

Moses and the great escape

Drama 6: the Promised Land

Characters:

Moses (Old man)

Joshua

God (voice off)

Army Commander (Comm)

Spies 1 & 2

(Moses is on stage. Joshua enters)

Joshua: Moses! Moses! Where are you?

Moses: What is it Joshua? What's all the fuss about?

Joshua: Moses, we are here! We have arrived!

Moses: What do you mean, 'we've arrived,' arrived where?

Joshua: At the promised land Moses! At the Promised land!

Moses: The promised Land? How do you know Joshua?

Joshua: Well Moses there is a beautiful river and on the other side is a beautiful land. There are fields thick with grain, vineyards heavy with grapes, cities built of beautiful white stone, and milk and honey for everyone! Surely this must be the promised land!

Moses: (sadly and with a sigh) Well Joshua, it certainly sounds like it.

Joshua: It doesn't just sound like it, it looks like it as well! We are here Moses, after all these years we are here!

Moses: (sadly) Well that's nice Joshua, really nice.

Joshua: But Moses, why aren't you excited? Why do you sound so sad?

Moses: Well Joshua, God told me a long time ago that when we reached the promised land my job would be done. I will not enter the promised land, but you and all those born since we left Egypt will. Everyone who came out of Egypt must die before you enter the promised land.

Joshua: Well that's alright then Moses. There are two others who were with you from the start left, so you're safe for a bit longer. Look, here comes one of them now.

(Man starts to walk on and then dramatically drops dead)

Joshua: Well, err There's one other person left who was with you at the start. Look, here he comes now!

(Second man walks on from other side and also dramatically drops dead)

Joshua: (swallowing hard) Well err... Moses, that just leaves err You!

Moses: It's alright Joshua. It's my time, after all I am 120 years old now. You go and talk to the people and God will tell you what to do next.

Joshua: But

Moses: No buts Joshua, go, and trust God for all you need. Now leave me alone, I need to talk to God.

(Joshua exits)

Moses: God! God!

God: Ah Moses! Good morning, how are you today?

Moses: You know how I am God. You know all things.

God: Well that's true Moses, at least you've learnt something over all these years.

Moses: We've arrived God, and as you said the last of those who came out of Egypt has died.

God: Ah yes Moses, that's true.

Moses: What shall I do then?

God: Well I just want you to nip up that mountain there and I'll have a quick word with you on the top, OK?

Moses: (Wearily) Another mountain? Are you sure God? I am 120 years old. I thought my mountain climbing days were over.

God: I think you've still got one more in you Moses. So get going, I'll meet you at the top.

Moses: But?

God: Go!

(Moses mimes climbing the mountain for 10 seconds with suitable complaining and huffing noises)

God: Are there you are Moses, what took you so long?

Moses: But it's only been (looks at watch) 10 seconds God.

God: Has it? Oh well it seemed like eternity to me! Now you are here though, take a look around.

(Moses puts his hand up to shade his eyes and looks into the distance, scanning across the room)

God: What do you see?

Moses: I see a beautiful land. A very beautiful land.

God: Well this Moses is the promised land. As far as you can see, from this river to the sea and as far as you can see from the north to the south, all of this is the promised land.

Moses: It's beautiful God.

God: It certainly is.

Moses: But if this is the promised land God, then that means

God: It does Moses, it means that your work is done and it's time to give up that aching old body of yours and join me in heaven. Are you up for that?

Moses: Well it's been a good life God.

God: And you've lived it well Moses, but all good things have to come to an end you know.

Moses: Well I suppose so.

God: Well I know so! So let's not waste any more time shall we or this sketch will go on till lunch time. Just get on with it!

(Moses falls to the ground)

(enter Joshua and Army Commander)

Comm: Joshua, I come to you as the senior commander of the army and on behalf of all the people to give you some important news! Moses has gone Joshua and you are to be our new leader.

Joshua: Gone? What do you mean, gone? Gone where?

Comm: He is dead Joshua. God has taken him back to heaven.

Joshua: (Swallows hard) and err.... Err.... Left me as leader?

Comm: Spot on Joshua! You are our new leader, so what shall we do next? The army is waiting for your instructions!

