

# Goshen Gazette

Reader's Theatre of Exodus 1-12

Adapted by Rebecca Stewart

## Journalists/Cast

**Iza Potter**

*Ceramics expert*

**Lemme Sellem**

*Antiquities Dealer*

**Seymor Skelton**

*Human remains expert*

**Doug Bones**

*Mummy expert*

**Izzy Digger**

*Excavation supervisor*

**Mima Wiseman**

*Antiquities scholar*

**Wanna Wright**

*Journalist*

**Jewel hunter**

*Geologist*

**Hiro Gliff**

*Egyptologist*

**Archie O. Logist**

*Early Bronze Expert*

**Hans n. Camra**

*Photographer*

**Tran Slator**

*Ancient linguistics expert*

**Ima Leevin**

*Court Reporter*

## Iza Potter

I'm Iza Potter an expert on Egyptian ceramics. I'm reading today's news from the Goshen Gazette.

## God has Heard Us!

### **Moses Returns Promises Freedom**

### **Adar 10**

After 40 years in exile, Moses returned home to Egypt today and was greeted by an enthusiastic delegation of chiefs and elders.

They were eager to explain the increasing hardships that their people were suffering under the rule of a Pharaoh who was extremely cruel and harsh.

The elders were greatly encouraged to learn that God had heard their prayers and would deliver them from slavery. After seeing Moses rod turn into a snake the elders were convinced that Pharaoh would see God's power and grant their request to go and worship God in the desert.

So with some help from local court officials they arranged a meeting for Moses and Aaron at the palace. At press time Moses and Aaron were in conference with Pharaoh and his counselors.

It is hoped that once all the details are arranged, Moses will inform the elders of the plans and they will then be published in the Goshen Gazette.

## Lemme Sellem

I'm Lemme Sellem your local antiquities dealer, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

## Pharaoh Decrees!

### **More Bricks No Straw!**

### **Adar 15**

Insiders at the palace revealed that yesterday the meeting between Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh had been a debacle.

The "rod to snake" had not impressed Pharaoh. In fact, his magicians had been able to do this trick with their incantations!

Some observers were, however, quick to note that

Moses snake swallowed the other snakes whole! Eventually Moses caught it as it swallowed the last snake and it became a staff again in Moses hand.

As a result of the ill-fated meeting Pharaoh's bad humour has resurfaced and he is now demanding that all brick makers need to gather there own straw.

This is the final straw for those who doubted Moses from the beginning. Some of those hardest hit by the new regulation have suggested tarring and feathering both Moses and his brother for making things worse.

Straw gatherers are now being recruited from every family and witnesses say they have seen children as young as five in the fields.

## Seymor Skelton

I'm Seymor Skelton your funeral home director and human remains expert. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

## A Bloody River

### **The Nile Turns Red**

Adar 20

The department of public safety has issued a boil water advisory as a result of Moses latest confrontation with Pharaoh. When they met down by the Nile today, strong words were exchanged and Pharaoh refused Moses offer. Then Moses muttered something and raised his staff. The rest is history.

One of the servants at the scene said, "The River looked red like wine at first but then it became thick and gooey and started to stink. It was a disaster!"

Many Israelites since then have been complaining saying, "Moses promised us freedom but all he has brought us is pain."

"Even our stored fresh water has become undrinkable. Why is God cursing us?" moaned Ima Thursdie the Pharaoh's cook.

"Not only do we have to slave in the hot sun but now we have no water, and this boil water advisory is no help at all!" grumbled Anita Drink.

Everyone is wondering how the water problem will be resolved and hoping Moses knows the answer.

## Doug Bones

I'm Doug Bones your expert on mummies and all the latest in burial fashions. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette

## Frogs Legs

### Anyone?

### **What's Moses Thinking?**

## **Adar 24**

Pharaoh was shocked this morning, when being served his favourite breakfast of fried frogs legs, he discovered that he had more frog's legs than he had ordered and they were still alive and twitching.

When he called to his servants they opened the door and a wave of little green

amphibians swarmed over him! The cook was quick to apologize, but she has not been seen since the incident.

