

SCENE ONE

(As the light rise, the animals of the kingdom hop/crawl onto stage and take their places. The slaves are sweeping and mopping the floors Center Stage. The slaves begin to create a rhythm with their cleaning supplies, which leads into the song...)

CHANT OF THE SLAVES SONG

(As song ends, we hear loud shouting and noise from slaves and animals. Pharaoh enters abruptly.)

Pharaoh: Stop it! Stop it! All of you, stop it! How can I sleep with all this yelling and noise? What is going on here?

Aaron: King, Sir, I hope we are not disturbing you.

Miriam: We are having a meeting of the slaves.

Ben: *(to impress Pharaoh)* Who wants freedom?

Slaves & Animals: We want freedom! We want freedom!

Pharaoh: *(with sarcasm)* Most impressive indeed. *(addressing his people)* People of my kingdom, we'll make a deal with you. You may continue this *(clearing throat)* "meeting" if you will just keep it down. Okay? *(silence)* Okay? *(silence)*

Rachel: *(standing up to the Pharaoh)* Say, we like your cute nightgowns. Just right for royalty. Don't you agree gang?

Slaves: *(laughing and responding "yes", "oh yea", "looking good!")*

Pharaoh: *(with hurt feelings)* My people making fun of the king? I don't have to take this! I need some rest!

Hannah: *(falsely sincere)* There is a king one can really respect – strong, secure, well-balanced, and mature! *(Slaves laugh)*

Elizabeth: Laugh all you will, but don't kid yourselves. He is still the king of Egypt.

Gloria: And he has the power to keep us here or to set us free.

Aaron: This places makes me sick! I'm sick of hearing about their old mummies two thousand years old! So what? I'm sick of hearing about the great King Tutankam. I say tut, tut, tut.

Miriam: I'm sick of trampling in the mud pits, making bricks for Pharaoh. I guess you'd say we're all

Slaves: SICK, SICK, SICK!

SLAVES LAMENT SONG

SCENE TWO

(After the song, the slaves return to their cleaning positions and have the following conversation.)

Aaron: We can't take this life in Egypt much longer. We need to get organized.

Miriam: You're exactly right, Aaron; and Moses is the one to do it. He has always helped the underdog.

Ben: I have heard that he may be returning to help us. Is that true?

Slaves: *(murmuring with excitement "I hope it's true!" "Could it be true?" "Could Moses really be coming back?" etc.)*

Aaron: He knows about our here and I look for him to return any day now.

Miriam: The key to our freedom is not to find a leader. The important thing for us now is that we keep alive the hope in our hearts, that we keep faith in our cause against all odds.

THESE TIMES CALL FOR A VISION SONG

(after song, Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth & Gloria run to SR to look for Moses)

Pharaoh: *(entering and laughing)* I heard you! Stars, dreams, visions! These are words my slaves do not speak. You exist for one purpose – work, work, work! To remind you who's boss, beginning tomorrow, all bricks will be made without straw. *(Slaves groan)* *(Pharaoh laughs)* That will make the bricks heavier! *(Pharaoh laughs louder.)*

Aaron: What if we refuse to work?

Miriam: What if nobody comes to work at the mud pits tomorrow?

Ben: How will you make your bricks then dear Pharaoh?

Pharaoh: Oh, you will come to the mud pits tomorrow! I will make sure of it! Good night, dear slaves. *(Pharaoh begins to leave)* You better get some rest. Tomorrow will be a LONG day. Sleep well!

(Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth, & Gloria run onto stage breathlessly)

Rachel: Miriam! Aaron! Ben!

Hannah: Moses is coming! *(Aaron, Miriam, & Ben run towards them)*

Elizabeth: He is coming! He is entering the city right now! I saw him myself!

Gloria: I saw him too! We will finally be saved!

Aaron: Come, Miriam.

Miriam: *(Miriam and Aaron leave quickly together)* It will be so good to see him.

Aaron: It has been so long.

Ben: Give a cheer for Moses!

MOSES! MOSES! HE'S OUR MAN! SONG

(as the Slaves & Animals continue to chant quietly, we see Moses & Miriam having a conversation Downstage Center.)

Moses: Our people, how are they?

Aaron: They want freedom desperately.

Miriam: Even our children slave all day now.

Moses: So our people know how difficult the struggle will be?

Aaron: Yes, they know and they are ready. Are you ready, Moses? Are you ready to lead us?

Moses: I don't know, Miriam. I know our cause is right, but I have doubts about myself. I don't have the vision of Abraham, or the faith of Issac, or the cleverness of Jacob. I've been in Midian working as a shepherd all these years. Who am I to stand and speak before kings?