

The Exodus
By Cleveland O. McLeish

THE EXODUS PT. I

“The Lord is my Banner”

An Original Stage Play

By

Cleveland O. McLeish

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

MALES

Moses

Aaron

John

Peter

Caleb

Jethro

Gershom

Eliezer

Joshua

Michael

Man

Voice

Extras

FEMALES

Mary

Woman

Zipporah

Rahab

Extras

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THE SCRIPT

LIGHTS UP

Moses and Aaron staggers onstage using their staffs more like a brace than a Guide.

MOSES: Phew. One month and fifteen days of walking. I never walked this much in my life.

AARON: Yeah. My feet are soar. But God gives grace and strength.

MOSES: Indeed.

They look around a bit.

MOSES: I wonder why they call this place the Wilderness of Sin.

AARON: Beats me. Truth is...I don't want to know.

MOSES: Me neither...considering.

Two more men stagger onstage. One falls prostrate on the ground. The other Spreads out on his back.

JOHN: Moses...you and your brother. Boy, better you did leave us in Egypt. Ah not lying to you.

PETER: Why you bring us out here to die, huh? I never walk so much in my entire life.

JOHN: I feel like a convention going on in my stomach. Hunger eating away at my sanity man.

The men stand to face Moses and Aaron.

PETER: I know you think all we do is complain...

MOSES: It is all you do.

JOHN: Man, we were better off in Egypt. At least we had something to eat at the end of the day.

PETER: We all starving out here man. We have nothing to eat but breeze and sand man. Why you bring us out here to die like this man. We don't appreciate that man.

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AARON: God delivered you from oppression. Where's your gratitude? Where's your faith?

JOHN: Where's the food?

PETER: In Egypt we sat by the pots of meat, and when we ate bread, we were full. Then you came along and brought us out into this wilderness to kill us all with hunger. I don't respect that man.

JOHN: Then you turn around and say all we do is complain. You need help man.

Peter and John turn and leave.

Moses hangs his head.

AARON: I'll go talk to them.

Aaron pats Moses on the back and leaves.

VOICE: Moses...

MOSES: Yes Lord.

VOICE:. Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.

MOSES: Yes Lord. I will tell them as you say.

A young woman comes to confront Moses.

MARY: Moses, my son is very sick. He needs food. We can't go on any further without eating something.

MOSES: God sees our need Mary. He will supply.

MARY: When? We can't last another day without food and water.

MOSES: I know. But you trust the Lord don't you?

MARY: I do...but right now its not enough.

Moses is not encouraged by her words.

MOSES: Gather the people.

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Mary points out to audience.

MARY: They are already here.

Moses addresses the audience.

MOSES: By this evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. In the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your grumblings against Him. You may think your quarrel is with us but it is with the Lord and He grows weary of it. *This will happen* when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the LORD hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against the LORD.

Aaron comes back onstage followed by John and Peter.

JOHN: What are you saying man? I hope you aint giving us some false hope.

MOSES: False hope!!! Haven't you seen already what the Lord can do? How can you doubt His word?

PETER: Hey, I think about what I left behind to be here and there aint no comparison. I was better off in Egypt....

Aaron's eyes are fixed far beyond the audience.

JOHN: We don't like what is happening around here. We recommend that we call an election for a new leader very soon.

Peter's eyes are fixed far beyond the audience....

JOHN: And what is everyone looking at....

Now everyone's eyes is fixed far beyond the audience...

PETER: What is that?

JOHN: Looks like rain.

AARON: No....clouds don't move that fast....

PETER: Oh...

JOHN: My...

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AARON: God!

Peter and John dashes offstage.

They return quickly with slingshots and start firing into the sky. A few others join them.

(Throw some fake birds unto the stage to represent them falling from the sky)

PETER: Man, oh man...I can taste them birds already.

JOHN: Whoo---eeee. Foooooooooooood!!!

They gather what they can gather and exit.

Women rush to the stage and start filling baskets as more people with slingshots join in the hunt.

The scene clears and only Aaron remains.

