA
 God didn't want this.

Moses turns to face his wife.

MOSES

No. No he didn't. Ramses did.

ZIPPHORA

Then finish it. Use the last -- miracle and be done with it. Our son cries in his sleep because of these boils.

MOSES

The boils are what Ramses' thoughts have become. Without the pain and burden that comes from his defiance will he cannot learn to obey God's word. Even we - his children need to learn it if we're to move on.

ZIPPHORA

Move on. To where?

MOSES

The promised land. Or all of this will mean nothing.

They look at each other, silently.

Gershom moans in his sleep.

Zipphora moves to tend to her son.

Moses only watches from the table stoic, a statue, emotionless.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROYAL VASSALS - MEETING - A MONTH LATER - DAY

The room is filled with Ramses' officers, retainers, priests and scribes. A meeting is being conducted to vote on Moses and what to do with him.

OFFICER #1

It's been a month now. And nothing has happened. This might be the break we've been waiting for pharaoh.

RAMSES

For what? To have him come up with a new trick?

OFFICER #2

It's not too late if we hunt down
moses and kill him. I have an
entire platoon ready to strike if
you give the word.

JANNES

He's right. Waiting now will only
cause the inevitable.

RAMSES

Who rules here? Who?

OFFICER

You do. Pharaoh.

RAMSES

You don't sound convinced. As long
as I keep the slaves working day
and night, we won't have to endure
moses for long. I heard a rumor
that there were only ten plagues up
his sleeves. How many have we went
through together?

Silence.

RAMSES (CONT.)

How many?

JANNES

Six so far pharaoh.

RAMSES

Six. Only four to go. I say we keep
ourselves ready for the last four.
Once those are done, and our wills
kept intact, then you can go kill
moses. Until then, we do nothing.

A soldier enters.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Yes what is it?

SOLDIER

Moses pharaoh. He's here to see
you.

The room grumbles and moans.

RAMSES

You can either stay or leave. It's
your choice my brothers.

OFFICER

We'll stay.

RAMSES

Good. Let him in.

Soldier leaves the room.

As they all wait for Moses, they can hear his footfalls echo down the hallway.

From officer to officer, their faces show slight fear as Moses gets closer to the war room.

Ramses is unphased.

Moses arrives through the war room drapes.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Moses. How remarkably ambitious of you to see me after such a -- filthy trick. Using salt in the water to promote lesions.

A few of the present officers have a hand on their swords as a precaution.

MOSES

You still keep - acting as if I had anything to do with each miracle. I only act through his will. I don't call the plague, god does.

RAMSES

God does. God does. God does this and god does that. Tell me, so far it's been nothing but nature that provided the suffering for our people. Why not use something else with let's say a touch of magic involved? That is if he can pull it off. Or you for that matter.

Room is silent as Moses beams at Ramses with nothing but a blank stare.

Even Ramses can feel a coldness about Moses that he didn't feel before.

MOSES

If that is your wish.

RAMSES

That is my wish.

MOSES

Then once I leave these chambers,
you will witness that on this clear
day, hail will fall to the earth
and burn like fire. On the morrow
of the next day, a dark veil shall
cover all of egypt for three days
at noon. There by telling you,
ramses not to anger god any
further. If you do, then it is out
of my hands entirely.

Moses leaves the war room without another word.

Ramses watches Moses between the drapes.

When he is gone...

Outside, a great clap of thunder.

Screams begin.

The officers exit along with Ramses to the outside.

EXT. PALACE - HAIL OF FIRE - CONTINUOUS

Ramses and company emerge from the palace to see hail
raining down upon the people and buildings from a clear sky.

Those who get caught in the hail, are burned alive.

Pools of hail blaze like bonfires that reach thirty feet
high.

Ramses in his fear grabs his scalp with both hands as he
watches his people fall to their deaths who can't escape the
fiery onslaught.

A large hail stone swoops down to a female witness who looks
up in fright.

In that moment the hail sets her clothes on fire. She
becomes a pillar of flame as she runs to nowhere screaming.

Ramses is at a loss and doesn't know what to do as he
watches his people burning.

Truly, a hell on earth.

EXT. THEBES - FIVE MILES AWAY - CONTINUOUS

The city randomly bursts into flames as hail drops on
rooftops. Smoke billows and leans north from a light breeze.
Horriying screams continue.

But - to make matters worse.

EXT. WHEAT FIELDS - MOSES AND AARON - CONTINUOUS

They both watch as the city of thebes is plagued with fire hail.

Moses in his irritation accelerates god's will as he hands over his staff to Aaron.

AARON

My task?

MOSES

(Points to a LOCUST)

There. On the chaff.

AARON

Moses.

MOSES

Do it.

Aaron uses the staff and touches the three inch insect on its thorax.

The locust wiggles, squirms and buzzes frantically.

As it takes flight, it suddenly multiplies into two, then four, and continues to multiply with each frenzied buzzing pulse.

Above Moses, the floating cloud of locusts buzzes loudly and soon heads to the city while it keeps multiplying in numbers.

By the time it reaches Thebes...

EXT. HAIL STOPS - LOCUSTS BARGE IN - CONTINUOUS

In the aftermath from the hail, guards help by loading dead bodies onto carts, when a loud hissing noise envelops the city streets.

Ramses hears it, and turns to see a gigantic swarm head in over the city.

His eyes droop in disbelief as the people run in fright past him.

Ramses drops the corpse and dives under the cart for safety.

EXT. UNDER CART

Ramses watches the millions of locusts, which splits off to various other streets except for a middle section of the swarm.

It heads straight for Ramses' location.

RAMSES
 (Build to a roar)
 No... Noo... Ahhh... Moses!
 MOSES!!!

The great swarm passes over, and under the cart covering Ramses with squirming, wriggling locusts.

He frantically tries to get them off as he wildly rolls around on the dirt.

RAMSES
 AH! AH! AH! (Shrieks)

Locusts move on. Only a few are left behind to search for food.

Ramses lays there under the cart beaten, bitten, spent from his raging screams.

RAMSES
 (Breathes heavily through sobs)
 D - damn you - damn you moses.

Clasps both hands over his face to cover the sounds of his weeping.

His weeps echo!

FADE TO:

INT. ELDER HIDEOUT - DARKNESS - NEXT DAY - HIGH NOON

Moses stands before the council with Aaron. Their patience worn thinner than ever.

ELDER
 Such - calamity over the months.
 This darkness that covers us. How
 long will this last?

MOSES
 Three days.

ELDER
 Then it will be over?

Moses stares at the elder for a moment. Aaron can sense a foreboding presence from him.

MOSES

No. There is one last plague.

Aaron bows and shakes his head.

ELDER

(Cautious)

Moses, what is going to happen?

MOSES

I don't know. The vision I had - had shown nothing. I have no idea what it will be.

Elder nods. The council remains silent.

ELDER

Very well. Then we will see when the darkness lifts. Peace be with you -- moses.

MOSES

And to you.

Very few words concerns Aaron as they walk out of the hut.

Outside...

EXT. ELDER HIDEOUT - DARKNESS - HIGH NOON

AARON

What will happen Moses? You've been acting strangely today. What's happening?

Moses looks deeply troubled.

MOSES

This time I really don't know. He hasn't shown me any visions since the darkness fell. Maybe -- just maybe it is the last one. The tenth might have been a ruse to change ramses' mind.

AARON

(Urgent)

Hopefully. Hopefully that's the case here. I don't think I can stand another one.

MOSES

You and I both.

AARON

Miriam has made us a meal. Care to join us?

MOSES

That would be nice. Yes.

AARON

If we hurry, we can grab some her fresh bread before she stores it away.

Both head out.

INT. WAR ROOM - RAMSES - MOSES - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY

Moses walks in to see ramses by himself sitting on a chair without his officers or priests and scribes.

RAMSES

Sit. I insist.

With reluctance, Moses sits down across from Ramses.

RAMSES (CONT.)

Quite the parlor tricks I have to say. I don't know how you did it to block the sun's light, but - my vassals say and vote yes to free your people.

MOSES

What do you say?

Nefritiri steps into the room to answer for Ramses.

NEFRITIRI

He says no.

Ramses displays a smug look on his face to suggest to moses that he's won. Thus far.

MOSES

So you're the voice behind the plots? Wouldn't surprise me. Suffice to say that god has not spoken to me for three days during the darkness.

NEFRITIRI

Maybe he's abandoned you.

MOSES

That's what I thought. Until a moment of sleep in my bed with my wife.

Nefritiri hears the word wife which rings loudly inside of her mind but tries to block it out.

NEFRITIRI

Wife? Is she a princess? Or some goat herder from the wastelands you crawled out of?

RAMSES

You can't beat me. Not like this. I may have, endured the strange incidents that your so called god handed to me. But I must say, that even though the hail of fire had me almost convinced, I knew it would stop anyway. So, what's left?

Like a balloon it floats around the table as they all converse.

MOSES

When I dreamed, I saw - a great image of nothingness. A hollowed out void of a cold, barren and lifeless chasm.

Both Ramses and Nefritiri listen intently, as if hypnotized by his soft, gentle and chiseled voice.

MOSES (CONT.)

From inside the darkness, I then saw a figure standing before me holding something. I couldn't make out what it was. I spoke to whoever he or she might be, but I didn't get an answer back. That's when I knew that I wasn't going to be the one to bring the last plague to you.

Moses stands up and expresses a most serious gaze to Ramses as he ugently warns him...

MOSES (CONT.)

It's you, who shall bring the last plague to the people.

RAMSES

(Mocking)

Me? But, I don't have magic, or power. You seem to have it all Moses.

MOSES

(Urgent warning)

With your words alone you will bring the last plague to egypt. But, if you do -- be prepared to reap what you sow Ramses. Because if it happens you won't be able to silence the horrifying screaming of your people.

Moses walks out hastily.

Ramses and Nefritiri just gaze at his back as he leaves the war room with a stunned look on their faces.

Later on...

EXT. CHARIOT STABLES - RAMSES - FELLOW CHARIOTEERS - DUSK

Ramses arrives at the stables and walks over to one of his officers - Pentaur.

RAMSES

Pentaur.

PENTAUR

Yes pharaoh.

RAMSES

Get the teams ready to move out in one hour.

PENTAUR

What's the destination?

RAMSES

The city of goshen. Moses called upon me to deliver a last plague. Well, he's going to get more than he bargained for.

PENTAUR

What does that mean?

RAMSES

Like my forefather once did, but moses escaped his edict when it happened. And that is we are going

(MORE)

RAMSES (cont'd)
to kill every first born until none
are left alive to carry on his
flame of vengence.

PENTAUR
But that would...

RAMSES
Every -- new-born. Leave none
alive. Do you understand pentaur?

