

HOLY MOSES

by Ken Bradbury



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SYNOPSIS: Moses has an idea to use a tour company to cross the Red Sea.

CAST OF CHARCTERS

(2 males)

JUBAYAH (m)a travel agent. *(43 lines)*

MOSES (m)who is... you know... Moses. *(43 lines)*

SCENE: *The office of Jubayah.*

JUBAYAH: *(Answering the phone at his desk.)* Pyramid Travel Agency. Jubayah speaking. Sorry, all our Nile cruises are booked. I've got an overnight excursion to Alexandria and a weekend package in Aswan, but the Nile's overflowing with tourists this summer. I mean I'm flooded, buddy. Yeh. Thanks for calling.

MOSES: *(Entering.)* Uh ... is this the tour company?

JUBAYAH: Pyramid Travel. Hope you're not looking for a Nile trip.

MOSES: Nile? No ... no. In fact, I want to get away from the Nile.

JUBAYAH: I don't blame you. It's gotta be a rat race down there this summer with the International Stone Rolling festival and the Pharaoh's concubines all on vacation. So ... where do you want to go?

MOSES: The Red Sea.

JUBAYAH: You're kidding, right? *(Pointing.)* Look! Look buddy, that's the Red Sea right out there. You're there!

MOSES: I know. I want to cross it.

JUBAYAH: Oh! A cruise!

MOSES: Well ... in a manner of speaking.

JUBAYAH: *(As he begins to write.)* How many in your party?

MOSES: Two million.

JUBAYAH: *(A pause, then.)* I don't think you understood me. I mean, how many will be traveling with you? Just you and the Mrs. or do you have kids?

MOSES: Uh ... yes. The children of Israel.

JUBAYAH: Sounds like a singing group.

MOSES: Two million of them.

JUBAYAH: You're kidding.

MOSES: And their animals and all their household goods.

JUBAYAH: Really.

MOSES: And carts and donkeys and ...

JUBAYAH: Hey. Sam sent you in, didn't he? Just because I hot-wired his camel last weekend and took it for a spin, he

MOSES: Sam?

JUBAYAH: Samuel! The guy who owns the deli down the street. He put you up to this, didn't he?

MOSES: I don't know any Sam ... and I've never been in a deli. How soon can you book us?

JUBAYAH: Two million people, their carts and donkeys and kids on a cruise around the Red Sea?

MOSES: Not actually around it ... more like across it. We just want to get to the other side.

JUBAYAH: So ... like ... why don't you just walk around it?

MOSES: We don't have time.

JUBAYAH: Then why did you wait so long to book the tour?

MOSES: It just came up. Look, could you hurry? I'm in a bit of a rush.

JUBAYAH: Hey, it'll take weeks for you to get all those people ready. What's the hurry?

MOSES: Actually, they're all waiting outside.

JUBAYAH: They're what? (*JUBAYAH goes to the window and looks out.*) Holy Moses!

MOSES: Thank you.

JUBAYAH: Huh? I mean, they're all over the place! I've got a thousand sheep in my parking lot.

MOSES: Sorry about that. It's hard to sneak around with two thousand friends.

JUBAYAH: Look, I don't want to get personal ... but ... I mean, you know ... are you completely out of your mind?

MOSES: I hope not. Sometimes I wonder. Look, can you do it or not?

JUBAYAH: You know, it's gonna take a few phone calls to get two million ...

MOSES: We don't have time.

JUBAYAH: Look, you show up here this morning and give me absolutely no lead time, then expect me to find enough boats for two million people and ... (*Stops.*) What's that noise? Sounds like chariots!

MOSES: It is. We have company.

JUBAYAH: More? You've got more guests going on this crazy trip?

MOSES: No. I didn't invite them. It's Pharaoh's army.

JUBAYAH: Oh, great. And I suppose you want enough cruise ships for them, too?

MOSES: No. In fact, I'd prefer you didn't help them at all.

JUBAYAH: What? Not help the Pharaoh? Look friend, that's the government! You want to get me thrown in jail?

MOSES: I don't think you'll have to worry about him after today.

JUBAYAH: Not worry about the Pharaoh? They did a tax audit on me last year and I'm lucky I'm not in jail! And while we're at it, how do you expect to pay for this? Credit card?

MOSES: I can't pay.

JUBAYAH: *(A long pause, then.)* Really. You want me to order up enough boats to two million people and donkeys to cross the Red Sea but you can't pay for it?

MOSES: I'd hoped you wouldn't mind.

JUBAYAH: Oh no! I don't mind! I'm in the business of going broke! You know, I was just sitting here this morning and I said to myself, "Jubby, gee but I hope this is the day that some fruitcake walks into my office and asks me to foot the bill for shipping two million people across the Red Sea! Talk about my lucky day! Then maybe he'll come back tomorrow and ask me to set all my bushes on fire!"

MOSES: I already did that.

JUBAYAH: You what?

MOSES: Never mind. Does this mean you can't do it?

JUBAYAH: Can't? Won't is the word you're looking for, buddy. Now get those stinking sheep out of my parking lot before ... *(stops.)* Wow. Those chariots are really getting close. Look! The coffee in my cup is shaking!

MOSES: You'd better hurry.

JUBAYAH: I'd better nothing! Look, I don't know what you did to get the Pharaoh so mad at you, but just leave me out of this!

MOSES: I'm afraid it's too late. He already knows we're here. This might be the only way to save your life.

JUBAYAH: Oh great. Great, great, great. I work hard all my life, I get my kids through school, and I'm thinking about retiring to a little place over in Gaza, and now you come in and ruin everything! My wife told me to retire last year but no, I had to get in one more year. *(Looks out the window.)* Look at those clouds! Now that's a storm! You better get your people under cover!

MOSES: We are under cover. You know, I really wish you could arrange this.

JUBAYAH: And I really wish you'd never come into my life! (*Looking out the window in another direction.*) Oh, great! The chariots are coming down the street. I'd say your sheep have had it, friend.

MOSES: That's your final word on the matter?

JUBAYAH: Final word? That's my first word! Moses, that's my only word! I can't help you.

MOSES: (*Beginning to leave.*) Then I guess I have to find another way.

JUBAYAH: Another way? Another way to what? Get yourself killed?

MOSES: We'll cross without boats.

JUBAYAH: The Red Sea? You're gonna walk across that water?

MOSES: No. On dry land.

JUBAYAH: You see a bridge somewhere? You know, you're a nut case is what you are. There is no dry land, Moses! That's water! Wet, wet water! Fishes and seaweed and seashells and ... (*Looks out the window.*) What's happening?

MOSES: You passed up a great opportunity, Jabayah.

JUBAYAH: I passed up nothing! What's ... the wind! What's happening! Man, what a wind! You better not go out there in this storm.

MOSES: Got no choice. Last chance. Want to go on a trip?

JUBAYAH: No way. Two more house payments and I'm free and clear. If you think I'm going to give all that up ... Look at that! The wind! It's blowing back the sea! It's ... it's like a movie or something.

MOSES: That'll come later. Been nice talking to you. Thanks for listening. (*He holds up one hand toward the sea.*)

JUBAYAH: Where are they going! Hey! Tell 'em to stop! They can't go marching into the sea like that! They'll drown! They're as crazy as you are!

MOSES: Yes. Yes, they are.

JUBAYAH: Holy Moses!

MOSES: Thanks again.

JUBAYAH: The sea! It's ... it's drying out!

MOSES: Could use some rain. Have a nice day. (*MOSES exits.*)

JUBAYAH: Holy Moses!

MOSES: (*Shouting from offstage.*) Thanks again!



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