## PLAY ELEVEN- Moses and Pharaoh

## (The Hosiers)

**REX PHARAO**
O peace, I bid that no man pass
But keep the course that I command
And takes good heed to him that has
Your life all wholly in his hand.
King Pharaoh my father was,
And led the lordship of this land;
I am his heir as old will has,
Ever in his \*stead to stir and stand. (\*place)
All Egypt is mine own
To lead after my law;
I will my might be known
And honoured as it ough(t).

Therefore as king I command peace
To all the people of this empire,
That no man put him forth in press (stand out from the crowd- e.g. to complain)
But that will do as we desire.
And of your \*saws I \*\*rede you cease, (\*statements, complaints) (\*\*advise)
And \*sesse to me, your sovereign sire, (\*cede? Observe?)
That most your comfort may increase,
And at my \*liste lose life and \*\*lyre. (\*liking) (\*\*property)

**I CONSOLATOR**
My lord, if any were
That would not work your will,
And we \*wist which they were, (\*knew)
Full soon we shall them \*spill. (\*kill, destroy)

**REX**
Throughout my kingdom would I \*ken (\*know)
And can them thank that could me tell
If any were so \*weryd then (\*complaining, resisting)
That would ought find our force to fell.

**II CONSOLATOR**
My Lord, there are a manner of men
That musters great masteries them \*emell, (\*among)
The Jews that \*wonnes here in Jessen (\*dwell, live)
And are named the children of Israel.
They multiply so fast
That \*soothly we suppose (\*truly)
They are like, and they last,
Your lordship for to lose.

**REX**
Why, devil, what \*gawdes have they begun, (\*jokes, tricks)
Are they of might to make affrays?

**I CONSOLATOR**
Those felonious folk, sir, first was foun(d)
In king Pharoah your \*father(‘s) days. (\*nb. Fore-father, ancestor)
They come of Joseph, Jacob son,
That was a prince worthy to praise,
And \*sithen in \*ryste forth are they run; (\*since then) (\*growth, rise)
Now are they like to lose our laws.
They shall confound us clean
\*But if they sooner cease. (\*unless)

**REX**
What devil ever may it mean
That they so fast increase?

**II CONSOLATOR**
How they increase, full well we \*ken, (\*know)
As our elders before us found;
They were tallied but sixty and ten
When they entered into this land.
\*Sithen have they sojourned here in Jessen (\*since then)
Four hundred year, this we warrant,
Now are they numbered of mighty men
Well more than three hundred thousand,
Without-en wife and child
And herds that keeps their \*fee. (\*fief, land-holding)

**REX**
So might we be beguiled,
But \*certis that shall not be, (\*certainly, surely)
For with \*qwantise we shall them quell (\*cunning, tricks)
That they shall no far(th)er spread.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Lord, we have heard our fathers tell
How clerks, that full well could \*rede, (\*advise, teach)
Said a man should \*wax them \*\*emell (\*grow, rise up) (\*\*among)
That should \*fordo us and our \*\*dede. (\*undo) (\*death, destruction)

**REX**
Fie on them — to the devil of hell!
Such destiny shall we not dread.
We shall make midwives to \*spill them, (\*kill, destroy)
When our Hebrews are born,
All that are man-kind to kill them;
So shall they soon be \*lorne. (\*lost)

For of the other have I none \*awe, (\*i.e. fear)
Such bondage shall we to them bid
To \*dyke and delve, bear and draw, (\*dig ditches)
And do all such unhonest deed.
Thus shall the \*lads \*beholden law, (\*low people) (\*be held by the)
As \*losellis ever their life to lead. (\*rogues, crooks)

**II CONSOLATOR**
\*Certis, lord, this is a subtle \*\*sawe, (\*certainly, surely) (\*\*saying, command)
So shall the folk no further spread.

**REX**
Yea, helps to hold them down
That we no faintness find.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Lord, we shall ever be boun(d)
In bondage them to bind.

**MOYSES**
Great God that all this ground began
And governs ever in good degree,
That made me Moses unto man
And saved me \*sithen out of the sea. (\*since then)
King Pharaoh he commanded then
So that no sons should saved be,
Against his will away I \*wan, (\*went, won)
Thus has God showed his might in me.
Now am I here to keep,
Set under Sinai side,
The bishop Jethro sheep,
So better \*bute to \*\*bide. (\*fortune, redemption) (\*\*wait for)

Ah, mercy, God, mickle is thy might,
What man may of thy marvels \*mene! (\*reveal, understand)
I see yonder a full \*selcouth sight (\*miraculous, amazing)
Whereof before no sign was seen.
A bush I see yonder burning bright,
And the leaves last \*ay in like green; (\*ever)
If it be work of worldly \*wight (\*person, soul)
I will go \*witte without-en wene. (\*i.e. understand without doubt)

**DEUS**
Moses, come not too near
But still in that \*stead dwell, (\*place)
And take heed to me here
And \*tente what I thee tell. (\*attend, pay attention to)

I am thy Lord, without-en \*lack, (\*fault)
To length thy life even as me \*list, (\*desires)
And the same God that sometime spoke
Unto thine elders as they \*wist. (\*knew)
But Abraham and Isaac
And Jacob, said I, should be blessed
And multiply and them to \*mak (\*match, mate)
So that their seed should not be missed.
And now king Pharaoh
Fells their \*childer full fast. (\*children, descendants)
If I suffer him so
Their seed should soon be past.