PENTAUR
(Dismayed, regret)
Yes pharaoh. I Understand.

RAMSES
Have them ready in one hour.

Ramses walks away.

Pentau's eyes glance to the ground in utter disbelief.

What pentaur does not see behind him from a shadow is one of
the elder's spies.

When he learns of Ramses' terrible plot, he immediately
leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ELDER HIDEOUT NIGHT

Elder's eyes are wide with fear.

ELDER
Every newborn? But, that's insane.
Does Moses know?

SPY
No elder. I was going to tell Moses
but felt you should hear it first.

ELDER
Then don't waste anymore time here.
Go, find Moses.

Spy bows and leaves.

All the elders bow their heads in silent prayer except
for... Their master.

ELDER
(Looks up)
Spare the children.

He too bows his head, and weeps.

INT. YOCHABEL'S SOD HUT - NIGHT

From the door: Once the spy delivers his message, Moses stumbles and FALLS to the floor backwards.

His back painfull scrapes down the dry stickled wall.

Aaron helps him stand up.

MOSES

I can't - I can't - believe he
spoke it. Why? Why the children?

Zipphora's eyes are wide with fear as she watches her husband suffer in his own decree on Ramses.

ZIPPHORA

Moses. What - what are we going to
do? Our son...

MOSES

Aaron, assemble a horse for my
wife. She and gershom are going
back home to Sinai.

ZIPPHORA

You're not coming with us?

MOSES

I can't. I have to stay and finish
this with ramses.

Moses displays urgency as he describes what is to happen.
It's as if a silent instinct coaches him on how he explains
of the last plague.

A heart beat matches the moment.

MOSES (CONT.)

I don't know why, but my heart
tells me that at midnight, death
will come to goshen in the form of
a wind. It will pass from house to
house killing all first born inside
including the pharaoh's son.
(Concentrates deeper) Only -- LAMBS
blood can save the children if it
is spread above the door and on the
threshold.

ZIPPHORA

Then why should our son and I leave
if he can be saved?

MOSES

(With DREAD)

Do you really want him to stay here
and listen to the horrifying
screams of each household that
don't use lambs blood?

Joshua bursts in.

JOSHUA

Ramses is calling out the chariots.

SPY

It's not the chariots we should be
worried about.

JOSHUA

What do you mean?

MOSES

Joshua, find some good men to help
you. Gather up enough lambs blood
and start to coat each door jamb as
fast as you can. Go to Lilia and do
the same on her door.

JOSHUA

Why? What - what...

MOSES

(Very urgent)

Just do it. Joshua, please. Spread
the word that god's final judgement
has come.

Joshua glances from face to face to see the grim looks.

JOSHUA

Okay. I'll do as you ask.

Startled, Joshua heads out the door.

Zipphora gathers up a few things along with Gershom for
their journey back to Sinai.

Moses' body slumps as he approaches his wife.

MOSES

Zipphora. I don't know how long
this will take. Hopefully the night
won't prove to be my -- my test of
faith. I can't even begin...

ZIPPHORA

You've shown Ramses what happens if he mocks god. It's not your fault.

MOSES

I - I - gave him the order. But I didn't think he would use such a cruel method.

Moses hugs his son and wife tightly.

The spy can only watch in silence, with tears in his eyes.

After a tender moment, Moses turns to his spy.

MOSES

Take them to the edge of the city. There's a caravan waiting to depart along with her father.

SPY

I can escort her all the way back to sinai if you wish.

MOSES

I wish it. Thank you. (Looks down at GERSHOM.) And you, take and look after your mother. She needs a strong man to keep her safe.

GERSHOM

I will.

Moses hugs both Zipphora and Gershom one last time.

MOSES

Go. Keep them safe.

Spy leads both mother and son out of the house.

Aaron stands beside Moses as they leave.

AARON

I'll get some lambs blood ready.

MOSES

(Quietly)
Thank you.

FADE TO:

EXT. STABLES - RAMSES - MIDNIGHT

Pentaur waits alongside the rows of chariots ready to raze Goshen.

When suddenly, a rushing wind engulfs the stables, which cause straw to wildly fly about.

Ramses winces and then sees light trails thin as threads whisking in the strong breeze that heads for his city -- and Goshen.

The trails split and resume in other parts of the city.

A mesmerizing sight.

Some of the chariot horses whinny and try to run but are calmed by their stable masters.

RAMSES

The seers didn't say there was
going to be gales of wind today.
The stars were quiet.

PENTAUR

(Looks over at victim)
I don't think it's wind pharaoh.

Ramses averts his gaze to see in the short distance one of the stable masters drop to the ground face first.

Winds diminish and the light trails fade but it continues on through out both Thebes and Goshen.

Ramses walks over to investigate.

EXT. STABLE MASTER - DEAD - CONTINUOUS

A dead victim. Another stable hand kneels to check as Ramses shows up.

RAMSES

What happened?

STABLE HAND

He's dead.

RAMSES

What? How?

STABLE HAND

He was just -- gathering up some
tools when he started to breath
heavy. When I looked over I saw him
collapse. (Sobs) He's my brother.

RAMSES

Your brother?

STABLE HAND

My older brother. I was second to
be born.

Ramses' eyes widen. He backs away from them as Pentaur has a
look of confusion.

PENTAUR

Pharaoh?

RAMSES

(Gasps)

Amun.

He turns and runs as fast as he can back to the palace.

PENTAUR

Pharaoh!!

RAMSES

My son!!

EXT. CITY STREETS - PESTILLENCE - NIGHT

High above the streets of Thebes, a group of fruit bats
passes through the misty cloud and light. A few drop dead to
the ground as Ramses races to the palace on foot.

Shrieks bellow from households through out the kingdom.

EXT. STREET LEVEL

Ramses runs hard as he listens to the shrilling of mother
and fathers which echo and amplifies with each running step.

He then looks up to see the illuminated wind slither into
his household.

RAMSES

No, no, no, Amun. No - NO!

He veers to his palace and rushes up the steps.

EXT. PALACE STEPS - CONTINUOUS

While he runs up the steps, Ramses stumbles and scrapes open
his knee, but is unphased by his injury.

RAMSES

(Desperate, frantic)

Amun, Amun. Please, Amun.

INT. PALACE - AMUN'S ROOM

Ramses rushes inside to see his son lying on the bed lifeless with both eyes open. Dead fish eyes. Nefritiri spins around and lunges for Ramses with pure hatred and anger.

She grabs anything she can use to strike Ramses with and attacks with rage, fury.

She grabs a small stone statue and starts to hit him on the head.

Ramses doesn't bother to stop her. For the moment.

NEFRITIRI

You!! YOU DID THIS! Our son! OUR SON!! You brought the curse on our son! You incompetent - USELESS - feeble man!

Each word is enunciated with a strike.

Ramses falls to the floor bleeding from his forehead but never takes his eyes off of his son.

Nefritiri swings down again, but Ramses stops her.

He stands up and faces his out of control wife and punches her in the face only once to send her flying.

Nefritiri lands on a nearby nightstand and it breaks. But, she remains conscious.

Ramses turns to kneel beside the bed and holds his son's hand sobbing, and bloody.

A broken man.

Nefritiri cries hard, her voice rings out in the room, which leads to the halls of the palace to mix with others who are suffering the loss of their first born.

A single light trail floats and moves to the window and outside.

EXT. PALACE - CITY WIDE PANIC - NIGHT

Thread moves over the city as screeching cries carry on through the stifling air.

Thread rises higher and overlooks both Thebes and Goshen.

Suffering continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DATHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joshua paints the door jamb with lambs blood and then quickly leaves without a word to Lilia.

He watches the skies for any sign of danger.

By a window however, Lilia sees someone exit the property.

She moves to investigate.

EXT. DOOR

She opens the door and glances around a few seconds, when she notices the blood on the doorframe.

She touches it, and looks at her fingers.

Then she sees a reflective glimmer in the blood's liquid.

Lilia looks up to see the shining threads whisk down at her.

Lilia steps back inside the house as she sees the illuminated misty air hovering in front of her.

She is frightened by its presence. Yet, it moves on.

DATHAN (O.C.)

Lilia. What are you doing?

LILIA

Nothing. I thought I heard someone outside.

DATHAN (O.C.)

Well shut the damn door and get back in here. I'm in the mood.

With no concern for dathan, Lilia glances at the blood one last time, and shuts the door.

Blood stains drip slowly to the ground.

FADE TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - RAMSES - MOSES - NEFRITIRI

Moses walks in calmly along with Aaron who holds a parchment of paper rolled up.

A summons.

Ramses through tear stained eyes glares at Moses with hatred.

RAMSES

My son. Why my son?

MOSES

It's not your son, but all first born that you decreed to die. This was out of my hands. I had also warned you of the consequences.

RAMSES

But a PESTILLENCE! A crude way to get your revenge using such a - a benevolent god. Now my legacy is at an end because of you. I said goshen not egyptian.

MOSES

In god's eyes, all who are born under his influence are his children. When you gave the order, it was by his will to send out a destroyer to snuff the light out of those who were cursed by your words. And your words alone.

Ramses sobs. Relentless fear overtakes him and faintly gives in.

MOSES (CONT.)

Will you set them free?

Through his rage...

RAMSES

YES!! I DO! Take them, take - take whatever you want! Take it all! Just, get out of my sight. (Stands up) GET OUT!!!

Moses can see how much pain Ramses is in, but bows to the pharaoh out of respect none the less.

Nefritiri weeps for the simple reason that she can't do anything.

Both Moses and Aaron leave the war room.

They just watch through tears as Moses walks away from them, hopefully never to be seen or heard from again.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY OF THEBES - OUTSKIRTS - FREEDOM - CARAVANS - TWO WEEKS LATER - DAY

Ten miles out of the city, Moses leads his six hundred thousand slaves to Mount Sinai. Herds of cattle, sheep, and other livestock are kept calm on the way by their handlers.

Although there is freedom, the caravans remain quiet, uncertain as to what lies ahead.

Moses walks beside the elders who ride on donkeys.

ELDER

How long is the journey to Sinai?

MOSES

Around ten days depending on the children and the old.

ELDER

Ten days?

MOSES

It took me four days because I was alone. The slaves are on the road to recovery, but because of their -- masters it will take this long for them to regain their strength.

ELDER

We'll still lose some of them.

MOSES

I know.

ELDER

What happens if we run out of water? What then? There are no wells from here to there.

MOSES

I'll think of something. Joshua along with a few others are riding ahead of us to get a better layout of the land in case he comes across water.

ELDER

Then we'll be patient for him.

Moses shows concern. To take care of so many is staggering.

Vultures fly over the mass of people.

The length of which, stretches for five miles.

Six days later...

EXT. MERIBAH - AFTERNOON

Unrest and impatient followers start to complain that the water has run dry. People flock to Moses to get a better idea as to how to solve the problem.