(Enter 2 spies)

Spy1: Joshua! Joshua! It's amazing!

Spy2: It's incredible! Absolutely incredible!

Comm: Who are these?

Joshua: They are my spies. I sent them across the river to spy out the land and find out what the people are like.

Comm: So what are they going on about? What is so amazing?

Joshua: Well if you let them tell us we might find out!

Spy1: It's amazing!

Spy2: It's incredible! Absolutely incredible!

Joshua: Yes, you've done that bit already, now find your place and get on with it. What is so incredible?

Spy1: They already know about us.

Spy2: and they are terrified of us!

Spy1: They heard about how God parted the sea so we could escape from Egypt.

Spy2: And they are terrified of us and of our God who has done such powerful things to save us.

Joshua: What did you tell them then?

Spy1: We didn't say anything.

Spy2: We kept completely schtum, just like you told us.

Spy1: But it's all they talk about.

Spy2: Yes, how terrified they are of us and how great our God is.

Comm: This is brilliant news. We must attack. Order the army to get ready Joshua!

Joshua: Err I don't think it is that simple. I need to listen to God and find out what he wants us to do. Leave me alone so I can pray.

Comm: Well alright, but don't be too long Joshua. You should always attack when the enemy is scared of you! And it sounds like they are very scared, very scared indeed!!

(Commander, Spy 1 and spy 2 leave)

Joshua: (pleading) God! God! You spoke to Moses, but now I need you to speak to me. They seem to think that I will know what to do! They seem to think that I will be their leader, but ... but ... I'm ... I'm(stuttering) terrified! so help me God, please help me.

God: Ok Joshua, that's enough! I heard you the first time. Of course I'll help you! I hardly brought all these people all this way to just walk off and abandon you now did I. Just remember the promises I made to Moses and your forefathers in the past. They are still promises I will keep today. Just be strong and courageous, trust me and be careful to obey all the laws I gave to Moses, and I will be with you always.

Joshua: Oh thank you God, thank you! What shall I do then?

God: Well just come over here for a moment Joshua and we can talk all about it.

(Joshua exits. Command, Spy 1 and Spy 2 enter)

Comm: He's been a long time.

Spy1: A very long time!

Spy2: A very very long time!

Comm: We've got no time to waste! We need to attack now before it is too late! I know you said the people were terrified of us, but the walls of that city look mighty thick to me. They are hardly likely to just let us in the gates are they. It's going to be a fierce battle and they could throw anything at us from those walls! The longer we wait the more weapons they will get ready!!!!

(Joshua enters)

Joshua: Well I've got it!

Comm: Got what?

Joshua: I've got God's answer. He has told me what to do.

Comm: Oh yes! And what is that then? We really need to get on and attack this city before it is too late!

Joshua: Well it is a secret so we better not let anyone else here.

(They huddle together and make murmuring and whispering noises. After 10 seconds the group breaks apart and Commander, Spy 1 and Spy 2 say together:

All: RIDICULOUS!!!!!!

Joshua: Well, have you got a better plan?

All: (Murmuring together) Well not really; err No; umm, not that I can...

Joshua: Well I thought as much! So let's go, it's this or nothing!

(They all exit, and then immediately return)

Joshua: Well, welcome to Jericho!

Comm: That was was

Spy1: That was amazing!

Spy2: absolutely incredible.

Spy1: those walls just crumbled.

Spy2: Fell down like they were made of cardboard!

Spy1: And all the fighting men just ran.

Spy2: In fact they sprinted, they couldn't run fast enough.

Comm: And the only weapons you used were trumpets! Hardly designed for winning battles!

Joshua: Well it is what God said would happen and ... and ... and It did!

Comm: Moses would be proud of you Joshua, very proud.

Joshua: Well that may be so, but I'd rather it was God who was proud of me. Proud of me for being strong and courageous and trusting him and doing all the things he said. For it is God who is great and has given us the victory today. If we remember that then the victory will be ours every day, if not then we will face disaster. So let's praise God and give him the glory!!!!

Comm: 3 cheers for God! Hip hip!

All: Hurray!

Comm: Hip hip!

All: Hurray!

Comm: Hip hip!

All: Hurray!

(All exit)