Occasionally someone can come onstage with a sling shot and shoot down a bird.

AARON: *(considers before addressing the audience)* One month ago, if someone told me I would be hear right now and would see the things that I have seen these past few days...I would have laughed. Laughed real hard. I guess with God you never quite know which direction your life will turn. *(considers)* I guess that makes for quite an interesting life...don't you think?

Aaron exits.

The scene returns to normal.

Moses and Aaron are again onstage.

AARON: Half the camp is asleep.

MOSES: Typical human nature. To go to sleep after eating.

AARON: Moses, do you think we did the right thing.

MOSES: We did what the Lord commanded. Its not possible to go wrong if we simply obey.

AARON: Simply???

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MOSES: Maybe that's a bad choice of word.

AARON: I have my doubts sometimes...but I try to stay focus. I have seen God do too much to doubt his direction.

MOSES: We have no choice but to trust in Him with all our hearts. We can't afford to lean to our own understanding...just depend on him knowing he will always direct our path. There will be no night...no darkness for those who trust him completely.

John and Peter are on their way to the stage once more. Moses sighs when he sees them coming.

MOSES: If only we can teach these people to do the same.

JOHN: Moses....we don't understand your God at all.

MOSES: My God. Isn't he your God also?

JOHN: That's beside the point right now.

AARON: What is the problem now?

PETER: Well, we appreciate the birds still...but why only one species a bird. It easy to get tired of the one taste...and I think we are already tired of the one taste.

MOSES: There are various ways to season and cook a bird.

JOHN: Not in the desert man. Cmon, pay attention.

PETER: We want more than just quail. How about some ostrich, or turkey or chicken. Why quail?

MOSES: When will you people be satisfied? You cry for hunger, the Lord feeds you...you cry for shelter the Lord shelters you....why can't you just simply be grateful?

JOHN: We didn't come here to argue? We just wanted to make a point.

MOSES: Fine. Point noted.

PETER: One other thing boss.

MOSES: Yes.

PETER: Some white flaky, flaky something on the ground. What is it?

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MOSES: It's the bread that the Lord has provided for you.

JOHN: Really. So we can eat it?

MOSES: Yes. But....

John and Peter exits excitedly before Moses can even finish speaking.

Moses just shakes his head.

MOSES: AARON...tell the people to only gather what they need for one day supply and no more...except on the Sabbath they are to gather enough for two days. The Lord commands this.

AARON: I will tell them.

Aaron exits.

VOICE: Moses....

MOSES: Yes Lord.

VOICE: Take a walk with me....

Moses grips his staff and exits...

Peter and John come onstage.

They sniff the air.

JOHN: You smell something.

PETER: Yeah...something smell fishy bout here.

They look all over for Moses.

PETER: Where is that fearless leader of ours?

JOHN: I can't believe he is not here. He is always right here.

PETER: Well, no matter. I am hungry. Good thing I left some a that stuff from yesterday. (*searches his bag*)

JOHN: Didn't Moses say we weren't supposed to do that.

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PETER: Hello. Stop pretend as if you didn't save some too.

John smiles and dips into his pocket.

JOHN: I aint as dumb as I look. I'm not prepared to face that degree of hunger I faced the other day.

They pull the food from their pocket and bag...but it smells really bad and is Filled with maggots.

PETER: What is this?

JOHN: Yuck, yuck, yuck, yuck....

They rub their hands on one another crawling with the realization that their hands touch maggots.

PETER: Oh man....I ate this stuff yesterday.

JOHN: But it didn't look like this.

PETER: Ugh...gotta get this stuff off me.

They exit quickly almost knocking Moses and Aaron over as they re-enter the Stage.

AARON: Whats with them?

MOSES: My guess is they just had a rude awakening to their disobedience.

Several people dash across the stage flashing their hands with a grossed out Expression.

MOSES: I don't know when these people will learn to simple obey.

Moses and Aaron mime a discussion at CS.

Enter Peter and John as usual.

Moses sighs.

MOSES: What now.

PETER: Moses...we are hungry and there is no food.

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Moses sighs again.

