

The Exodus – The Lord is my Banner
By Cleveland O. McLeish

THE EXODUS PT. I

“The Lord is my Banner”

An Original Stage Play

By

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THE SCRIPT

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.

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

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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.

Mary points out to audience.

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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...

AARON: God!

Peter and John dashes offstage.

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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???

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

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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?

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

JOHN: Really. So we can eat it?

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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.

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

John smiles and dips into his pocket.

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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.

Moses sighs again.

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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.

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

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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 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.

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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.

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

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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.

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

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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