

# **Last Exit To Sinai**

## ***(An Excerpt)***

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### **Setting**

The Sinai desert and Mt. Sinai.

### **Time**

Just after the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt.

SCENE 2

Open Sky. ISRAELITES enter, fixing backpacks, stuffing stuff in sacks, drinking from gourds, drying out clothes, feeding little children. Some smaller kids play a game. There is a mixture of ancient and modern in their attire and their activities (backpacks + desert robes, gourds + sneakers, etc.) Four ISRAELITE TRIBAL LEADERS (DAN, LEVI and MANNIE and NAOMI) meet down center. They too are drying out their robes and brushing their hair, etc.

DAN

Levi, you know your history. Tell me, who's the genius who ever decided Egypt was the place to sojourn for 400 years?

LEVI

Beats me. We should have been tipped off by that sign in front of the Great Pyramid. "Egypt. If you lived here, you'd be enslaved by now."

MANNIE

I am so glad that we are finally out of there.

LEVI

You got that right, Mannie! After all those plagues—

NAOMI

Seven days of darkness was a true bummer.

MANNIE

The locusts were what did it for me. Yuck!

**JOSHUA, DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH enter, cross to LEADERS. LOOSAH shades DATHAN with an umbrella. LESSAH brushes his robe, etc.**

JOSHUA

They were all bad, but it was the Destroyer passing over that finally did it for Rameses. That was a truly bad scene. I'll never forget it. Creepy!

DAN

I'll never forget it either, Joshua!

LEVI

Me either. Major downer. What about you, Naomi?

NAOMI

No way I'll ever forget.

DATHAN

I found it rather enjoyable.

**ALL look at DATHAN. LESSAH &  
LOOSAH nod in agreement.**

DATHAN (CONT'D)

The edginess. You know, "Will it get me, am I the first born, did I remember the lamb's blood?", that sort of thing.

LEVI

Dathan, you are weird.

JOSHUA

**(shakes his head, rolls his eyes)**

Hey! Why don't we start a national holiday so we don't ever forget that awful thing that passed over.

MANNIE

What could we call it?

LEVI

Call what?

MANNIE

The holiday for when that awful thing passed over.

JOSHUA

Good question. Destroyer Day, maybe? Whaddaya think, Dan?

DAN

How about D-Day!

NAOMI

Pass It On Day?

JOSHUA

Let's sleep on it. Maybe a better name will come up.

LEVI

Free Passage Day?

MANNIE

Here it is. Simple and to the point. Overpass!

LEVI

I like it.

JOSHUA

Sleep on it. Where's Moses? Now that we're across the Red Sea, we better get moving.

LEVI

Not that we have to worry about the Pharaoh's Army anymore.

NAOMI

Wow!

DAN

I tell you, Moses is just too much, man. He raises that staff of his, you better watch out!

LEVI

Columns of fire...

JOSHUA

Oceans splitting apart...

NAOMI

And we just waltz across the Red Sea like nobody's business.

MANNIE

Then he lets Pharaoh's Army get about half way across, and Wham! Down slams the water. That was some serious use of a staff.

DATHAN

Big deal.

LOOSAH & LESSAH

Yeah, big deal.

LEVI

Big deal? What do you mean, big deal? It was a big deal!

NAOMI

The biggest.

DATHAN

Oh give me a break. The guy can hardly put two sentences together, Aaron does all his talking. You believe he did all that with his staff?

LOOSAH & LESSAH

Yeah!

DAN

Well, sure... I mean, what else could it be?

DATHAN

Freak weather, maybe. Tidal wave. Who knows? Don't you listen to him, Dan, you'll fall for anything. It was pure dumb luck, that's all.

LOOSAH

Dumb luck.

LESSAH

The dumbest.

MANNIE

Luck?!

DATHAN

Me, I was ready to head back to Egypt, make amends with old Rameses, tell him we didn't mean to rush off like that-

JOSHUA

Staying in bondage for 400 years is hardly rushing off, Dathan.

DATHAN

Whatever. I mean, look where we are now. This is better?