MOSES: It's the Sabbath. You were supposed to collect enough for you and your family yesterday for today.

JOHN: We aint dealing with no more maggots man. They grossed me out the other day. Took me a while to start eating the stuff again.

Peter and John look out to the horizon.

PETER: Not even one bird....just one. We willing to share today.

MOSES: There will be none today.

PETER: What are we supposed to do then?

MOSES: I don't know.

JOHN: What kind of leader are you? You really intend for us to starve to death out here, huh.

AARON: You wouldn't be starving if you simply obeyed the Lord's words.

PETER: So now its our fault.

AARON: You know it is.

JOHN: Man I tell you...I'm missing Egypt right about now. No one messed with my psychological development there. Because of you two my self esteem is almost zero.

PETER: For the record...this is no fun. Come election you two are out of office.

Peter and John exit.

MOSES: Aaron, its time to go. Tomorrow morning get a jar and place some of the manna in it. It will be a testimony of how the Lord fed these people in the wilderness for generations to come.

AARON: I will do as you say.

Aaron exits.

VOICE: On to Canaan.

Moses nods and exits as well...

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Moses and Aaron enter the stage from a different direction just as worn out and Tired as before.

Caleb comes on behind them.

MOSES: I think this is it.

AARON: Yes, Canaan. We can see it from here.

CALEB: I think this place is called Rephidim.

MOSES: You're learning pretty quickly my son. Don't be surprised if you don't take over the leadership from me.

CALEB: I would laugh at your jokes if I weren't so flustered. Besides, I think Joshua is a much suited candidate for the job.

MOSES: We will see. I hope you aren't too tired to scout out this area for us.

CALEB: Never.

MOSES: Just be careful. You never know what lies behind these bushes.

Caleb nods and exits.

MOSES: Young man I write unto you because you're strong.

AARON: Yes, he does have the advantage of youth.

MOSES: As we too had once.

Peter and John come to confront them again.

MOSES: Oh God give me grace.

PETER: Moses, Moses, Moses....You older folks seem to think that the method of old still applies today...but they don't.

MOSES: I'm afraid to ask...but what are you talking about.

PETER: We are thirsty Moses. There is no water for the people to drink.

JOHN: What are we suppose to do, huh, boss? Is this why you brought us from Egypt so we can die out here for thirst, huh.

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PETER: Where is your God? Is he even with us?

MOSES: Why do you continue to test the Lord?

JOHN: We aint testing nobody. We just need water...that's all. We had water in Egypt.

PETER: Our children need water...our animals need water....we need water. Is that simple enough for you old guys. Where is the water?

JOHN: The people are thirsty Moses. Where is the water?

PETER: Where is the water Moses?

AARON: Enough. Go back down to your nest you little pigeons. We will have water for you soon.

JOHN: Alright. You better make sure old man. If we have to come back up here we taking some stones with us.

PETER: If we die you'll die too and I aint no pigeon.

Peter and John exits.

AARON: God have mercy. What a faithless generation.

Moses falls to his knees very close to tears.

MOSES: I can't do this anymore.

AARON: If not you then who, Moses?

Pause.

Longer pause.

VOICE: Moses...

Moses hesitates...

VOICE: Moses.

MOSES: Yes Lord.

VOICE: Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand

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before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.

MOSES: I will do as you command.

Moses exits with Aaron following close behind him.

A beat.

People start going back and forth filling buckets and bottles with water. Laughing And cheering and throwing water on themselves and just having a good time.

Caleb comes rushing out shouting at everyone.

CALEB: Everyone back to your tents now.

WOMAN: Why? What is happening?

CALEB: We are at war.

Everyone scatters leaving some bottles and buckets behind.

Moses and Aaron comes out to meet Caleb.

MOSES: What is going on?

CALEB: The Amaleks have come to fight us.

AARON: Who?

CALEB: Who cares. They are attacking our people.

MOSES: Take some of our men and go fight against Amalek. I will position myself on this mount with God's staff in my hand.

Caleb exits quickly.

MOSES: Aaron....get Hur up here. I may need some help.

