

A Bit Of A Basket Case – Moses In The Bulrushes.

Once upon a time, several thousand years ago in the country of Egypt, there lived a group of people called the Israelites. Many years before this a man called Joseph had brought his family and his brothers and his Father, who was called Israel, to live in Egypt.

At first the Egyptians had been very friendly to the Israelites. But as the years went on, and as the Israelite families grew bigger and bigger, the Egyptians began to change. They started to dislike the Israelites, and then to hate them, and then they started to be cruel to them. Then one of the Egyptian Pharaohs ordered that all the Israelites should be made into slaves and that they should be made to help build the pyramids. Many of the Israelites had to work in brick factories, and if they didn't produce enough bricks, they were punished.

Still though the Israelite families grew. So Pharaoh ordered that all the baby boys that the Israelite women had were to be taken away from them and killed. They didn't tell the women that of course, they just said that they were being taken away to be looked after. But none of them were ever seen or heard of again.

One of the Israelite women was about to have a baby. She was very frightened as she knew that the Egyptians would come and take the baby away if it was a boy. So the woman and her husband thought long and hard and prayed to God, and then they made a plan.

When the baby was born it turned out to be a boy. They kept him out of sight for as long as they could. When ever the woman went out she would stuff a cushion inside her dress so people would think that the baby had not been born yet. But eventually, as the baby got bigger and noisier, they knew that they would have to do something. So they put their plan into action.

The woman found a basket that she had woven from the reeds and rushes that grew by the river, and the man covered the outside of the basket with sticky tar to make it water proof. Then they put the baby in the basket and took him down to the river.

Now in those days people didn't have bathrooms or showers. They had to wash in the river. Every day one of the daughters of the Pharaoh of Egypt came down to the river just near to where the man and woman lived to have her bath.

The next morning the man and woman hid in the reeds until they saw the princess coming near. As she went into the water they gently lowered the basket into the water and silently pushed it out toward where she was washing herself. They stayed hiding in the reeds and watched.

As the princess began to wash, the basket started to float near to her.
"See what that is!" she shouted to one of her servants.
A girl splashed out into the water and pulled the basket in to the shore.
The princess watched as the girl opened the basket, and there inside, smiling and gurgling, was the baby.

Well you can probably guess what happened can't you?

"Oh ... what a darling!" said the princess. "He's so beautiful. We can't leave him here, we'll have to take him home with us and look after him. He's such a sweetie! I'll treat him just like he is my own son."

"We'll need a nanny to look after him," said the servant girl, hoping desperately that the Princess would not say 'No, you can do it!.' But just then the baby's mother got up from her hiding place among the reeds and started to walk past as if she was just making her way along the river bank.

The princess took one look at her and said: "She can do it. That Israelite woman over there. Take her to my palace! She can be this baby's Nanny!"

The Babies mother pretended to be surprised, but she wasn't really, this was all part of her plan. So, later that day, she found herself in the Royal Palace, with all the food and clothes and comfort she could ever need, and looking after her own baby who was now safe from the swords of the Egyptian soldiers . Things could not have been better!

"Thank you God, thank you God!" she prayed as she went to bed that night.
"Thank you!"

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