To make thee message have I meant
To him that them so harmed has,
To warn him with words \*hende (\*noble, skilful)
So that he let my people pass
That they to wilderness may wend
And worship me as \*whilom was. (\*once)
And if he longer gets them \*lende, (\*live, i.e. stay here)
His song full sone shall be “alas.”

**MOYSES**
Ah, Lord, \*sith, with thy leave, (\*since)
That lineage loves me not,
Gladly they would me grieve,
\*And I such \*\*boodword brought. (\*if) (\*\*message, bidding)
Therefore, Lord, let some other \*fraste (\*seek, request)
That has more force them for to fear.

**DEUS**
Moses, be not abashed
My bidding boldly to bear.
If they with wrong ought would thee \*wrayste, (\*wrestle, violently oppose)
Out of all \*wothis I shall thee \*\*were. (\*dangers) (\*\*guard, escape)

**MOYSES**
Wey, Lord, they will not to me trust
For all the oaths that I may swear.
To \*neven such note of new(s) (\*name, speak)
To folk of wicked will,
Withouten taken true,
They will not take \*tente theretill. (\*attend, pay attention)

**DEUS**
And if they will not understand
Nor take heed how I have thee sent,
Before the king cast down thy wand
And it shall seem as a serpent.
\*Sithen take the tail in thy hand (\*Then)
And heartily up thou it \*hente (\*seize, esp. something dangerous)
In the first state as thou it found:
So shall it turn by mine intent.
Hide thy hand in thy \*barme, (\*breast, chest)
And as a leper it shall be like,
\*Sithen \*\*hale withouten harm. (\*and then) (\*\*whole, healthy)
Thy signs shall be \*slyke. (\*such)

And if he will not suffer then
My people for to pass in peace,
I shall send vengeance nine or ten
To sow him sorrow ere I cease.
But the Jews that \*wonnes in Jessen (\*live, dwell)
Shall not be marked with that mess.
As long as they my laws will \*ken (\*know)
Their comfort shall I ever increase.

**MOYSES**
Ah, Lord, loved be thy will
That makes thy folk so free.
I shall tell them \*until (\*unto)
As thou tells unto me.

But to the king, Lord, when I come
And he ask me what is thy name
And I stand still then, deaf and dumb,
How shall I be withouten blame?

**DEUS**
I say thus, *Ego sum qui sum*, (\*I am who I am)
I am he that I am the same;
And if thou might not move nor mum(ble),
I shall thee save from sin and shame.

**MOYSES**
I understand this thing
With all the might in me.

**DEUS**
Be bold in my blessing,
Thy \*belde \*\*ay shall I be. (\*shield, comfort) (\*\*ever)

**MOYSES**
A, Lord of life, \*lere me my \*\*layre (\*teach) (\*\*lore, story)
That I there tales may truly tell;
Unto my friends now will I fare,
The chosen children of Israel,
To tell them comfort of their care
And of their danger that they in dwell.

God maintain you and me evermore,
And \*mickle mirth be you \*\*emell. (\*much, great) (\*\*among)

**I PUER**
Ah Moses, master dear,
Our mirth is all mourning;
We are hard held-en here
As \*carls under the king. (\*slaves, servants)

**II PUER**
Moses, we may mourn and moan,
There is no man us mirths makes,
And since we come all of a kin
\*Ken us some comfort in this case. (\*know, tell)

**MOYSES**
Be of your mourning \*blyne, (\*stop)
God will defend you of your \*fays. (\*foes)
Out of this woe he will you win
To please him in more plainer place.
I shall \*carp to the king (\*complain)
And find to make you free.

**III PUER**
God send us good tidings,
And always with you be.

**MOYSES**
King Pharoah, to me take ‘tent.

**REX**
Why, what tidings can thou tell?

**MOYSES**
From God of heaven thus am I sent
To fetch his folk of Israel;
To wilderness he would they went.

**REX**
Yea, wend thou to the devil of hell!
I make no force how thou has meant,
For in my \*danger shall they dwell. (\*danger, dungeon)
And \*faytour, for thy sake, (\*imposter, cheat- particularly

through feigning illness- foreshadows the leper moment?)