Aaron exits quickly.

Moses positions himself at the edge of the stage and holds out the staff with both Hands.

Peter and John scurry unto the stage.

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PETER: Man I don't wanna die. This is the safest place to be right now.

JOHN: You got that right.

MOSES: Have faith. The Lord is on our side.

PETER: So you keep saying old man...but the Lord is allowing some of us to die right now.

MOSES: It is not for us to question Him, but to simply obey His word.

JOHN: How can you talk about obedience at a time like this?

MOSES: How can you doubt after seeing what our God is capable of?

JOHN: This conversation is pointless.

They go to the edge of the stage and look at the audience.

PETER: I've never seen a war this close.

JOHN: Me neither. I've never seen so much blood.

Moses hands are growing tired and begins to descend slightly.

PETER: Oh oh. I think we're losing.

Moses finds the strength and lifts his hands up high again.

JOHN: Oh, I think we are winning.

Moses hand goes down.

PETER: Losing.

Moses hand go up.

JOHN: Winning.

Moses hand go up.

PETER: Losing.

Aaron and Hur enters and helps to brace Moses hand.

PETER & JOHN: Winning.

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The battle continues for a moment longer...until all is quiet again.

JOHN: Think its safe to go down now.

PETER: Looks like it.

JOHN: Good. I'm getting hungry.

Peter and John exits.

AARON: Moses...are you okay.

MOSES: Build an altar right here.

AARON: What shall we call it?

Pause.

MOSES: The Lord is my banner.

Moses and Aaron considers then exit.

Peter comes out to address the audience. He remains in thought for a beat.

PETER: Yeah, I know I complain a lot...but why would God take you out of something and put in into something worst. Don't make no sense to me. Moses keeps saying that even gold has to go through fire to achieve its purpose....but why should I have to suffer to become a better person. I appreciate what 'God' has done...but I do think I would have been better off in Egypt.

Peter exits.

BLACKOUT

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THE EXODUS PT. II

“The Ten Commandments”

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LIGHTS UP

Jethro walks onto the stage and waits as Moses enters to greet him.

MOSES: Father in Law.

JETHRO: Son in Law.

They embrace.

MOSES: To what do I owe this great honour?

JETHRO (*smiling*): I just had to come and see you. News have been travelling far and wide how the Lord God has chosen you to set his people free.

MOSES: I'm just an instrument in His hand.

JETHRO: Indeed you are. Favoured just the same. How are you doing?

MOSES: Good...considering that these people are trying hard to get on my last nerves...I'm fine. And you.

JETHRO: Great. I brought you some visitors.

MOSES: Really.

Zipporah, Gershom and Eliezer enters.

ZIPPORAH: My husband.

MOSES: My wife.

They embrace.

GERSHOM AND ELIEZER: My Father.

MOSES: My sons.

They also embrace.

MOSES: Good to see you all. Come have dinner with me.

They all look around at the empty stage.

JETHRO: Where....

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But before Jethro could finish a table with chairs and food is set up at center Stage.

MOSES: Right here.

They all sit to eat.

GERSHOM: Father...considering the fact that everytime I tell someone my name I have to spell it for them...can you tell me what it means.

Moses considers for a moment.

MOSES: Gershom...it means 'I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.' And Eliezer, my younger son, your name means 'My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharoah.'

JETHRO: I think in this generation and generations to come parents should take great care in naming their children. Its just not something to be taken for granted.

ZIPPORAH: Wise words. *(to audience)* Take heed.

JETHRO: So tell us....tell us everything that happened here Moses.

MOSES: Wow. Where do I begin. I don't really want to bore you....

JETHRO: Foolishness. Go ahead and take your time. This story will be recorded for generations to come.

MOSES: You really think so.

JETHRO: Without a doubt.

MOSES: Well, it begun a while back when I was walking up that hill and saw a bush that was burning but not being consumed.

GERSHOM: Really.

MOSES: If that surprises you...wait till you hear some of the other things we experience.

Everyone leans in closer.....

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Moses sits before a score of people. They approach him one by one.

