

## Moses and Pharaoh

Moses was a shepherd in the wilderness. One day he found a strange bush. It was a burning bush but it was never burned up. Moses went nearer and a great voice boomed out; it was the voice of God! God told Moses to go back to Egypt and to visit Pharaoh. He was to ask Pharaoh to let the Israelite people go; to set them free from their slavery. Moses was frightened! Pharaoh was powerful and he knew that he wouldn't just let the Israelites go without a fight.

"Why me God?" he asked. "Send someone else instead. Someone who is a better speaker than me!"

But God knew who he wanted to do the job.

"It's you Moses," he said. "Don't argue, just go and find your brother Aaron and go see Pharaoh! When you are there I will prove my power to everyone."

So Moses and his brother Aaron went to see Pharaoh.

"Let the Israelites go!" they said.

"No! Why should I, said Pharaoh. "You are our slaves."

"Because God said so," said Moses.

"Prove it!" said Pharaoh.

Firstly Aaron threw his stick down on the ground and straight away it became a hissing snake. He grabbed the snake by the tail and it became a stick again.

But Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh! He said."

So Moses and Aaron went to the river Nile. Aaron struck the river with his stick and all the water turned to horrible smelly blood. All the fish died and some of the people were poisoned. But Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh!" he said.

So Aaron stretched out his arm and his stick over the ponds and canals in Pharaoh's garden and out of them came thousands and thousands of frogs.

Then frogs came up out of every pond in Egypt. There were millions of them. People found them in their beds, in their cupboards, in their baths, even jumping out of their toilets! everywhere. But still Pharaoh was not impressed. "Huh!" he said.

So Aaron stretched out his hand and struck the dusty ground with his stick and up from the dust came flies. Hundreds of thousands of millions of billions of flies. They covered the country. They got in your hair, in your sandwiches, in your eyes, up your nose. They were horrible. But Pharaoh was still not impressed: "Huh!" he said.

So Aaron stretched out his hand with his stick toward the animals of the Egyptians. Many of them became sick and died and the people were very sad. But Pharaoh was still not impressed: "Huh, he said.

So Moses got some dust and threw it into the air. It blew away in the wind and spread over the whole country and everyone came out in boils. Great big red, itchy, nasty pusty boils. It was horrible. But, yes you've guessed it, Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh!" he said.

So Moses held up his hands to the sky and a terrible hail storm started. Great lumps of ice like cannon Balls came crashing down from the sky. They crashed through roofs, hit people on the head and gave them bad headaches, and did lots and lots of damage. But still Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh!" he said. So Moses held up his hands again and a wind started to blow. On the wind came locusts. Millions and billions of locusts. They ate and ate and ate and ate, every leaf off of every tree, all the crops and much much more. But still Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh!" he said. So Moses held up his arms to the sky and the sun stopped shining. Everything was dark, so dark that no one could see where they were going. People got lost, animals ran away and everything was in chaos. But still, Pharaoh was not impressed: "Huh!" he said. But then something terrible happened. One night many of the Egyptian people died. There was great crying and sobbing because everyone was sad. Even Pharaoh was sad, so sad that in the end he said to Moses: "O go away then! Go away and take all your people with you! You've caused us enough trouble and I don't want to see you any more!" And so Moses and the people packed and began their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land!

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