We here in Goshen have our frog problem too! They are in our food, in our clothes, and in our beds. There is nothing more disgusting than walking across the cold floor and sliding and slipping on dozens of clammy, slimy, squishy frogs.

The public works department has called in the straw gatherers to help with the cleanup. As the frogs die they are being piled into great heaps of rotting frog flesh. The smell is so bad it is beyond words. The plan is to recycle and compost them and use them for mulch on the local onion and leek farms.

## Izzy Digger

I'm Izzy Digger your excavation expert for all your building needs. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette

### Ouch that Hurts!

**Another gnatty problem**

## Adar 28

Gnats have now added to our miseries. Perhaps the noise of their buzzing is as bad as their bite because it keeps us awake all night. As usual we seem to be suffering as much as our Egyptian masters. First there was the taste and stench of blood, then the odor and nuisance of frogs and now these pesky,

annoying gnats. "When will it all end?" many are asking themselves.

We eat and sleep in a cloud of bugs that get into our eyes and ears. When we open our mouths to eat we can't avoid getting an extra mouthful of unwanted protein. Yuck!

It seems that even Pharaoh's magicians have finally agreed that this is not normal. The chief soothsayer said this morning, "This is the Hand of God!"

But it is likely that Pharaoh will have him executed for conspiracy, as he now seems to be supporting Moses and Aaron.

The elders have planned a meeting tomorrow to discuss matters and implore God for his mercy.

## Míma Wiseman

I'm Mima Wiseman, scholar, researcher and lecturer at Goshen University. I'm here reading today's Gazette.

## Scientific Fact

### **No Flies in Goshen**

Adar 30

Work today for many of Pharaoh's servants was a painful experience due to the swarms of biting stinging flies that had infested the palace.

When a few of the servants returned home to Goshen they were relieved to see that the flies were not a problem here.

Later several returned to

report that Moses had met with Pharaoh and there seemed to be some initial progress in their negotiations.

Eventually, Pharaoh agreed to let the people go but it was not certain as to the time frame that he had in mind. We have not confirmed this report and Moses was not yet available for comment. We will be interviewing more servants as they arrive from the palace.

Meanwhile, work on the pyramids and temples has stopped and most of the stonemasons and the labourers have returned to their homes in Goshen.

## Archie O. Logist

I'm Archie O. Logist, an expert in early bronze culture. I'm here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

## Mystery Deaths

### **Many Egyptian Cattle Die**

Nisan 2

If beef is the Pharaoh's favourite food, he won't be seeing it on the menu any time soon. The latest blow to the Egyptian economy has come in the form of a deadly virus that has destroyed all of the cattle of Pharaoh and his people.

But here in Goshen it hasn't affected the flocks or herds.

People are beginning to grow in respect for Moses and Aaron. Perhaps they were hasty in thinking God wasn't supporting them. The shepherders union is encouraging their members to offer up prayers of thanks, as the deadly virus has affected none of the flocks.

In the last talks with Pharaoh they seemed to be making progress and Pharaoh had agreed in principal to the concept of a 3-day journey into the wilderness in order to worship.

Pharaoh has made one promise after another but he has not let the people go. Some in Goshen have lost heart and are wondering where it will all end, while others are encouraging faith in God's promise.



## Wanna Wright

I'm Wanna Wright, journalist and court reporter, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

## Plague of Pus Pains Prince

Nisan 3

Boils, boils and more boils. From the tips of the ears to the soles of the feet most Egyptians are suffering from a mysterious malady that has left them in great agony. The court official I spoke to could only barely whisper his news and the wish that Pharaoh would not be so stubborn but would let the Israelites go.

According to an unnamed source close to the ruler, many at the palace are beginning to blame Pharaoh for the destruction of Egypt and all the grief.

The Pharaoh himself is said to sport the biggest boil of them all on the tip of his nose. But his usually bad humour has been made all the worse by this latest personal discomfort for which his doctors have no remedy.