Among them, is Dathan who stands at the front.

Moses sees him, but does not take issue.

FOLLOWER

Where is joshua? I thought he was supposed to find us water?

Others start to complain.

Aaron stands beside moses. Miriam is close by tending to thirsty children.

In his frustration, Moses walks away leaving Aaron to deal with them as best he can.

AARON

Moses will help. He always does.
Don't lose faith now after so many years of suffering because of ramses.

DATHAN

Yeah, but at least ramses kept us fed, watered and a roof over our heads.

Others agree.

EXT. MOSES - ALONE

He thinks as he walks across a bed of jagged pebbles. Crunching rocks under his sandals.

Once he stops, he closes his eyes to think and utters out loud...

MOSES

How do I do it? How do I provide water for this many people?

Inside of his mind he can hear...

GOD (V.O.)

Prove to thy people that I AM with them. Walk to the largest rock at
(MORE)

GOD (V.O.) (cont'd)
 the base of the mountain and speak
 thine name. Call to me and I will
 bring forth water so they and their
 cattle shall drink.

MOSES
 (Eyes closed)
 Does my - wife still...

GOD (V.O.)
 She lives under thy mountain with
 her father and forefathers. As does
 your son. Go to satiate the
 children's thirst.

Moses walks back to the people.

EXT. MERIBAH - LARGE ROCK

He stands alone watching Aaron as the people continue to
 badger and complain their endless worries.

Moses in his frustration shouts out to them.

MOSES
 Here! Over here!

The people see Moses by a massive boulder and move away from
 Aaron to join Moses as they continue to cast their endless
 complaints to Moses.

Aaron hurries over to stand by his brother -- Just in case.

MOSES (CONT.)
 (In front of people)
 You complain endlessly. You've seen
 what god can do and how he
 provides. You want water? Here,
 here's your water!!

Moses swings his staff to strike the boulder twice.

The boulder cracks open to reveal an open dark wound.

Suddenly, water trickles out and quickly turns to a
 torrential outpouring of endless water.

The people are saved, happy, content..

Dathan's eyes narrow as the people rush in with jars, jugs,
 or whatever they can fill.

Lilia gathers water.

Moses walks away, irritated.

EXT. MOSES - AND GOD - CONTINUOUS

GOD (V.O.)

Why has thou forsaken me? Why has
thou not told the children to pray
unto me by the rock?

MOSES

I didn't foresake you my lord. But
the people were desperate and
angry. I - struck the rock in haste
so they would kindle their rage.
What else was I going to do?

GOD (V.O.)

For this your generation shall not
come forth to the holy land. Thou
shall not cross the river jordan
into new pastures. Only those of
future generations shall bear
witness to it. For thouest has
disobeyed my counsel.

MOSES

Lord?

GOD (V.O.)

Time has come moses. Move thine
children to the holy mountain where
I will set my laws upon their
hearts and minds.

Moses falls to his knees, while behind him the people
continue to gather water. His mistake realized.

Moses expresses misery that he disobeyed the savior with
sullen, droopy eyes. He closes them to pray.

FADE TO:

EXT. AMUN'S MAUSOLEUM - RAMSES - NEFRITIRI - DAY

There are no guards present. NO house maidens, no witnesses
as Ramses looks at the covered body of his son that rests on
an altar.

Only one priest stands in the background. Jannes.

Two great column pillars stand on each side of the altar
with lit fire beacons at the top of each pillar.

RAMSES

To think that moses could so easily
beat me into submission like this.

Nefritiri turns to look at Ramses with a cold hard stare.

NEFRITIRI

You let yourself be beaten into
submission Ramses. Moses only
wanted the people set free. But,
who would have built our son's
cities? Who would write his name
down in the annals of history now?
And while you stand there gazing at
our son's dead body, moses and his
people are probably laughing to
their hearts content.

A gentle breeze wafts over the burial grounds.

RAMSES

That's all you do. You talk about
him like he's still here. (Shakes
head) You've never once considered
that I may have loved you at all. I
did. In my own way.

NEFRITIRI

Love? Love?! You tore apart from me
something important in my life and
for what? Just so you could best
Moses at his own game. And killing
our - son in the process.

Ramses looks up at the clear blue sky.

RAMSES

I think I know what you want.

NEFRITIRI

What I want?

RAMSES

(Looks at wife)

Yes. And I'm going to give it to
you.

Ramses walks away from her as he shouts...

RAMSES

(To Jannes)

Call them in!

JANNES

At once pharaoh.

Nefritiri watches him leave with a confused look on her face, but decides to follow him out of the ceremonial grounds.

EXT. CHARIOTS - STAGING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ramses arrives on foot fully dressed in battle armor and climbs aboard his chariot.

Behind him waiting is ten thousand charioteers.

Once Ramses is ready, his driver cracks a whip and leads Ramses' army out across the desert to chase Moses down.

A thunderous roar as horses ride full gallop.

CUT TO:

EXT. RED SEA - A DAY LATER

Seagulls glide over the 600,000 of god's children who bask and play under the sun while a small dust storm from the north 25 miles away moves towards them across the desert sands.

Ramses is coming.

EXT. SHORES OF THE SEA - MOSES - ELDERS = DAY

Moses sits with the elders as they eat meat. Their camp dwarfed by the shoreline's expanse that extends east to west for miles.

There is no retreat or safe haven to hide from Ramses.

EXT. JOSHUA - ON HORSEBACK

He rides to an empty spot just outside of the camp's perimeter to have a look at the dust clouds that billow above the distant sandy horizon.

Joshua squints and tries to focus on a dark shadow.

From his vantage point, in the long distance, he sees it.

Chariots are coming.

Joshua turns his horse and rides back through the camps and around bystanders at full gallop.

JOSHUA

Move! Out of the way!!

People leap or jump to safety.

EXT. SHORES OF THE SEA - MOSES - ELDERS - DAY

Joshua rides up to the elders startling them.

JOSHUA
Ramses is on his way.

MOSES
How many?

JOSHUA
I don't know. It looks like all of them.

MOSES
That's ten thousand chariots. Oh god.

ELDER
What do we do? Where can we go?

Moses stands up and runs towards the incoming threat while the elders express fear.

Ground rumbles violently.

Moses weaves and bobs around people as he races to the camp's perimeter.

Joshua brings up the rear.

As the ground vibrates with more intensity, the people start to panic and scatter.

EXT. CAMP PERIMETER - COLUMN OF FIRE

Once Moses stops, he notices how two rock shelves that extend east to west cut off any means of escape or intrusion.

The gap between the shelves is his blueprint.

MOSES
Joshua. Move the people to the sea.

JOSHUA
To the sea? Why? There's no where to go.

Rumbling of chariots intensifies.

On the sand, pebbles bounce up and down.

EXT. CHARIOTS - RAMSES

They charge in full gallop. Ramses then lifts his right hand.

His legion of chariots then spread out in groups of twenty blocks to form a wedge.

EXT. CAMP PERIMETER - COLUMN OF FIRE

Moses walks between the stone shelves and stops in the middle of the gap.

Moses closes his eyes for a moment. A sound of breathing drowns out the noise of chariots, horses, and galloping.

When Moses opens his eyes, all he can see is Ramses leading his men.

From Ramses' perspective, he sees Moses thrust both arms out, with the staff in his right hand, which starts to glow red.

A ground hog that sits on on the stone shelf watches and sees dust clouds at ground level start to swirl.

The cloud picks up speed and begins to rotate.

EXT. RAMSES

He sees the sands churning in front of Moses, but charges ahead anyway.

EXT. COLUMN OF FIRE

Rotation spins faster, faster, when suddenly flames ignite, and the base widens to over a hundred feet in diameter that blocks off the gap's entrance.

Column rises to a thousand feet high.

EXT. RAMSES

In his moment of glory to win, he is suddenly faced with a monstrous fiery pillar that gives off so much radiant heat that the horses back off without the order.

Ramses ducks as his driver veers the chariot left and away from the fire.

EXT. COLUMN OF FIRE

Moses is satisfied and walks back to meet with the elders. Joshua rides beside him.

The people look on moses with fear, respect and loyalty.

PEOPLE (O.C.) (V.O.)

Moses. Such power. Ramses is done for.

Moses can hear them, but pays them no mind as he heads to the shoreline.

EXT. SHORES OF THE SEA - THE PARTING

As he approaches the elders...

ELDER (O.C.)

What now moses? We don't have any ships to aid us.

MOSES

We don't need any.

Dathan is close by who decides to speak up on behalf -- of the people.

DATHAN

Then what do you suggest moses? Bow down and ask the pharaoh for a quick death? I'd rather beg for his mercy into letting us come back. How long is everyone to remain out here? Starving? Thirsty? Without a hope or prayer? What -- miracle are you going to pull out of your ass this time to keep ramses from advancing?

Dathan up to Moses without fear and asks...

DATHAN (CONT.)

What happens when that -- fire goes out? What then moses?

Moses looks calm, even though he really wants to wring his fat neck.

MOSES

(Addresses the masses)

All of you, how many times must the lord prove to you that his word is to be obeyed? You've seen the miracles, one after the other and even - - suffered because of it. But that was the point. It is our test to never abate from relying on his glory and love for us. (At

(MORE)

MOSES (cont'd)

Dathan) You most of all Dathan. Who once saw the lord as the only salavation until greed set into your mind and your senses. You wish to know god's will up close and personal? Then here is your answer!

Moses walks to the ocean and brutishly stabs the water with the butt end.

Instantly...

EXT. RED SEA PARTS

The sea churns violently and splits apart with a ferocious roar. The people scream and back off as the walls of water climb to four hundred feet high.

While it parts, the sea floor is exposed. Moist but still sturdy to walk on.

From a seagulls point of view as the gap widens, the zenith of the tear trails along the red sea to the other side twenty miles across to the other side.

EXT. RED SEA PARTS

Dathan falls to his knees in awe of such power.

The elders look onto it as something they've seen before, but clearly express fear none the less.

MOSES

Joshua, get everybody moving.

JOSHUA

(Astounded)

Yeah. Yeah, right.

JOshua grabs a horn from his waist and blows hard.

After getting the people's attention...

JOSHUA (CONT.)

Everybody gather only what you can carry, leave everything else behind! Move out! Go!

Moses turns to watch the waters tumble and roll at the top of each wall.

He then moves forth along with the elders between them.

Meanwhile...

EXT. RAMSES - CONTINUOUS

One of his soldiers rushes up to Ramses to give his report with a dazed look on his face.

RAMSES
What is it? Speak!

SOLDIER
I did as you asked and climbed up the slope to see if they were escaping, but...

RAMSES
But what? Out with it damn you!

SOLDIER
They're walking between walls of water.