Jethro is standing nearby watching.

WOMAN: Moses...my husband didn't sleep in the same tent with me last night.

MOSES: Send your husband to me when you find him.

Woman leaves. Man approaches.

MAN: Moses...I think I may have left something valuable back in Egypt.

MOSES: Forget that which is behind and press towards the mark of the higher calling in the Lord.

Man exits.

Peter and John approaches.

MOSES: Oh dear God.

PETER: Moses, Moses, Moses....

JOHN: We requested two blankets and some fluffy pillows from last week. Why do you ignore our request?

MOSES: There are more important things to address than your comfort.

PETER: Like what.

MOSES: I think that's enough for today.

Moses gets up and prepares to exit. Jethro walks out to meet him.

Peter and John and the others sigh and leave.

JETHRO: What is this you do? Why do you alone sit as judge while all these people stand before you from morning till night?

MOSES: Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions

JETHRO: This is not good. All you are doing is wearing yourself and these people out.

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MOSES: I can't think of a better way.

JETHRO: I can.

Moses listens.

JETHRO: You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.

MOSES: That sounds doable. I think you just made my load a little lighter.

JETHRO: Well, nothing a concerned father in law wouldn't do.

MOSES: You offer wise counsel. You should join us. Become one of our wise elders.

JETHRO: My place is not here Moses. We both have our responsibility...our calling.

Jethro and Moses share a moment of silence.

JETHRO: You are blessed Moses. You rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians and Pharaoh. Now I know the Lord is greater than all other gods for he has shown justice to those who oppressed his people.

MOSES: Have you brought an offering for the Lord?

JETHRO: Yes I have.

MOSES: Go then. Aaron will direct you.

JETHRO: Will I ever see you again.

Moses considers.

MOSES: No. But we will meet again in the life to come.

JETHRO: I am counting on that. Until we meet again.

The embrace a little longer this time.

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Jethro exits. Moses wipes a tear.



Peter and John staggers onstage.

They are sweating and wiping sweat from their faces.

PETER: Man, the sun is scorching.

JOHN: Man the sun is scorching.

PETER: I just said that.

JOHN: So...its double hot so it has to be said twice.

PETER: Hello...can you try to be sensible at least for a day. Why do I even hang out with a loser like you?

JOHN: Because we are one and the same.

PETER: You must be out of your mind. I aint a loser.

JOHN: Well, one things for sure...I can't do this walking thing anymore. Ya know its been three months. I'm starting to look like big foot.

PETER: Why are we walking again? And where are we?

JOHN: To get to some promise land. And this is the dessert of Sinai...I think. Seems we setting up camp here.

PETER: My promise land is back in Egypt. This is just crazy thanks to our crazy leader and where is he by the way.

JOHN: Yeah, where is he. We need some umbrellas up in here.

PETER: And a DVD player or something. Some form of entertainment. I'm tired of watching that cloud of fire.

JOHN: Lets go make our request known.

PETER: Yeah.

They exit.

Moses sticks is head out to be sure they are gone.

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He comes out wiping his forehead.

MOSES: Phew.

VOICE: Moses.

MOSES: Speak Lord. Thy servant hears.

VOICE: This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

Moses approaches the audience.

MOSES: Okay my friends...men women and children. Truth be told, our cast is not big enough to represent the entire Israelite community so I'm gonna ask for your help. Are you willing to help me?

Audience responds.

MOSES: Good. Now the Lord has told me to tell you something...but you already heard what it was. Your response should be 'We will do everything the Lord has said.'

AUDIENCE: We will do everything the Lord has said.

MOSES: Thank you.

Moses turns from the audience.

MOSES: Your people are willing to obey your word Lord.

VOICE: I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.

MOSES *(to audience)* Do you trust the Lord?

Audience responds.

MOSES: The people trust you Lord.

VOICE: Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Put limits for the people around the

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mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. Whether people or animals, they shall not be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.

MOSES (*to audience*) I know some of you may have a problem with the washing clothes and bathing part...but please, please do it for the Lord. Prepare yourselves for the third day and abstain. Abstain!! You big married people know what I'm talking about.

