

Reader Script/MOSES 1, BIBLE AS LITERATURE

- 1/NARRATOR:** The Israelites had journeyed to Egypt during the time of famine. God's people were saved because of Joseph, the boy sold by his brothers into slavery.
- 2/NARRATOR:** God blessed Joseph who became second-in-command to the ruler of Egypt. Joseph's plans saved the country in time of famine.
- 1/NARRATOR:** When his brothers came to ask for food, Joseph gave them a place to live in the land of Egypt.
- 2/NARRATOR:** Many years passed. The Egyptians forgot about Joseph and how he had saved their country.
- 1/NARRATOR:** There were many Israelites in the land of Egypt and the new Pharaoh was frightened by their number and their might.
- 3/PHARAOH (*pacing*):** Look at our land! There are more Israelites than Egyptians living here.
- 4/ASSISTANT:**
(concerned) What if they joined forces with one of our enemies?
They would overpower our nation!
- 3/PHARAOH:**
(decisively) We **MUST** take action. Let's put strict slave masters over them. Let's work them to death.
- 4/ASSISTANT:**
(brightly) We can use the slaves to build the treasure cities of Pithom and Rameses. We will break the spirit of those Israelites.

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- 2/NARRATOR:** Even though the Hebrews (Israelites) worked hard for Pharaoh, they continued to grow as a nation.
- 3/PHARAOH:**
(frustrated) We *must* do more. We *must* make the lives of the Hebrews even more miserable. Make them work longer hours. Make them carry heavy loads of bricks and mortar.
- 2/NARRATOR** The Hebrews suffered under Pharaoh's heavy rule, but God continued to bless them and their numbers continued to grow.
- 3/PHARAOH (loudly):** Bring me Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew midwives. I have a plan.
- 5/SHIPHRAH:**
(obediently) We are here as you commanded.
- 3/PHARAOH:** When you are called to assist the Hebrew women to have their babies, I command you to kill all the boy babies born.
- 6/PUAH (softly):** And the *girl* babies?
- 3/PHARAOH:**
(shakes head): Girls? Oh you can let the females live, but KILL all the boys! You must not fail.
- 5/SHIPHRAH:**
(to Puah) What shall we do?