JOSHUA

Absolutely! Because we're free, man! As far as I'm concerned, all the bad stuff is behind us.

LEVI

You can say that again.

JOSHUA

With pleasure.

## 2.1 "We're Free"

(<http://www.puckettpublishing.com/music/scores/WereFree.htm>)

### We're Free

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

RAMESES' ARMY IS BEHIND US NOW  
THERE'S NOTHING UP AHEAD TO FEAR

MANNIE, LEVI, DAN, NAOMI

TO FEAR

JOSHUA

ALL THE BAD TIMES THAT WE'VE HAD TO FACE  
WILL NOT BOTHER US OVER HERE.

MANNIE, LEVI, DAN, NAOMI

OVER HERE  
WHATEVER IS OVER HERE

JOSHUA, MANNIE, LEVI, DAN, NAOMI

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT  
THE PHARAOH LET US FLY  
SAW US COMING THROUGH THE RED SEA  
GOT THROUGH THAT HIGH AND DRY  
SAW US COMING TO THE SINAI  
LORD, WE'RE COMING THROUGH THE RYE

CHORUS

WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR AND NOW WE'RE FLYING HIGH

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH

YEAH, WE'RE FREE  
BUT WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

CHORUS

EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN IN BONDAGE  
AT LEAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS  
IT DIDN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE  
WE'RE NOT DROWNING IN OUR TEARS  
WE'RE NOT LOADED DOWN WITH BAGGAGE  
WE'RE NOT FROZEN BY OUR FEARS  
WE'RE FLYING HIGH, AND NOW WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH

YEAH, WE'RE FREE ALL RIGHT  
BUT WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

CHORUS

WHO CARES WHERE WE'RE GOING?  
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE ARRIVE.  
WHO CARES HOW WE GET THERE?  
IT'S SO GOOD TO BE ALIVE!  
WE BELONG TO OURSELVES  
AND OUR HOPE HAS BEEN REVIVED  
WE'RE FREE, YES, NOW WE'RE FREE!

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT  
THE PHARAOH LET US FLEE  
AND THEN HE TRIED TO CATCH US  
NOW HE'S SWIMMING IN THE SEA  
AND HERE WE ARE, WHEREVER  
THIS MAY BE IS WHERE WE'LL BE  
WE'RE FLYING HIGH AND NOW WE'RE FINALLY FREE

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH  
 YEAH, WE'RE FREE ALL RIGHT  
 BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

CHORUS  
 WHO CARES WHAT WE'RE DOING?  
 SOMETHING NEW WILL COME ALONG.  
 WHO NEEDS AN AGENDA?  
 WE'LL JUST SING OUR SONG  
 A WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING  
 BUT IT WON'T BE WAITING LONG  
 WE'RE FREE, YES, NOW WE'RE FREE!

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT  
 THE PHARAOH LET US FLY  
 SAW US COMING THROUGH THE RED SEA  
 GOT THROUGH THAT HIGH AND DRY  
 SAW US COMING TO THE SINAI  
 LORD, WE'RE COMING THROUGH THE RYE  
 WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR AND NOW WE'RE FLYING HIGH  
 WE ARE FREE, YES, NOW WE ARE FREE!

JOSHUA  
 We're free from bondage, and now we're over  
 here on this side of the Red Sea-

LEVI  
 And Egypt is on the other side.

MANNIE  
 Which is good.

JOSHUA  
 But from where we're standing, I gotta admit:  
 it does look pretty desolate.

DAN  
 And from what I hear, it just gets more  
 desolate.

LEVI  
 Even so, we're need to get moving.

NAOMI  
 Where are we going, Joshua?

JOSHUA  
 Beats me. Some place called "Canaan". They say  
 it's our homeland, before the bondage and all  
 that. Flowing with milk and honey!

MANNIE  
 Milk and honey! That sounds pretty good to me.

LEVI

But how do we get there?

**MOSES and ZIPPY enter, MOSES  
carrying a staff & parchment map.**

JOSHUA

Not a clue. It's a good thing we've got Moses.