RAMSES
What?

SOLDIER
Moses parted the sea so they could all escape between the walls.

Ramses looks at Pentaur and decides to take a look for himself.

He rushes to a short ledge, which the soldier used to climb up and down from.

At the top...

EXT. TOP OF LEDGE

Ramses' eyes widen to see that the red sea has parted open to allow passage.

While lying on his stomach, he rests his lips on his right forearm watching. Anger builds.

He looks back to see...

EXT. CHARIOT FORCES

... His men who stand close to their chariots, but knows that to hunt down Moses on foot would be useless without their horses or spears.

Back to ledge...

EXT. TOP OF LEDGE

Ramses climbs down the slope.

EXT. CHARIOT FORCES

Ramses walks over to Pentaur slightly frazzled that his opportunity is slipping away quickly.

PENTAUR

Pharaoh. We can't win. We can't beat his god.

RAMSES

When the fire dies, you and the rest will chase down Moses. Kill everyone else, but I want that man kept alive. Understood?

Too exhausted to argue, Pentaur shows regret and nods and offers a slip of the tongue.

PENTAUR

Yes Ramses.

Ramses looks at Pentaur, but does not admonish him for using his first name.

RAMSES

Good. Get them all ready.

PENTAUR

At once.

Pentaur walks to his chariot and grabs a yellow flag. He waves it to the awaiting forces who stand by in front of the pillar of fire but, also from a good distance.

EXT. WALL OF WATER - SIX HOURS LATER

Moses leads the people through. For the frightful witnesses they see mammal life LURKING. And swimming in the water. A few dolphins, a school of fish, even a small whale that swims in the water and down the length of the corridor.

Moses can see a landing up ahead.

EXT. EXIT

Moses walks out first and turns to wait while his people advance a little faster.

He can see Joshua helping a few with their wagons and other forms of transportation to push up a small knoll where Moses is standing from.

MOSES

Joshua.

Joshua hurries over to moses.

JOSHUA

Yes moses?

MOSES

Have the people gathered so they
can see witness what it means to
disobey god.

JOSHUA

Understood.

Joshua begins his task.

Moses' eyes narrow until they squint, as if he can see
Ramses himself on the other side of the sea.

EXT. COLUMN OF FIRE

Ramses watches the column closely.

The pillar randomly pulses, which is not part of the
column's lifeforce.

Soon the rotation slows to a crawl.

PENTAUR

It's dying. The fire's dying!

Ten thousand men cheer!

From the cheering men's perspective, the tower diminishes in
strength to finally extinguish itself out.

Ramses smirks but, glances over to Pentaur because he knows
of the doom that waits between the waters.

As if he received a premonition.

Pentaur looks over to Ramses with hope in his eyes.

Ramses nods his head to the general.

A war horn blows.

The fire dies completely. What is left on the sand is a
smooth but warbled pad of melted glass.

Scorched, charred and shiny under the sun's rays.

RAMSES
KILL them ALL!

Charioteers roar a war cry and head to the red sea with Pentaur in the lead.

Wheels rolls over the glass and it cracks like brittle toffee.

EXT. WATER CAUSEWAY

The walls of water presents itself like towering sentinels.

Darkness lurks between them as the chariot wheels make contact with the dry seabed.

Ten thousand chariots head to the other side.

EXT. RAMSES - CONTINUOUS

He watches the men from a safe vantage point of the gap as the last of the charioteers enter and vanish within the water's murky shadows.

His driver steps down from the chariot, and walks away.

RAMSES
(Perturbed)
Where are you going?

CHARIOT DRIVER
I thought of you as a great man
ramses. But now when I look at you
sending them all in while you
remain behind safely out harms way
says that you're a coward. I want
nothing more to do with you.

Driver slowly turns and walks back to Thebes on foot.

Ramses grabs his spear and holds it up to righteously throw at his abandoning driver who calmly walks away while removing his war armor.

Ramses tenses up to throw, but instead just gazes at his back and drops the spear.

He turns around and grabs the reigns of his horses, and spurs them to move forward.

He rides to the water's opening at full gallop.

Just then...

EXT. MOSES - WALLS COLLAPSE

Moses can see the large dust plumes of the chariots far off into the distance.

A good five miles away.

They are far enough in.

JOSHUA

Everybody's settled moses.

MOSES

Good. Stand back joshua.

Joshua steps back as Moses points the staff at the waters.

The staff's tip glows white and pulses like a heart beat.

Soon the walls start to collapse cutting off any means of escape.

The people behind Moses shriek and moan in fright.

EXT. PENTAUR AND COMPANY

Ahead of Pentaur, he can see the walls caving in. Millions of decaliters floods the path the chariots ride on and are then swathed over by tons of water burying them alive.

The men scream in anguish.

Pentaur's eyes reflect the incoming mass of water as it growls towards him.

He closes both eyes.

PENTAUR

(Whispers)

Pharaoh.

As the water passes by, Pentaur and his men are torn apart like wet paper.

Limbs and other body parts flow violently with the water's currents.

Horses are no exception.

EXT. WATER CAUSEWAY

Ramses is close to the entrance when he sees the curling top of the waters fall down and crush the last of his men. Horrifying screams get cut off once the water washes over them.

Silencing them -- forever.

Ramses stops the chariot and jumps down to run to the edge of the shoreline.

As he is about to try and save at least one life, the water reconnects and clashes together with a thundrous raging clap!! that sends a wedge shaped plume high into the air.

Foamy sea water are all that remain.

A few waves crash against the shores, while droplets rain down on Ramses.

Ramses falls to his knees in despair.

Then...

RAMSES
NGGGYYAAAA!!

After his tantrum cools he can see a small patch of dark shadow that moves on the other side of the red sea.

Not clear enough to make out, but lets Ramses know, that Moses and his people are no longer his concern.

Ramses hangs his head in shame.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PALACE - DUSK

Ramses rides his chariot up to the palace and gets down. Defeated, he climbs steps but also notices that the interior oil lamps to his bed chambers are still lit.

Slightly relieved that Nefritiri has not yet left him he ascends.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ramses walks in to see Nefritiri gabbing with one of the priests. When they see Ramses, the priest leaves.

NEFRITIRI
Well? Is he dead? Or is the game
going to continue between you and
Moses?

Ramses walks towards Nefritiri, but instead of taking his rage out on her, he simply passes her by to his throne.

She spins around to see him sitting down looking prideful, stoic, but -- utterly defeated.

Nefritiri suspects.

NEFRITIRI

Where is he?

Ramses leans forward and places his elbows on his knees as he looks straight into her eyes with a strange sense of wonder.

RAMSES

I watched ten thousand of my men die today. In - an instant. A flaming column of fire barred my way while Moses and his people walked between the waters of the red sea to the other side. I - didn't stand a chance. (Looks at Floor) His - god, Nefritiri -- (Looks at her) IS god.

She stands before him. Both remain silent from then on.

A gentle breeze wafts through to tussle her hair and gown.

There, Ramses sits - bowing his head as a beam of setting sun casts down upon his crown.

A bitter moment, for a suffering and lonely pharaoh.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNT SINAI - DAYS LATER

Moses walks through the encampment with Joshua as the people greet or meet with him with gifts of fruit or nuts or meat.

He refuses politely and moves on.

JOSHUA

There's someone I want you to meet.

MOSES

Who?

JOSHUA

Someone you know very well.
(Smirks)

Joshua then leads Moses past a herd of cattle towards a tent which is guarded by a few egyptian soldiers.

Moses glances to Joshua.

EXT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

A soldier steps in front of them.

JOSHUA

I bring moses to see her.

SOLDIER

(Holds open the flap)

Go right in.

JOSHUA

I'll leave you two alone. I got some other business.

MOSES

But...

Joshua rushes off in the other direction.

Moses enters the tent to see...

INT. BITHIA'S TENT

Bithia gets up from her chair and rushes over to Moses to hug him tightly.

As she looks up at her son's gentle face...

MOSES

Bithia? Bithia! Wh - what are you doing here?

BITHIA

I was set free when the priests heard what you did at the red sea. They thought that by lessening of your god's wrath they decided to let me go. I - blended in with the caravans and ended up here. Zippora has been very kind to me.

MOSES

It's good to see you - mother.

BITHIA

I'm so sorry I didn't tell you about - - Yochabel. We kept in contact over the years but that soon faded when Ramses started to ask questions about where you really came from. I guess it's because I didn't take extra precaution when I was protecting you from - from...

MOSES

I know.

Moses kisses her on the forehead.

BITHIA

You look healthy but -- tired. Are you sleeping well?

MOSES

Hardly any time to sleep. Soon, god will call on me to ascend the mountain.

BITHIA

Why?

MOSES

To hand down the laws that he has designed for us.

A look of concern washes over Bithia.

MOSES (CONT.)

What is it?

Bithia parts from Moses and stands by her chair.

BITHIA

(Wrings fingers)

Is it possible Moses, that although I'm Egyptian born -- would your - I mean would God allow me a place in his kingdom when I die?

Moses beams a smile at his mother.

He approaches her with open arms.

MOSES

You were the one who set things in motion when you pulled me out of the Nile when I was an infant. You taught me that equality, being valiant to others, helping the weak and to keep justice held true was all because of your teachings. Of course he has a place for you in his kingdom. Without you my path wouldn't have been set before me.

He hugs her tightly. A very mother and son moment.

Later...

EXT. MOUNT SINAI - MOSES AND JOSHUA - DAY

Moses is before his people ready to depart. He looks down at the faces to see hope, optimism, caring, trust and above all loyalty to god.

It's quiet as the people all watch him turn to trek up the mountain slopes. Joshua remains behind with Aaron who possesses the staff for safe keeping.

Within the crowds however...

Stands Dathan.

EXT. THE PEOPLE - DATHAN

His eyes follows Moses up the side of the mountain using a rudimentary pathway.

Dathan offers the back of Moses a crooked evil grin.

He walks away to think -- and plot.

Bithia who is present sees Dathan grinning in her son's direction and follows him but, first...

BITHIA

(To one of her aids)

Stay here.

AID

(Confused)

Are you sure?

BITHIA

Yes, there's something I'd like to look into.

AID

Understood.

Bithia continues to follow Dathan.

Dathan is ahead of her of around fifty feet as they negotiate through the people.

A few moments later...

EXT. DATHAN'S TENT - DATHAN AND BROTHERS

Bithia stops and hides behind a tent to watch Dathan speak with a few of his brothers covertly but, luckily for her, the surrounding tents act like an amplifier as he speaks...

DATHAN

This is going well. Moses just went up the mountain. We'll start to spread the word during his climb.

BROTHER #1

What if some of them won't listen to us?

DATHAN

Convince them. Spoil some of the food stores to accelerate our plan.