They shall be put to pain.

**MOYSES**
Then will God vengeance take
On thee and on all thine.

**REX**
Fie on thee, lad, out of my land.
\*Wenes thou with wiles to lose our \*\*laye? (\*thinks) (\*\*law, realm)
Where is this warlock with his wand
That would thus win our folk away?

**II CONSOLATOR**
It is Moses, we well \*warrant, (\*guarantee)
Against all Egypt is he \*ay. (\*ever)
Your father great fault in him found,
Now will he mar you if he may.

**REX**
Nay, nay, that dance is done:
That \*lurdan \*\*leryd over late. (\*criminal, lout) (\*\*learned, asked)

**MOYSES**
God bids thee grant my boon,
And let me go my \*gait. (\*i.e. go my way)

**REX**
Bids God me? False \*lurdan, thou lies. (\*criminal, lout)
What token told he, took thou \*tent? (\*attention)

**MOYSES**
Yea, sir, he said thou should despise
Both me and all his commandment.
In thy presence cast on this wise
My wand he bade by his assent,
And that thou should thee well advise
Howe it should turn to a serpent.
And in his holy name
Here shall I lay it down —
Lo’, sir, see here the same.

**REX**
Ah, dog, the devil thee drown!

**MOYSES**
He said that I should take the tail
So for to prove his power plain,
And soon he said it should not fail
For to turn a wand again.
Loo, sir, behold.

**REX**
Hop, ill hail,
Now \*certis this is a subtle \*\*swain. (\*surely) (\*\*lad)
But this boys shall bide here in our \*bail, (\*i.e. prison)
For all their \*gaudis shall nought them gain. (\*tricks)
But worse, both morn and noon
Shall they fare for thy sake.

**MOYSES**
God send some vengeance soon,
And on thy work take wrack.

**I EGIPTIUS**
Alas, alas, this land is \*lorne, (\*lost)
On life we may no longer \*lende. (\*live)

**II EGIPTIUS**
So great mischief is made since morn,
There may no medicine us amend.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Sir king, we \*banne that we were born; (\*curse?)
Our bliss is all with \*bales blend. (\*torment)

**REX**
Why cries you so, lads, \*liste you scorn? (\*desires)

**I EGIPTIUS**
Sir king, such care was never \*kenned. (\*known)
Our water that was ordained
To men and beasts’ food;
Throughout all Egypt land
Is turned to red blood.

Full ugly and full ill is it
That was full fair and fresh before.

**REX**
This is great wonder for to \*wit (\*know, perceive)
Of all the works that ever were.

**II EGIPTIUS**
Nay, lord, there is another yet
That suddenly \*sewes us full sore, (\*besieges)
For toads and frogs we may not flit,
Their venom \*loses less and more. (\*destroys)

**I EGIPTIUS**
Lord, great midges both morn and noon
Bites us full bitterly,
And we hope all be done
By Moses, our enemy.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Lorde, whilst we with this \*menyhe meve (\*people, gathering) (\*move/live among)
Must never mirth be us among.

**REX**
Go, say we shall no longer grieve,
\*But they shall never the \*tighter \*\*\*gange. (\*that) (\*\*quickly) (\*\*\*go)

**II EGIPTIUS**
Moses, my lord has granted leave
At lead thy folk to liking land
So that we mend of our mischief.

**MOYSES**
I \*wot full well their words are wrong, (\*know)
That shall full soon be seen,
For hardly I him \*heete (\*rebuked, scolded)
And he of malice \*mene, (\*many, strong)
More marvels must he meet.

**I EGIPTIUS**
Lord, alas, for duly we die;
We dare not look out at no door

**REX**
What devil ails you so to cry?

**II EGIPTIUS**
We fare now worse than ever we \*fare. (\*fared, existed)
Great \*loppis over all this land they fly (\*fleas)
That with biting makes \*mickle \*\*blure. (\*great) (\*\*weeping, wailing)

**I EGIPTIUS**
Lord, our beasts lies dead and dry
As well on \*midden as on more. (\*manure pile)
Both ox, horse, and ass
Falls dead down suddenly

**REX**
There of no man harm has
Half so \*mickle as I. (\*great)

**II CONSOLATOR**
Yes, lord, poor men has mickle woe
To see their cattle be out cast.
The Jews in Jessen fare not so;
They have all liking in to last.
**REX**
Go, say we give them leave to go
To time their perils be over past,
But ere they flit over-far us fro(m)
We shall go fast them four so fast. (i.e. bind them four times as close)

**II EGIPTIUS**
Moses, my lord gives leave
Thy men for to remove.

**MOYSES**
He must have more mischief
\*But if his tales be true. (\*unless)

**I EGIPTIUS**
Wey, lord, we may not lead this life.

**REX**
Why, is their grievance grown again?

**II EGIPTIUS**
Such powder, lord, upon us drift,
That where it beats it makes a \*blain. (\*boil, blemish)

**I EGIPTIUS**
Like measles makes it man and wife.
\*Sithen are they hurt with hail and rain (\*since then)
Our wines in mountains may not thrive,
So are they threshed and thunder-slain.