Moses exits.

SOUND EFFECTS – Thunder, lighting....Trumpet sounding.....

Moses rushes out to address the audience.

MOSES: Do not be afraid. Just obey and you will live.

Silence as Moses turns away from the audience.

MOSES: Lord, your servant is here.

VOICE: Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.

Moses descends from the stage to address the audience.

MOSES: I know naturally we're all very inquisitive, but please don't take the word of God lightly. DO not come near this mountain until he says so. Okay.

Audience respond.

Moses goes back to the stage.

MOSES: Lord, The people will not come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy'

VOICE: Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them.

Moses exits the stage and comes back with a trembling and stuttering Aaron.

AARON: M_M_M_Mosessss. Y_Y_You S_S_Sure about this.

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MOSES: Relax brother.

VOICE: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

AARON: Moses, you speak with God and we will listen. Please. Don't let God speak to we lest we die.

MOSES: Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.

AARON: Well...I think its working. I'm afraid to even think right now in case I sin in my thoughts. I think I need to use the bathroom.

Aaron exits.

VOICE: Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. And do not go up to my altar on steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it.'

MOSES: Lord, you words will we hide in our hearts...that we will not sin against thee.

Moses exits as Mary comes on to address the audience.

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She remains in silence for a beat.

MARY: What do I make of all this? I don't know. I think I'm still adjusting. I mean, I asked Moses how are we to remember all the commands the Lord gave us and if all these rules are written in stone so to speak and all He said was 'Not Yet.' What does that mean? I have seen some crazy things since I left Egypt....real crazy stuff I tell you...really crazy....so I know God exist. I even heard God speak to Moses and I tell you...never again. I felt like I was going to die. Truth is, there are some things I use to value greatly in my life that now seems trivial compared to the mere existence of a Supreme Being. I guess when all is said and done nothing else matters but God.

Mary considers for a moment then exits.

LIGHTS OUT

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By Cleveland O. McLeish

THE EXODUS PT. III

“The Death of Moses”

The Exodus
By Cleveland O. McLeish

LIGHTS UP

Moses is standing behind a large table. As the Voice of God speaks, cast Members bring items and place on the table.

VOICE: Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and another durable leather; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breast piece. Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

The last item is brought and laid on the table. Peter and John are standing there empty handed.

MOSES: DO you have anything to contribute.

PETER: Our opinion.

MOSES: No...you can go ahead and keep that.

JOHN: What are you doing with all this stuff Moses?

MOSES: The Lord requested them.

PETER: Your God does make some very strange request. Still, considering the stuff lying on that table we are thinking maybe we could build something...you know...maybe an image of a calf or something to represent God....

MOSES: Please leave.

PETER: Hey man, no need to get all angry and stuff. We were just saying...

MOSES: Say no more and just go.

PETER: Man, are we grumpy today.

Peter and John leaves.

Aaron comes onstage.

AARON: I am here brother.

MOSES: Where are the others?

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A few elders walk onstage behind Aaron.

ELDERS: Here.

MOSES: Good. Then let us begin.

They line up around the table and get to work on building the Ark.

VOICE: Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

They pause to show the audience what they have so far...then regather at the table.

The Ark of the Covenant is Complete.

Moses comes out to address the audience.

MOSES: I wish we could have allowed you to see every detail that went into building this Ark...but that wasn't exactly possible. Anyway, God gave us specific instructions down to the tee and even when we didn't understand why this part was necessary or why that part was necessary...we obeyed. Its good to be in the company of obedient people. Now the Ark is complete with Table and Lamp stand and can I tell you, it's a sight to behold and no one dares come near to it with fear for their lives. I don't blame them. They just witnessed those who continuously grumble against the Lord being swallowed up by the earth and consumed by fire. (*Considers for a beat*) Still trying to figure out how Peter and John are still here. Uhhmm!

Moses exits.

Aaron comes onstage to address the audience.

AARON: What I feel now is beyond words. The Moses you have been seeing all this time will not be seen anymore. (*wipes a tear*) I know he's going to a better place...but death is not something you get use to is it. Especially when death comes for those you love.