BROTHER #2

Do you think Ramses will -- accept us back once he knows who pulled this off?

Dathan grins eerily.

DATHAN

(Quietly)

I handed him Moses. This will be no different, except for one thing.

BROTHER #2

What's that?

Bithia's eyes focus only on Dathan when he announces...

DATHAN (O.C.)

We have to kill Moses' son in order to break him.

Her eyes widen.

She flees without them ever seeing her.

EXT. THROUGH THE ENCAMPMENT

Bithia does not run. She walks quickly back to her tent as she glances right to left.

Because of her egyptian clothes, some of the people look at her and whisper.

She is not phased by their comments as she reaches her tent.

EXT. BITHIA'S TENT

Bithia enters.

BITHIA

(To her aid)

Where's joshua?

AID

He is to depart to the mountain to wait for Moses when he comes down.

BITHIA

Damn it.

AID

What's wrong my lady?

BITHIA

Where's Aaron?

AID

He's in council with the elders.

BITHIA

(Gritted teeth)

Grr!

AID

What is it?

BITHIA

It's Dathan. My curiosity got the better of me when I saw him smiling at my son in a very unkind way. So I followed him.

AID

And?

BITHIA

He and his brothers are going to try and kill Moses' son and try to spoil the food stores.

AID

For what purpose?

BITHIA

To try and break my son's will. To - get the people to agree to go back to Ramses.

AID

You're sure of this? You heard him say that?

BITHIA

Yes.

Aid ponders for a moment.

Then...

AID

Then I'll go to Aaron and warn him.

BITHIA

Good. Good. Don't be seen, keep to the shadows.

AID

I will.

Her aid leaves quickly.

Bithia paces in her tent. Her hands clasp together in silent hope.

EXT. AID - ON HIS WAY TO AARON

Like Bithia ordered, her aid sticks close to the shadows of every tent in the compound.

He uses the shadows of camels, tents, even tall wagons. The people's activity and bustling nature also helps him stay hidden.

Bithia's aid spots a single tent that is guarded by Jethro's own militia.

The aid walks over quickly only to be stopped.

EXT. ELDER'S TENT

A guard holds up a hand to stop him.

GUARD

Stop. You can go no further.

AID

Please it is important that I speak with Aaron.

GUARD

He's in council. He can't be bothered...

AID

Please! (looks around.) It's urgent. There is a plot against Moses.

Guard's eyes scrunch together but presses further.

GUARD

What plot?

Bithia's aid inches closer to the guard.

AID

It's his son's life that's in danger.

GUARD

You're sure of this?

AID

I wouldn't be here if I wasn't. I'll stay right here, and wait while you go in and tell Aaron.

GUARD

(To another guard)

Keep an eye on him.

Guard number two nods as his superior turns to walk to the elder's tent and enters.

INT. ELDER'S TENT

The guard walks in to see Aaron and the elders converse around a campfire as they sit on covered rocks.

ELDER

This is a private council.

GUARD

I apologize. One of Bithia's subordinates has told me that there is a plot against Moses. Namely his son.

AARON

Gershom? For what purpose?

GUARD

I wasn't told. But he is still here if you wish to speak with him.

ELDER

We do. Send him in.

GUARD

Right away.

Guard leaves the tent.

Elders are left confused from the news.

EXT. ELDER'S TENT

Guard approaches Bithia's aid.

GUARD
You can go in.

AID
Thank you.

Aid rushes to the tent and enters.

FADE TO:

EXT. SINAI SLOPES - EARLY DUSK

Moses takes the climb a little easier than the first time he ascended the mountain.

The slopes are unforgiving with its jagged rocks and quite often loose ones that cause one's death prematurely with accidental tripping of a sandal's toe flange.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BURNING BUSH - DUSK

A few hours later, Moses arrives to the burning bush once again and stands in front of it.

He then removes his sandals and kneels on the ground and waits in silence.

While he waits, the bush suddenly extinguishes itself.

Confused, Moses stands up as the last of the sun's warm light vanishes over the horizon.

MOSES
(Whispers)
Lord?

EXT. DATHAN AND HIS PLOTS - THIRTY NINE DAYS LATER - NIGHT

Dathan and his brothers walk among the people as they all start to gossip and spread false lies about Moses and his intentions.

Most of the people even listen to him.

DATHAN
... So, how long will we have to wait for moses to come down from the mountain? The food stores are running dry. So's the water.

Aaron is close by with a group of men who wait to see if Dathan and his brothers make a move.

Aaron interrupts...

AARON

You plotted to have his son killed.

DATHAN

(Acts innocent)

His son? What's there to gain in killing his son? This is about survival. We've been roasting out here under the sun for over thirty days while your brother is sitting up there waiting for a -- a sign. Where is it? Why has it taken him so long to receive it?

Groans and grumblings from the people begin.

DATHAN (CONT.)

Where is this promised land? Why can't we - - we the people go in his stead?

Now the people agree with him.

Aaron suspects things are about to go seriously wrong.

AARON

It's only on god's will that the people will be allowed to enter the sacred lands. You can't defy his will.

DATHAN

His will? What about the people's will? What about the mothers and fathers who have to look at their sons and daughters crying because of their bellies being empty?

Dathan approaches Aaron menacingly.

DATHAN (CONT.)

How are you going to stop them from crying Aaron? Hm? With your will? Or with Ramses' will?

A random spectator shouts...

SPECTATOR (O.C.)

Ramses?

Dathan's mouth crooks ever so slightly.

SPECTATOR (O.C.) (CONT.)

He'd kill us the moment we stepped
foot back in egypt.

People agree.

DATHAN

Would he?! Would he really? Think
people think, he was only angry
because of moses and his little
tricks he pulled off.

Another spectator speaks...

SPECTATOR #2

But he set us free. Why else would
we be here then?

DATHAN

To starve us to death. To make us
thirst for water that is running
dry as he sits up there with his
private stash that he took up
before the people even arrived. He
is waiting for us to die!

Zipphora who is close by yells...

ZIPPHORA

LIES! All of what you say is lies.
My husband would never abandon his
people. Never!

The people start to become restless, antsy, invigorated by
Dathan's reasoning.

SPECTATOR

Then where is he?

ZIPPHORA

He's receiving the laws as it was
promised to us.

DATHAN

This long? We can't wait anymore
Zipphora. It's time that the people
choose for themselves to either die
out here, or live with full
stomachs back in egypt. We can even
present him with a gift. Yes, a
gift. Made of gold. Something that
stands for strength of our
resilience and survial skills.

Dathan spots a calf by its mother.

DATHAN (CONT.)

A calf! We'll build him a golden calf!

People agree and cheer.

AARON

It's blasphemy!

DATHAN

You can build it for us.

AARON

No! You can't make me do it dathan!
There's no way I'll agree to it.

DATHAN

It's either that, or face the people and their wrath. What's it going to be?

Aaron glances around to see the faces of his people who look at him with discontent in their eyes.

Fearing for his life, he relents and nods silently.

Zipphora closes her eyes as the people begin to gather materials.

EXT. BITHIA'S TENT

Bithia stands at the entrance of her tent to see the people collecting gold, or anything that has gold embedded in it.

By her perspective, she can see the vast landscape of tents that sit under the night sky.

Soon those shadows vanish as forging fires ingnite.

Bithia's eyes well up with tears as she turns to enter her tent.

FADE TO:

EXT. GOD'S LAWS - NIGHT

Moses walks a fast pace around the bush waiting for a sign from god.

His patience is running thin however the more each second passes by.

The area is illuminated by torch light and a nearby fire pit.

Then, with no more self-control...

MOSES

(Yells)

AH! What is it? What's left that I
have to do?

As he takes a breather...

MOSES (CONT.)

I've often thought about what it's
like to be in your place. On how I
- would do things differently. That
is before I - killed Baka. If I
hadn't, I probably would have been
chosen to sit where Ramses sits
now. And I would have abolished
slavery.

Moses stands next to the bush and gazes at its leaves,
branches, and its thin trunk.

MOSES (CONT.)

If you are all knowing, would I
have become the pharaoh and ended
slavery?

Silence.

Moses waits for an answer.

When he gets none...

MOSES (CONT.)

Of course I would. Because that's
how you see me. A man who can help
those who need it. I've made
mistakes too. Do you make mistakes?
(Sheepishly looks up at the bush)
Probably not.

Moses walks away from the bush when he instinctively stops
and gazes at a rock as if he was just told to do so.

Behind him a soft glow of white light floats above the
ground in front of the bush.

Moses slowly turns to face it.

It's small at first, about the size of a melon.

But, as the brightness increases, so does the size.

Moses backs away a couple of feet.

GOD (V.O.)
 Has thee come to deliberate? Or has
 thou come to know thine laws? With
 great consideration I shall pass
 unto you -- ten laws that thouest
 will deliver to thine children.

The light moves to a giant boulder and hovers in front of
 it.

Then, a great pulse from the light sends a one inch thick
 tendril of energy to the boulder and etches into its surface
 - - the first law...

GOD (V.O.)
 'I AM THE LORD THY GOD, THOU SHALL
 NOT HAVE ANY OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.'

Another pulse followed by a tendril of energy.

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF
 THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.'

Pulses continue as each law is written.

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY, THE SABBATH
 DAY.'

On the boulder, each law is engraved deeply within the
 surface.

Edges of each of the written laws glow red from heat.

Almost to a melting point.

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT KILL.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT STEAL.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
 AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT COVET THY
 NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.'

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 'THOU SHALL NOT COVET ANY GOODS
 THAT IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.'

The light rotates clockwise as multiple tendrils emerge from its center core and cuts into the boulder to form a border around the laws.

Each border separates and from one slab forms into two.

The light floats back to the bush and hovers in front of Moses.

GOD (V.O.) (CONT.)
 Thouest has come far Moses. To know thee well in thine light has made you, Moses a servant of hope. Thus, I shall keep thee in thine's bosom and hold thee until departure of your earthly confine.

Moses kneels in front of the light and breaks down sobbing as he offers himself with both hands clasped tightly together.

MOSES
 I shall be forever yours -- my lord.

GOD (V.O.)
 It is time. Go, get thee down from the mountain. Your children has come to know rebellion against thine wisdom.

MOSES
 Rebellion? Why?

GOD (V.O.)
 A child has spoken ill of thine light. A corruption has therefore begun to spread among the people. Go.

Instantly, the light vanishes.

To his left, he looks over to see the two tablets with deeply engraved with the writings of god.

He gets up and moves over to them slowly.

His fingers trace over the writing done in Hebrew.

Carefully, he grabs both tablets.

Moses leaves the holy grounds.

Behind him, the torches and fire pit douses out as if by magic.

FADE TO:

EXT. REBELLION - IDOL WORSHIP - NIGHT

The people in slow motion... As they laugh, sing, dance.