DAN

And his staff.

MANNIE

Yeah, Moses'll know.

JOSHUA

You do know how to get there, don't you, Moses?

MOSES

G-get where?

JOSHUA

Canaan.

**MOSES looks at map.**

MOSES

C-canaan? Know? Me? Sure, sure. No p-problem. P-piece of c-cake. It's all in here. Somewhere. Let's see...

**He scratches his head.**

JOSHUA

All right then! Let's get this show on the road. Come on, people! Next stop, Canaan.

**PEOPLE get up, adlibs while  
getting ready.**

LEVI

Maryam! Come, wife, we're leaving for Canaan.

**MARYAM crosses to LEVI.**

MARYAM

Yes, husband. Ruthabel, you had best go with Dan. He'll get lost if you don't lead him.

**RUTHABEL takes DAN's arm.**

RUTHABEL

He's lost no matter what I do. Let's get your things ready to go, my brave adventurer.

MOSES looks at map.

MOSES

Okay, everybody. Let's m-move out!

MOSES starts off in one direction, people begin to follow. ZIPPY remains, clears her throat. MOSES looks back, she motions to "come here", he does, she takes map, turns it upside down for him. MOSES slaps his forehead.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Okay, everybody. Let's m-move out, *this way!*

## 2.2 "We're Free" underscoring

The PEOPLE, all smiles and enthusiasm, follow MOSES the opposite way. Music continues as people cross the stage. A DANCE sequence is part of the movement. The PEOPLE go behind the drop, re-emerge and then recross the stage several times. They are less enthusiastic and more footsore as they make each successive lap. This involves rubbing feet, limping, frowning. Music stops. People stop & rest.

DAN

Is anybody else hungry? I am starving.

MANNIE

And what would the gentleman prefer for his dinner? We have a nice selection of baked rocks and dried scorpion tails.

MARYAM

I'm not baking any rocks.

RUTHABEL

You won't have to. The sun's already done it.

NAOMI

Oh sure, like scorpion is really delicious.

LEVI

Tastes like chicken.

MANNIE

Then catch your own. What'll we do about food?  
There's so many of us.

**JOSHUA goes to MOSES.**

JOSHUA

Moses, Mannie's got a point. I don't think we  
can make this journey running on empty. And  
believe me, we're empty.

MOSES

Very well.

**MOSES raises his staff.**

DAN

Look out! It's the staff!

LOOSAH & LESSAH

Duck!

**The PEOPLE all shield their eyes.  
MOSES shakes his head when he sees  
them react thusly, then twirls the  
staff in the air. Nothing  
apparently happens. The people  
peek out from behind their hands.  
LEVI rubs his hands in  
anticipation and looks around**

LEVI

So, where's the chow?

NAOMI

Yeah, I'm famished.

**They look, see nothing obvious.**

JOSHUA

Uh, Moses, I thought you were working up some  
food for the masses.

MOSES

I did, Joshua.

JOSHUA

So, uh, where is it?

MOSES

On the g-ground. Look.

**MOSES scrapes the ground with his staff, and raises it to JOSHUA's face. Not too sure of himself, JOSHUA uses his finger to scrape something from the staff.**

MOSES (CONT'D)

G-go ahead, it's really very g-good.

**JOSHUA touches it to his lips.**

JOSHUA

Say! This is good. This is great! Taste this, Mannie!

**JOSHUA offers MANNIE some**

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Come on, everybody, you've got to try this.

**All the PEOPLE scrabble on the ground, licking up the food.**

ZIPPY

**(to MOSES)**

You might have arranged it so they didn't have to lick it off the ground. That's disgusting.

MOSES

Not to a starving man. C-come on, everybody, this will be on the g-ground every morning from now on. We've got to hit the r-road.

**DAN takes one last lick.**

DAN

Every morning, huh? Terrific!

RUTHABEL

I'll never have to cook breakfast again!

LEVI

What is this stuff?

MOSES

It's called m-manna.

MANNIE

Manna, eh? Imagine that! A food named after me.