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Aaron remains solemn for a beat.

Moses enters. Aaron embraces him and would not let go.

MOSES: You must go now brother.

AARON: I can't leave you.

MOSES: You have no choice. I cannot change my destiny.

AARON: Its not fair you know. Who will lead us now?

MOSES: God will choose someone suitable and more qualified than me. Your only concern is to continue being obedient to His word.

AARON: I will.

MOSES: Goodbye my brother.

AARON: Goodbye my brother.

Its hard, but Aaron finds the strength to exit.

Moses goes to the edge of the stage.

VOICE: You are now standing on the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. See all the land from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' Moses, I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.

MOSES *(with tear-filled eyes)* Its Beautiful.

Moses then collapses to the stage.

Some of the Israelites gather around him mourning. Peter and John is there too.

PETER: Is he really dead.

JOHN: I think so.

They are in a solemn state.

PETER: All we ever did was give trouble. I think he died hating us.

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AARON: (*entering*) Moses knew nothing about hate.

PETER: I wish I could ask him to forgive me.

AARON: Its not his forgiveness you need.

The body of Moses is then removed.

Everyone leaves except Peter and John.

JOHN: I wish people didn't have to die before we realize how much they really meant.

PETER: Yeah, me too. God forgive me.

JOHN: God forgive me.

Joshua enters.

JOSHUA: Where is Moses?

PETER: They took him away.

JOSHUA: What do you mean took him away?

JOHN: He's not among the living anymore Joshua.

Pause.

JOSHUA: Moses...is dead.

PETER: Yes.

Peter and John exits the stage crying.

JOSHUA: Dead.

Aaron comes out to meet Joshua.

AARON: Joshua. You are wise as you are young. Did Moses lay his hands on you.

JOSHUA: Yesterday....at the....(*the words get caught in Joshua's throat*) I didn't know what it meant.

AARON: I think the Lord has already chosen our next leader.

JOSHUA: How do I walk in the shoes of a man who knew God face to face?

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AARON: The Lord is with you son. Take courage. Don't try to be a Moses...just be Joshua. Its enough.

Aaron pats Joshua's shoulder and exits.

VOICE: Joshua.

JOSHUA: Lord.

VOICE: Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

JOSHUA: Lord, the land you have shown your servant is a mighty city.

VOICE: Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA: Your words are a refuge to your servant.

Caleb enters and goes to Joshua.

CALEB: Joshua. Moses is dead. What will we do now?

JOSHUA: Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.

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CALEB: Jericho. Are you kidding me. We don't have an army that can stand against that city.

JOSHUA: The Lord is on our side Caleb. There is none greater than He. Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you after he said, 'The LORD your God will give you rest by giving you this land.' Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of the other Israelites. You are to help them until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.

CALEB: Whatever you command I will do, and wherever you send me I will go. Just as I fully obeyed Moses, so I will obey you. Only may the LORD God be with you as he was with Moses.

Caleb exits.

Peter and John enters.

PETER: What can we do to help?

Joshua looks at the audience not believing what he hears.

JOSHUA: Come again.

JOHN: You can rub it in our faces afterwards....but for now, just give us something to do.

JOSHUA: I may well regret this, but go on over to Shittim. Look over the land, especially Jericho and bring me back word.

PETER: As you command.

Peter and John exits.

Joshua shakes his head and also exits.

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Rahab comes onstage straightening out her house.

Peter and John enters quickly seeking refuge.

RAHAB: Who are you?

PETER: Sorry....real sorry. We will leave shortly.

RAHAB: Are you hiding from someone?

JOHN: A whole lot of someone.

RAHAB: You are Israelites, aren't you.

PETER: Yes. Are you going to turn us in?

RAHAB: And ruin my chances of freedom. I think not. Quickly, follow me.

Peter and John follow her offstage just as some men from the city barge in.

MICHAEL: Harlot.

Rahab comes out.

RAHAB: Rahab for you.

MICHAEL: Are you hiding something Harlot.