Dathan and his brothers in slow motion as they celebrate.

EXT. GOLDEN CALF

Aaron finishes the golden calf while women parade around him like fools

To his left are...

EXT. FIGHTERS

Fighters in slow motion as they duke it out in front of cheering spectators.

To their left, is a blocked off area.

EXT. LOVE NEST OF ILL REPUTE

Couples in slow motion... Men and women.

Mixed couples or of the same sex who engage in the act of love making.

All are naked.

A billow of smoke rises above to show entire area in full swing of their defiance against god.

The golden idol sits in the middle of it all.

EXT. JOSHUA - MOSES - A FEW HOURS LATER - NIGHT

Joshua hears the sounds of footfalls approaching him from the slopes.

Moses appears, with white hair and a beard to match.

JOSHUA

(Gasps)

Moses. I almost got the notion to go find you.

MOSES

I was always here. What's going on in the camps?

JOSHUA

How did... It's Dathan. He has them worked up. He's trying to convince them all to go back to egypt.

MOSES

He's trying to establish his standing with Ramses. Nothing more.

JOSHUA

Are these...

MOSES

Yes. His -- Commandments.

JOSHUA

So -- perfect looking.

MOSES

Let's go. We have work to do.

JOSHUA

Yes. Aaron he... (Trails off)

MOSES

Aaron? What about him?

JOSHUA

He made a golden calf.

MOSES

It's not his fault. He only did what what he thought was right to keep his family safe. Come on.

Moses leads Joshua down the rough terrain to the basecamp.

EXT. MOSES ARRIVES - JUDGEMENT - GODS ANGER - MOMENTS LATER

Moses watches as they continue to play and be merry.

Joshua watches with disgust.

Moses sets down the tablets against a rock.

MOSES
Hand me my staff.

Joshua hands it over.

Moses' eyes scan to see the foolhearted people carrying on without a care in the world.

His presense should be enough to make them all stop, but their lust blinds them.

Moses then raises his staff and thrusts the butt end of it onto the ground.

EXT. BASE CAMP - FROM THE SKY

A single lightening bold slams into the dirt next to the idol.

Everyone stops their play and look around to see -- nothing.

Dathan glances left to right, and then through his senses for self preservation, looks up at a precipice to see moses standing next to Joshua.

DATHAN
(Whispers)
Moses.

EXT. PATHWAY

Moses hands Joshua the staff and then picks up the tablets.

They walk down a narrow pathway.

A deep rumbling from the night sky begins.

EXT. DATHAN'S LAST MOMENTS

Dathan can see the people part like the red sea to show both Moses and Joshua walking forward.

Calmly, like stone golems.

Dathan sweats profusely, but tries to keep his composure in front of the people and his brothers.

DATHAN
Moses. You finally decide to show up. Now -- of all times.

MOSES
It's over Dathan. Your continuous vain plots are going to be buried along with those who follow you.

Rumbling increases.

DATHAN

It's not going to happen Moses. The people are tired, hungry, thirsty, and are at their wits end because of your -- relentless pursuit of honor and justice. We'll live on our own terms from now on Moses. You can take those tablets and...

MOSES

Without these laws, none of what we've accomplished will mean anything unless we - we the people obey them.

DATHAN

Obey them? Looks to me that you used those forty days up there to carve them out yourself. Pretty coincidental, don't you think Moses?

Rumbles become more frequent.

Moses and Joshua closes the GAP between them until only twenty feet of space remain.

MOSES

Your arrogance, and self serving plots stop here and now Dathan.

Moses turns to the people and addresses loudly to them...

MOSES (CONT.)

Those of you who feel the need to leave, can go back to egypt. Those of you who wish to stay and be a part of something greater, stand behind us.

The people who wish to live by Moses' side gather behind him and Joshua quietly.

Dathan realizes that his life is about to end badly.

He tries to run alongside his brothers when Moses warns to everyone...

MOSES (CONT.)

... But those who used this night to stain the earth with your vile filth and decayed minds do not

(MORE)

MOSES (CONT.) (cont'd)
deserve to receive god's
commandments.

Moses grabs both tablets and clasps them together and lifts them above his head.

MOSES (CONT.)
If you do not wish to live by the
law -- YOU CAN DIE BY THE LAW!

Moses throws both tablets at the golden idol.

They break into pieces, which starts a chain reaction throughout the encampment.

Rumbles get stronger, which splits the ground open to expose lava river flows.

A few bystanders lose their balance and fall in. They land on the magma only to evaporate instantly.

People scream and try to escape.

Numerous lightening bolts rain down upon the defilers and they explode to steaming bits.

Moses' cold hard stare says it all.

God's judgement prevails over the encampment like a swift push of a broom.

High winds overtake the landscape while defilers are judged with more lightening, fire and even -- Acid rain.

Dathan stops running and looks up to see a single bolt of lightening flashes down upon him.

Dathan is struck on the top of his head, which then splits him half and then explodes to a fine ashen state while the rest of the bolt takes out his frightened brothers in one swift stroke. They too explode.

EXT. VIEW OF ENCAMPMENT - A FEW MILES AWAY - GOD'S WRATH

From a wolf's perspective the encampment is bombarded with continuous lightening strikes. It gives off a strobing effect.

Screams of sorrow are heard well into the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - FORTY YEARS LATER - DAY

Moses stands with Zipphora and his grown son while Joshua gives his last orders to his own men who then ride off to lead the people to the river Jordan.

Moses is now over one hundred years old.

JOSHUA

That's the last of them.

MOSES

You've been a faithful friend after these long hard years. I suspect Lilia will be your guide through some difficult times. Treasure her.

JOSHUA

Where will you go now? It's - unfair that you can't cross or your family to what was promised.

MOSES

That's because I didn't do as he asked me to do at the waters of strife. It's only fair. Besides, my time has come to be called home.

ZIPPHORA

What?

MOSES

You knew this would happen Zipphora. God had sent a messenger in my sleep telling me it was my time to leave.

ZIPPHORA

(Saddened)

Then I'll go with you.

GERSHOM

As will I.

MOSES

No. No, this is my task alone. Eliazar.

ELIAZAR

Yes moses?

MOSES

Make sure all five books are kept within the ark of the covenant

(MORE)

MOSES (cont'd)

beside the ten commandments that
god had remade for us. There will
be many future generations of those
who will wish to know of god's
glory.

ELIAZAR

I will.

MOSES

(hand on Joshua's
shoulder)

Joshua.

JOSHUA

I'm gonna miss you.

MOSES

I'm gonna miss you too. Here.
(Hands joshua the staff.)

Joshua's eyes light up as he carefully grabs the only weapon
of god that Moses was entrusted with.

MOSES (CONT.)

God has told me that you are to
lead the people across the river
jordan. Both his power and love
will flow through you as it did
with me. I pass on this
responsibility to you. Use it
wisely.

JOSHUA

I understand.

Moses then walks away from the group and heads towards the
open plains of the desert in the direction of egypt.

After a couple more feet he stops and faces them.

EXT. PARTY POV

They watch him, alone, standing on dry sand with nothing but
a white head of hair, and beard wearing a long gown with
bordered trim of blue on his sleeves.

Behind him, a ray of light appears.

It moves to Moses slowly.

Joshua's eyes water.

Zipphora smiles and sobs.

Bithia's eyes never waver from her son. She does not cry like the others do, simply because she knows where Moses is going to for his next adventure.

The light fully engulfs Moses' body.

Suddenly, his body disassembles to tiny specks of light that dance around in a convalescent frenzy.

Each speck rises higher, higher into the skies and separate.

The party looks up, all smiling.

From their perspective, they watch as the particles gather again like a swarm of honey bees and then swoops away to an unknown destination.

MOSES' life is over.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JOSHUA'S FIRST MIRACLE - A FEW DAYS LATER

Joshua stands by the river Jordan to look at its flowing current. It's too strong to cross even by small boat but to send some men across to the distant city of Jericho is feasible.

Behind him, are the people encamped.

The only obstacle is the river.

He heads back.

EXT. ELDER - PRIESTS - ARK OF THE COVENANT - DAY

Joshua enters the makeshift temple made from walls of silk pegged to the ground.

He approaches the Ark and kneels before it to pray.

JOSHUA

Lord. Grant me your strength and wisdom to find a way to cross. I don't have the power to move water that is -- unpredictable.

Inside of his mind he can hear god...

GOD (V.O.)

In five days, bring thy priests to the river. There they shall bear the ark in front of the waters on their shoulders. I will be with

(MORE)

GOD (V.O.) (cont'd)
thee through out the passing.
There, as the river runs dry, have
twelve men pick up a stone each and
carry them across to the shore.
There, they will build a monument
to honor thine glory and unto
jericho thouest must destroy all
living things within its walls.
Spare thee one person - RAHAB for
she is your cornerstone for thy
people's promised land.

Joshua looks up at the Ark.

It is stone container topped with decorative symbols of
nature.

He stands up to face the elder and the priests who wait
close by.

JOSHUA

In five days, we move to ovetake
jericho.

ELDER

So soon? Why?

JOSHUA

I'm going to send in two of our
spies to see how strong their
armies are.

ELDER

But, we were going to use peaceful
negotiations to help us settle.

JOSHUA

It won't work. God just told me
that our people are to take the
city. Without question. I'm not
about to disobey his command.

PRIEST

You are sure he said to take the
entire city?

JOSHUA

Yes.

PRIEST

Then, what do we do?

JOSHUA

You and the others are to bring the ark down to the riverbed. Have twelve men accompany you to pick up a stone each and place them on the shores once you cross. Build a small monument to signify of our lord's presence.

ELDER

Then what?

JOSHUA

I'll wait for our spies.

All men look at each other with uncertainty, but nod in agreement.

Joshua leaves the temple.

EXT. SPIES - EARLY DUSK

Joshua explains to his men on their task.

JOSHUA

You're both clear on what you have to do? Find Rahab, she's -- going to be part of our plan -- in some way. Search for her, and make contact.

SPY #1

And once we do?

JOSHUA

I don't know phineas. If things go wrong, and their forces search for you, perhaps this - Rahab will help. We just have to trust in what god tells us is true. Don't lose your faith. You too Caleb.

CALEB

We won't. I have a plan to get us across.

JOSHUA

Good. Then, god be with you.

Joshua leaves them.

The spies get ready and move out.

EXT. RIVER JORDAN - SHORTEST ROUTE - EARLY DUSK

Phineas and Caleb arrive at the shoreline and grab a rope and tie it to a stone bound fully in leather skin.

Caleb, the strongest of the two, all 6'10 and 255 pounds of him takes it and starts to swing the rock in a forward rotation as he aims for a spot between two jagged boulders on the other side of the river.

The toss is over sixty feet.

Since the rivers flood season is in full swing they have no choice but to cross it in such an awkward way.