**REX**
How do they in Jessen,
The Jews, can ye ought say?

**II EGIPTIUS**
This care nothing they \*ken, (\*know)
They feel no such affray.

**REX**
No, devil, and sit they so in peace
And we \*ilke day in doubt and dread? (\*each)

**I EGIPTIUS**
My lord, this care will ever increase
‘Til Moses have leave them to lead.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Lord, were they went, than would it cease,
So should we save us and our seed;
Else be we \*lorne, this is no \*lese. (\*lost, forlorn) (\*lie)

**REX**
Let him do forth, the devil him speed!
For his folk shall no fare
If he go wailing \*wode. (\*mad)

**II CONSOLATOR**
Then will it soon be \*warre, (\*worse)
Yet were better they \*yoode. (\*walked, went)

**II EGIPTIUS**
Wey, lord, new harm is come to hand.

**REX**
No, devil, will it no better be?

**I EGIPTIUS**
Wild \*worms is laid over all this land; (\*locusts)
They leave no fruit nor flower on tree;
Against that storm may nothing stand.

**II EGIPTIUS**
Lord, there is more mischief, think me,
And three days has it been \*durand (\*enduring)
So murk that none might other see.

**I EGIPTIUS**
My lord, great pestilence
Is like full long to last.

**REX**
Oh, come that in our presence,
Than is our pride all past.

**II EGIPTIUS**
My lord, this vengeance lasts long,
And must till Moses have his boon.

**I CONSOLATOR**
Lord, let them wend, else work we wrong;
It may not help to hover nor \*hone. (\*delay)

**REX**
Go, say we grant them leave to \*gange, (\*go)
In the devil way, since it must be done,
For so may fall we shall them \*fang (\*hurt, tear)
And mar them ere tomorrow at noon.

**I EGIPTIUS**
Moses, my lord has said
Thou shall have passage plain.

**MOYSES**
And to pass am I paid,
My friends, be now \*fayne; (\*glad)
For at our will now shall we wend
In land of liking for to \*lende. (\*live)

**I PUER**   King Pharaoh, that felonious fiend,
Will have great care \*from this be \*\*kenned, (\*if) (\*\*known)
Then will he shape him us to \*shend, (\*destroy)
And soon his host after us send.

**MOYSES**   Be not afeared, God is your friend,
From all our foes he will us (de)fend.
Therefore comes forth with me,
Have done, and dread you nought.

**II PUER**   My Lord, loved must thou be,
That us from \*bale has brought. (\*imprisonment)

**III PUER**   Such friendship never before we found,
But in this fair, \*defautys may fall. (\*evil faults)
The Red Sea is right near at hand;
There must us bide \*to we be \*\*thrall. (\*until) (\*\*captured, slaves)

**MOYSES**   I shall make us way with my wand,
For God has said he save us shall.
On either side the sea shall stand
(Un)til we be went, right as a wall.
Therefore have ye no dread
But find \*ay God to please. (\*ever)

**I PUER**   That Lord to land us lead,
Now wend we all at ease.

**I EGIPTIUS**   King Pharaoh, their folk are gone.

**REX**   How now, is there any noise of new(s)?

**II EGIPTIUS**   The Hebrews are went \*ilkone. (\*each one)

**REX**   How says thou that?

**I EGIPTIUS**
                       Their tales are true.

**REX**
Horse harness \*tyte, that they be ta’en; (\*quickly) (\*taken)
This riot ra(pi)dly shall them rue.
We shall not cease ere they be slain,
For to the sea we shall them (pur)sue.
Do charge our chariots swift
And \*frekly follows me. (\*quickly)

**II EGIPTIUS**
My lord, we are full blithe
At your bidding to be.

**II CONSOLATOR**
Lord, to your bidding we are bound,
Our bodies boldly for to bid;
We shall not bide but \*ding them down (\*strike)
(Un)til all be dead, withouten dread.

**REX**
Heave up your hearts \*ay to \*Mahownde, (\*ever) (\*Mohammed)
He will be near us in our need.
Out, ay harrow, devil, I drown!

**I EGIPTIUS**
Alas, we die, for all our deed. (or possibly “for all are dead?”)

**I PUER**
Now are we won fra woe
And saved out of the sea.
*Cantemus domino*, (\*We sing to the Lord)
To God a song sing we.