Though many counselors are hoping that he will relent and let the slaves go others are advising Pharaoh to hang tough as this streak of misfortunes cannot last much longer. The slaves will be needed even more in rebuilding after the recent disasters.

## Jewel Hunter

I'm Jewel Hunter, geologist and reporter, here to read today's Goshen Gazette.

## Hail, Fire and Wind

Nisan 4

There has never been a storm like it, said 100-year-old Wiseman, Iva Seynital. I'm glad I listened to the old prophet, AhMose. I can think back and remember when he was a young Prince. I thought good things would happen to him.

But since this new bunch of leaders has ruled Egypt there's been nothing but terror. I'm an Egyptian and proud of it but

you've got to know when God is against you. No use fighting the one who controls the weather.

I brought in all my animals from the field. And though my barns sustained some damage from the hail and fire, I didn't lose a single lamb or calf. My neighbours who didn't heed the warning are a sorry lot, weeping and wailing over the loss of the rest of their herds. But they were warned and did not act, so I can't feel too sorry for them."

When asked what his plans are for the future he was quick to respond, "There's a lot of life in me yet, so I'm wondering if I won't just join the slaves and leave for greener pastures with my herds before Pharaoh destroys all of Egypt."

## Hiro Gliff

I'm Hiro Gliff, Egyptian language expert and reporter for the Goshen Gazette. I'm here to read today's news.

## Gallopíng Grasshoppers!

Nisan 9

Spring has just begun to appear, with the new buds and blossoms on the trees and a carpet of fresh grass and wildflowers, sprouting where a week ago there was nothing but burned turf as a result of the freaky lightning storm.

But there is bad news on the horizon as a huge cloud of

locusts has been spotted approaching from the desert.

This cyclical occurrence is happening at an unusual time and the numbers of pesky hoppers seems far greater than is normally expected. They are known to eat anything that is green! Who knows what will be left for grazing or eating after they land?

It looks as if they will ruin the barley harvest and devastate this years grape, fig and plum yields.

In Goshen we have not experienced the recent disastrous weather or disease that has destroyed the flocks and herds of Egypt. But, some people here are wondering how God will protect their fields from swarms of locusts?

## Hans N. Camra

I'm Hans N. Camra, photographer and reporter for the Goshen Gazette. I'm here to read today's news, as I was unable to photograph events in Egypt to due to the extreme darkness.

## Night at Noon

Nisan 10

Moses has instructed everyone to choose their lamb for the leaving celebration on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Aviv. Early today, Moses announced that there would be total darkness for three days in the land of Egypt. We do not need to be concerned about this latest

development, as God has promised to keep the lights on in Goshen in some miraculous way.

We will have time in the next 3 days to gather and hear further instructions about the departure from Ramses and Succoth. Our leaders will be organizing the exodus and they want everyone to be prepared to march out in an orderly fashion at a moment's notice.

While the Egyptians are stuck at home everyone in Goshen has time off to pack up their household goods and be prepared for a quick exodus when Moses gives the word. If you have not already asked for your wages, you will need to do so as soon as the darkness ends.

# Death Angel Strikes a Blow

Nisan 15

Last night as many Israelites ate their meal of lamb and bitter herbs, they were unsettled by the eerie sounds of wails and shrieks from nearby residences. It appears that in each Egyptian household there is at least one family member who died during the night. Even the Pharaoh's firstborn son was discovered lifeless in his bed. But all the firstborn sons were safe in those homes with the blood on their doorposts.

Word then came from Moses that Pharaoh had finally relented and given the order for all Israelites to leave Egypt.

People began leaving their homes in the early morning hours while it was still dark.

They were carrying or hauling all of their worldly possessions and herding a motley assortment of goats, sheep and cattle. They have now converged on the main meeting places and have begun to form ranks for the long trek that they will be making south into the desert.

It has been a night of celebration and joy after years of slavery. This will be my last report from Egypt as editor for the Goshen Gazette, as I have decided to join the exodus. My next post will be as the publisher for the Desert Chronicle.

**Ima Leevín**

Court Reporter