Caleb's swinging increases in speed and he grunts hard while he times the stone's arc perfectly and lets it fly across the river.

EXT. OTHER SIDE - BETWEEN THE BOULDERS - CONTINUOUS

The leather bound rock lands with a hard thud and settles just shy of the stone.

EXT. SPY

Caleb pulls on his end gently.

EXT. OTHER SIDE - ROCK

The rock inches closer to an underlip of the boulder and snugs itself in.

EXT. SPY

When the rope is taught, he smiles and looks back to Phineas.

CALEB

Tie it off.

Phineas hurries to tie their end of the rope around a chariot sized boulder to anchor it firmly.

Then they walk to the river's edge and peer down at the fast moving waters.

CALEB (CONT.)

I don't know how to swim.

PHINEAS

Well cross over upside down. Put on your hand coverings to stop rope burns on the way.

Both pull out a leather palm covering that wraps around their fingers like rings while the flat surface of the leather protects their palms.

Then, they start their crossing.

Like ants on a branch a few feet apart they cross quietly to the other side.

EXT. OTHER SIDE - SPIES - DUSK

Both make it without incident, and then rush to hide behind some bushes.

PHINEAS

Right. Here's how it goes. We'll move up to the furthest regions of Jericho and watch closely of how travelers move in and out of the city. If there's a lack of guards at any point on the wall that's where we'll head in.

CALEB

What if it's a matter of changing guards? That's a possibility.

As Phineas thinks for a moment for an answer...

CALEB (CONT.)

... What about from the other side? Around the mountain and over the top? We could do it tonight.

PHINEAS

We'll all have to climb fast if we're to make it before sunrise.

CALEB

I may be big, but I'm nimble.

PHINEAS

Then, let's go.

Phineas and Caleb move quickly as they blend themselves in with the shadows of the mountain.

Later on...

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTIAN - JERICHO - NIGHT

The two spies quietly jump down from a jutting rock's ledge and drop five feet to land at the furthest region of the city's wall where guards rarely patrol.

As they move stealthily on the wall's ledge, they take careful notice of the guards that patrol the streets below.

Yet, surprisingly they can hear footfalls approaching.

Phineas nods to Caleb.

They scatter and hide behind blocks of stone within the shadows.

Phineas watches from the safety of the shadow as four guards patrol past him.

When the coast is clear, they continue on.

Later...

EXT. CITY OF JERICHO - NIGHT

Joshua's spies keep an account of both the soldiers that randomly present themselves along with numerous city patrol guards that seems to have no end.

EXT. WINDOW IN WALL - CONTINUOUS

Near their position just above them, a lit window shows a woman peering down.

Her home is built into the wall itself with stairs that lead down but also spline with other homes that are also built into the wall's face.

The woman quietly watches the intruders, but suddenly notices a squad of soldiers marching towards them.

Where Phineas and Caleb hide, they will not be able to see or hear their approach.

The woman starts to panic and then picks up an empty clay pot and throws it out her window.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The pot lands and smashes to bits startling the soldiers.

EXT. PHINEAS AND CALEB - CONTINUOUS

They hear the crash and Phineas peeks around the edge of the wall to see the soldiers moving about with spears ready.

He sees on the ground the bits of clay, then his eyes avert upward to see the woman's shape from the lit window.

He engrains the image in his mind. Then turns to Caleb.

PHINEAS

We move. Now.

They leave in the opposite direction, but it is too late.

Behind them a lone soldier spots them running.

SOLDIER

You! STOP! INTRUDERS! INTRUDERS!

Clangs of gongs ring out, which wakes up half the neighborhood.

EXT. RUNNING DOWN STREET - CONTINUOUS

As they run, Phineas holds out both arms as a signal for them to split up.

They take different routes down dark alley ways, or empty streets using the shadows as cover.

The gong continues to ring.

FADE TO:

INT. WOMAN'S HOME - SOME TIME LATER - NIGHT

At a window, Phineas and Caleb sneak in quietly while outside, they can hear the city's forces continue their search for them.

Phineas walks over to a bed where a woman sleeps.

She stirs slowly awake only to have Phineas' hand cover her mouth to keep her from screaming.

As she struggles, Caleb assures her...

CALEB

Sh! We're not here to hurt you.

Her struggling ceases. Her wide eyes glances from one man to the other.

Phineas releases his hand slowly.

WOMAN

(Afraid, whispers)

Who are you? Wait, you're the one's the soldiers are looking for.

PHINEAS

(Whispers)

Yes. I watched you back away from
the window once the clay pot hit
the ground. Why did you do that?

Her body movements tells them that her livelihood is not all
peaceful or innocent. She sits up, but pulls the covers up
to hide her nakedness.

WOMAN

... Because of this city. The king
is a relentless tyrant. Cruel, and
unforgiving. He uses his position
to keep everyone on a knife's edge.
The worst part is, is that -
everyone who bows to him is
rewarded gold instead of sympathy
or a kind word. But, the more it
happens, the more greedy the people
get. They've all changed.

Phineas and Caleb look at one another.

PHINEAS

Joshua was right.

He looks at the shaking woman.

PHINEAS (CONT.)

Are you -- Rahab?

RAHAB

(Surprised)

How do you know my name?

A wry smile from Phineas.

PHINEAS

Everything he said was true.

RAHAB

Who?

PHINEAS

I'll explain later. Can you - can
you allow us to hide here? At least
until the soldiers calm down?

RAHAB

Why? What do I --

PHINEAS

Our people wait on the other side of the river to take the city. When that happens -- (looks at Caleb) we're instructed to destroy everything and everyone inside.

Rahab jumps out of her bed stark naked, and causes both men to back off suddenly as she grabs her gown without modesty.

Caleb's cheeks blush.

Phineas just closes his eyes and shakes his head to see such stunning beauty.

Once dressed...

RAHAB

If it happens. Will you save my family? They're my only concern. Aside from the rest of the city's people, they don't bow down to the king or stick their hands out for gold. Can you do that for me? Can you?

Phineas thinks as he gazes into her deep dark eyes.

He comes up with a plan.

PHINEAS

Alright. When we invade, place a scarlet ribbon or scarf in the window where our men can see it. It will tell them never to strike this house.

RAHAB

You promise not to attack us?

PHINEAS

I -- we - we promise.

She studies them for signs of dectet, when she sees none...

RAHAB

I can get you safely out of here. But, we'll need a rope for you both to climb down.

CALEB

I can find one.

PHINEAS

Right. Go.

Caleb then exits Rahab's home quietly and goes to search for a rope.

In the meantime, Phineas glances to Rahab as she stands there with both hands behind her back as she suggests...

RAHAB

Tea?

PHINEAS

Yes, thank you.

SOME TIME LATER...

INT. RAHAB'S HOME - NIGHT

Caleb rushes in with a coiled rope slung on his shoulder.

RAHAB

We can go out the back. There's an old stone stairway that leads down, but part of it has broken away from the wall.

PHINEAS

How far down is the drop from there?

RAHAB

Fifty feet maybe.

PHINEAS

How long is the rope Caleb?

CALEB

I don't know. But's it should be long enough.

PHINEAS

We'll have to take our chances.
Okay, lead the way.

Rahab then rushes to her back door and opens it to reveal a gap that spans from the stairs to a mountain.

EXT. RAHAB'S BACK DOOR

From her back door, the stairs lead downward to an adjacent household, but stops short as Rahab explained earlier.

The gap is too far to jump across.

She leads them down slowly.

PHINEAS
How old are these stairs?

RAHAB
As old as the city. Around two
hundred years.

CALEB
I don't do well with heights.

PHINEAS
You climbed over a mountain Caleb.

CALEB
Yeah, but the mountain has rocks to
hold onto.

Rahab leads them to the broken stair's gap and they all stop
a few feet from the edge.

Phineas looks down.

PHINEAS
(Brief exhale)
You're right. It's about fifty feet
down.

Phineas searches for anything they can tie the rope to.

Then he spots a hole between the second to last stair for
the rope to pass through.

PHINEAS (CONT.)
Caleb, give me the rope.

Caleb hands it over.

Phineas then lies on his stomach and faces right to empty
space where nothing exists except open air.

PHINEAS (CONT.)
Caleb, holds my legs, rahab, hold
my feet.

As both hold down Phineas, he bends his body forward so he
can thread the rope through the hole.

It's a difficult reach, but he manages to get it through.

Once done...

PHINEAS (CONT.)
Okay, pull the rope.

Caleb reaches over and pulls the rope through the hole slowly, while Phineas holds onto it to keep it from fully threading through.

Once he feels the end of the rope reach his hand...

PHINEAS (CONT.)

Okay stop.

He then starts to knot the rope four to five times until the knot is large enough to plug the hole.

PHINEAS (CONT.)

Okay pull again.

As he hangs under the stairs, Phineas watches as the last of the rope is pulled and the knot snugly fits over the hole.

PHINEAS (CONT.)

Let me up.

They help him stand.

CALEB

Well?

PHINEAS

It's anchored. You can toss the rope over now.

Caleb grabs the length and throws it.

All watch as the rope's end stops ten feet from the ground.

PHINEAS (CONT.)

Ah! We got lucky.

He faces Rahab.

RAHAB

Remember your promise.

PHINEAS

And we intend to keep it.

Suddenly, they can hear marching coming from above as soldiers rush across the wall's ledge.

RAHAB

Go. I'll cut the rope from here once you're on the ground.

CALEB

Just don't cut too early.

RAHAB

I won't. Go.

Both men start to descend down the rope's length as Rahab keeps watch on the wall's top ledge.

From her position she can see the shadows of soldiers through torch light.

EXT. DESCENT - CONTINUOUS

Phineas slides down the rope with Caleb above him.

Phineas looks down to see the ground close in and takes the chance and lets go of the rope.

On the ground, Phineas stumbles and falls on his rear as Caleb arrives.

Once Caleb is off the rope...

EXT. RAHAB - CONTINUOUS

Rahab CUTS the rope and it falls along with the Knotted end.

No evidence is left behind.

EXT. ESCAPE

Phineas and Caleb rush back to the river under the cover of night and shadows.

EXT. RAHAB - CONTINUOUS

She rushes up the stairs back to her home.

EXT. WALL - SOLDIERS

A few soldiers look down from the ledge to see... Nothing but groundspace below.

They move on and continue searching.

On a nearby torch, It flickers and moves from a gentle breeze as the soldiers pass by.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIVER JORDAN - MORNING

Joshua along with his priests who carry the Ark stand in front of the water.

Behind him, are his people with their belongings and herds.

Joshua expresses a look of uncertainty as the waters currents flow by.

A quick glance over to his brethren.

He then hears god inside of his mind...

GOD (V.O.)