RAHAB: Are you looking for something soldier.

Michael and the others search the stage.

MICHAEL: Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land. Where are they hiding. Don't lie. We know they came here.

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RAHAB: They did. But I am not in the mood to accommodate strangers so I sent them away. I don't know where they went...but if you go quickly you should catch up with them.

Michael just stands there staring at her.

RAHAB: The longer you stay here...the further away they will get.

MICHAEL *(to the other men)* Lets go. *(to Rahab)* For your own sake I hope we do catch these spies.

They exit.

A beat.

Peter pushes his head out.

RAHAB: You can come out now.

Peter and John re enter.

JOHN: Thank you.

RAHAB: I need more than that.

PETER: What do you want?

RAHAB: "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.

JOHN: Our lives for your lives.

RAHAB: Yes.

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PETER: For your kindness we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.

RAHAB: Fair enough.

John pulls a scarlet cord from his pocket.

JOHN: Unless you tie this cord in your window for us to see when we enter this land, the oath we make today will not be binding on us. You must also bring your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.

PETER: If any of them go outside your house into the streets and something happens to them...their blood will not be on our heads...we will not be responsible. DO you understand.

RAHAB: Yes.

JOHN: If you say anything to anyone about what we are doing, we will be released from this oath.

RAHAB: I understand.

PETER: Good.

JOHN: Now how do we get out of here?

RAHAB: The window.

PETER: You have got to be kidding. Your window is 30 feet from the ground. That's a long fall.

RAHAB: Then try not to fall. There's a rope there. But you must stay in the hills three days until the soldiers return. Then you can be on your way.

PETER: Understood. See you in a few days.

Peter and John exits.

Rahab ties the scarlet cord somewhere on the stage and exits.

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Peter, John and Joshua meet at center stage.

PETER: All Jericho is afraid because the Lord is with us....They say we are the people whose God dried up the Red Sea and destroyed Pharoah and his mighty army.

JOHN: The Lord has surely given us this whole land. All the people are melting in fear because of us.

JOSHUA: Uhm. Today we rest....Tomorrow we take Jericho.

LIGHTS OUT

The Exodus
By Cleveland O. McLeish

THE EXODUS PT. IV

“The Fall of Jericho”

The Exodus
By Cleveland O. McLeish

LIGHTS UP

Joshua and the entire cast make their way to the stage. They stop to rest.

Caleb speaks to the audience.

CALEB: When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests carrying it, please move out from your positions and follow it. It will direct us where we should go but keep your distance between you and the ark; do not go near it.

JOSHUA: Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.

Joshua addresses those on stage with him

JOSHUA: Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.

They take the Ark of the Covenant and exit leaving Joshua alone.

VOICE: Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.

JOSHUA: I will do as you say. *(addresses the audience)* Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up on one side.

(Hopefully something can be set up somewhere to represent the river Jordan. Once the people set foot in Jordan the two sides should be pull back To represent a parting of the waters. See how creative you can be here. You Can probably use lengths of blue cloth with strings tied at the ends so it can Be pulled away from behind the scenes)

The actors carrying the Ark should stop at the center of the river to allow Everyone to cross over.

Peter and John are on their way across.

PETER: I don't believe it. He did it again.

JOHN: Yeah. Its what He does best.

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Joshua again addresses the audience.

JOSHUA: Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you *stay tonight*.

The twelve should be selected from the Audience. They will come and stand Before Joshua.

JOSHUA: Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.

The twelve will go and pick up twelve stones from the Jordan and place them At Joshuas feet before taking their seats.

VOICE: Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

Joshua is alone on stage.

A Man dressed in full white and carrying a sword enters SL.

Joshua stands to confront him

JOSHUA: Are you for us or for our enemies?

MAN: Neither...but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.

Joshua falls to his knees before the man.

JOSHUA: What message does my Lord have for his servant?

MAN: Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.

Joshua quickly removes his shoes.

MAN: The gates of Jericho have been securely barred. No one can go in or come out.

The man turns and leaves.

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VOICE: See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in...Give these instructions to my people....

FADE TO BLACK