I will be with thee in great times
of need. As I with MOSES who now
resides in my house so shall you -
JOSHUA come to know me.

JOSHUA

(To priests)
Approach the water.

EXT. TREE BRANCH - BIRD

A bird watches perched on a branch as they lug the Ark via broad beams of wood on shoulders.

EXT. RIVER JORDAN - CONTINUOUS

Once one of the priest's foot inches to the river, it splits open a few inches to reveal dry bedrock.

In their surprise, the priests move ahead a little more.

The waters open more and spreads out, as if the Ark is a magnet that repels its own opposite.

Behind Joshua, the people watch in silent awe.

JOSHUA

God's with us, inside the Ark
itself. (looks back to people)
Everybody, we move on to Jericho!

THE people roar with exuberant glee and happiness as they start to follow him between the river's walls that are being held back by the Ark that the priests carry.

JOSHUA (CONT.)

Wait here to keep the waters at
bay. While I have twelve men pick
up the stones.

The priests express concern.

JOSHUA (CONT.)

Don't worry. I doubt the lord will
drown you on a day like this.

PRIEST
 (Hint of doubt)
 We believe you.

Joshua smiles as twelve strong men enter the open gap and start picking up a stone each and carry it across to the other side.

EXT. OTHER SIDE - STONES - MONUMENT - CONTINUOUS

The twelve men place the stones on top of each other so they fit snugly in place.

A crude but, important monument so that all who come to Jericho sees it as god's guiding beacon.

EXT. THE PEOPLE - JOSHUA - CONTINUOUS

He leads them through the gap as moses did at the red sea. A long line of Isrealites with their hopes and dreams.

It takes a few hours for them to pass on to Jericho.

FADE TO:

EXT. JERICHO - AFTERNOON - NEXT DAY

A half mile away, the people wait outside their tents.

An air of anticipation builds for them while they wait.

Joshua observes the walls of the city as Phineas and Caleb arrive to meet with him from the direction of a mountain.

JOSHUA
 How strong of an army do we face?

PHINEAS
 No more than our own count of men.
 Yet, they don't seem to be
 organized as a military force
 should be.

JOSHUA
 That might work to our advantage.
 Assemble the soldiers.

CALEB
 We're going to strike now?

JOSHUA
 No. We'll have them march around
 the wall's perimeter.

Both Phineas and Caleb shoot Joshua a confused look.

He glances at both of them.

JOSHUA (CONT.)

Well? What are you waiting for
Caleb?

CALEB

Uh, okay. Yeah, right away.

As Caleb leaves, Joshua walks over to the priests who stand
by the Ark.

JOSHUA

How many horns do you have?

PRIEST

Horns? Enough for all of us. Why?

JOSHUA

Because you and the rest will walk
in front of our army blowing your
horns the entire time.

PRIEST

(Dumbfounded)

For what purpose?

JOSHUA

God said to me, that when the time
comes, your horns will blare long
enough to cause strife among the
king and his subordinates. Enough
so that the walls will weaken in
strength. I - don't know how that
works, but, the lord has ordered me
the task on you all.

PRIEST

Then we'll do as he commmands.

Joshua nods their acknowledgement.

PHINEAS

Rahab has been told and promised
not to be attacked.

JOSHUA

Good. Tell the lieutenants and have
them spread the word to the rest.

PHINEAS

Right away.

Phineas runs off to alert the soldiers who wait close by
that begin to assemble.

Twenty thousand in all.

The PRIESTS approach the soldiers and they pull out a horn each.

They wait.

Meanwhile...

EXT. WALL - PRECIPICE - THE KING

A gruffy looking man approaches the ledge of the wall and looks down to see over 500,000 intruders ready to invade the city. 20,000 of them are soldiers.

KING OF JERICHO

What is this? How did so many cross the river? It's high tide season.

AID

I don't know your highness. Before our scouts arrived, nearly half of them were on our shores.

KING OF JERICHO

Get our forces ready. These walls have not been breached in over two hundred and fifty years. And it will remain as such when we're done with these filthy pigs.

AID

Yes my...

Before he's even able to finish his answer, they can hear horns blaring.

The king can see the priests carry the Ark while blowing their horns.

EXT. SOLDIERS

The soldiers start to follow them and begin their march around the wall of Jericho.

EXT. PRIESTS - CONTINUOUS

Blaring horns amplify the closer the forces get to the wall.

It gets louder, louder.

KING OF JERICHO

(Winces, covers ears)

Horns? Aren't they going to attack us?

EXT. PRIESTS - HORNS - ARMY

The ground shakes as the men march true and strong.

EXT. CAMPSITE

The people wait near their campsites and observe silently.

Joshua stands close by with his people as he observes the priests and soldiers march to the far right of the city's wall.

The horns fade slightly.

The march lasts all day. Everyday.

From then on, for six days the army and priests carry on their duty until finally -- on the last day...

Horns echo...

FADE TO:

EXT. THE SEVENTH DAY - MORNING

At the front of his army is Joshua.

Beside him are Phineas and Caleb armed with weapons.

EXT. WALL - PRECIPICE - THE KING

The king watches with baited breath, he beads sweat from his brows that runs down his chubby fat cheeks.

A pin can drop and one would be able to hear it.

Then, without warning...

EXT. INVASION BEGINS - CONTINUOUS

Joshua raises his right arm and swings down.

His army of soldiers all shout a war cry towards the city.

EXT. WALL BREAKS - CRUMBLES

Mortar starts to crumble and split apart. A crack from its base trails upward vertically to the king's position.

EXT. THE KING'S LAST MOMENTS

He looks down but in perfect unison as the wall tumbles forward and becomes loose debris in a matter of seconds.

The king falls to his death.

Wall continues to break apart and crumble which expose the inner cloisters.

EXT. JOSHUA - CONTINUOUS

He raises his hand again and swings down.

From a vultures point of view, the entire army rushes forth to invade the city through the breaches.

At ground level, the men race to the open cracks while inner city soldiers clamber out to hold them off.

EXT. BREACH

No sooner than some of the Jericho's men climb out they are then met with swords blades in their chests, necks, even their foreheads with brutalistic fervor.

Blood stains the sands and becomes a thick sludge as Joshua's soldiers enter the breaches.

INT. JERICHO - BREACH - INVASION - CONTINUOUS

Soldiers floor in and start to cut down anyone who stands in their way. Soldiers, bystanders, and sadly, even -- children who cannot escape.

It is a blood bath of such an enormous scale as the holy warriors swaths over the streets filling them up with their numbers.

At the breach, Phnieas and Caleb arrive.

They climb through and race to Rahab's home.

PHINEAS

I hope the men didn't forget our warning.

CALEB

Me too.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

As they negotiate between the fighters, Phineas is about to be cut down when Caleb uses his big body to tackle the man and knock him off his feet.

PHINEAS

Thanks.

CALEB

No problem.

They continue on to Rahab.

EXT. RAHAB - FRONT WINDOW - A MOMENT LATER

She peeks out her window behind drapes and listens to the awful screams that come from below.

Clashing of metal on metal swords.

Shrieks of anguish.

VICTIM (O.C.)

AHHHH!!

Rahab closes her drapes.

INT. RAHAB'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

She sits down on a chair and covers both ears.

Her family is close by. They huddle together with fearful expressions.

Then... A hard banging on her door.

PHINEAS (O.C.)

Rahab! It's us, Phineas and Caleb.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

PHINEAS (O.C.) (CONT.)

Rahab!

As she is about to answer the door, Caleb smashes through it with his body scaring Rahab.

RAHAB

(Startled)

SCREAMS! Ahh, you idiot! Look what you did to my door!

PHINEAS

(Astounded)

So, I'll replace it. Come on, we have to move. (Grabs her hand)

Caleb leads Rahab and her family out of the house.

EXT. INVASION - CONTINUOUS

Soldiers continue their bloody invasion as citizens are cut down without mercy.

A soldier stabs a victim in his right eye with his sword.

VICTIM #1

Huck! Gah!

Then he attacks another citizen and cuts across his throat first.

VICTIM #2

NOOO! AH! (Gurgles blood)

Then he swings his sword across the victim's stomach, and splits it open to allow his intestines and a couple of organs to spill out onto the streets with a gross resounding splat!

Back at the breach...

EXT. THROUGH THE BREACH - ESCAPE

Phineas and Caleb along with Rahab and her family all run towards the campsites.

INT. ARK TENT - JOSHUA - CONTINUOUS

Joshua sits with the elders and priests when Phineas and Caleb approach them.

Joshua stands.

PHINEAS

Joshua. I - bring - Rahab.

The elders, and priests and elders bow to her and her family.

JOSHUA

Thank you for taking care of my men.

RAHAB

I don't know how -- you learned of my name. I never once stepped outside of the city.

JOSHUA

Because you never lost faith in god. He heard your prayers at nights before you slept. To ask for his protection and guidance. He asked me, to keep you safe.

It all seems so unreal to her as she tries to understand.

RAHAB

Then I - thank you for keeping your promise. (Smiles timidly).

One of the elders interrupts...

ELDER #2

Joshua. A signal is being sent from
the wall.

Joshua steps outside to see on top of the wall...

EXT. SOLDIER - FLAG OF VICTORY

... One of his men waves a flag as the sign that they've won.

Surrounding onlookers start to cheer. Then the entire campsite cheers.

EXT. ARK TENT

Joshua grabs a flag and waves it back to acknowledge their win.

JOSHUA

Finally, it's over.

Joshua closes his eyes.

Above Joshua, the entire encampment is seen with the 500,000 who wait to enter their new home.

Back to Joshua, he opens his eyes.

JOSHUA (CONT.)

We've come home.

He walks towards the city alone.

Then from the Ark's tent, the priests carry out the Ark.

Phineas and Caleb are next along with Rahab and her family.

Then, all of the Isrealites follow to bring up the rear as it ends here with a message...

SCROLL:

'In the aftermath in the Battle of Jericho, the death toll had been estimated to be around 40,000 slain citizens along with the city's army, which brought the unfortunate count even higher. Some believe that the invasion was unnecessary, but it never wavered Joshua's resolve into completing God's tasks set before him.'

JOSHUA 23: 'THE LORD LET ISREAL LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS FOR A LONG TIME, AND JOSHUA LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. ONE DAY HE CALLED A MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE

TRIBES OF ISREAL, INCLUDING THE OLD MEN, THE JUDGES, AND THE OFFICIALS.

THEN HE TOLD THEM:

"I AM NOW VERY OLD. YOU HAVE SEEN HOW THE LORD YOUR GOD FOUGHT FOR YOU AND HELPED YOU DEFEAT THE NATIONS WHO LIVED IN THIS LAND. DO NOT SQUANDER YOUR FAITH, FOR GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU UNTIL THE END."

THE END

FADE TO BLACK