

# SEA-ING RED

## BESHALACH

Exodus 13:17-17:16

### Cast of Characters

Boy

Girl

Zayde

Moses

Aaron

Israelite #1

Israelite #2

Israelite #3

Israelite #4

Pharaoh

Advisor #1

Advisor #2

*(Boy and Girl come up to an old man, Zayde, who sits in a chair.)*

**BOY:** Shabbat Shalom, Zayde.

**ZAYDE:** Shabbat Shalom, my precious grandchildren. How are you?

**GIRL:** We can't wait to hear your Shabbat story this week.

**ZAYDE:** I'm sorry, but this week there can be no story.

**BOY:** But every week you tell us the story of the weekly parashah.

**GIRL:** Why should this week be different, Zayde?

**ZAYDE:** Because, in Beshalach . . .

**BOY:** Gezuntzeit!

**ZAYDE:** No, I didn't sneeze. That's the name of this week's parashah. And if I told you the stories in Beshalach, you'd never believe them. They are amazing stories about some of God's most extraordinary miracles.

**BOY:** I love amazing stories that are impossible to believe.

**GIRL:** Of course you do. You make them up all the time when you forget to do your homework.

**ZAYDE:** When this week's parashah begins, Moses and Aaron are leading the Israelites out of Egypt . . .

*(Moses, Aaron, and four Israelites enter.)*

**AARON:** Well, Moses. It worked. Pharaoh was so upset by those ten plagues, he decided to let us out of Egypt.

**MOSES:** Yes. He finally let my people go.

**ISRAELITE #1:** That's a catchy phrase, Moses. Have you ever thought about turning it into a song?

**MOSES:** There will be plenty of time for songs later. Now we must follow God's instructions and escape Egypt.

**AARON:** It's a good thing God gave us that awesome cloud to follow during the day.

**ISRAELITE #2:** And the pillar of fire at night is also very convenient.

**BOY:** Wait a second, Zayde. Are you saying that God actually led the Israelites through the desert with clouds and fires?

**ZAYDE:** Yes. And the stories get even more amazing. Back in Egypt, Pharaoh was having a change of heart.

*(Pharaoh enters with two Advisors.)*

**PHARAOH:** Advisors, I'm having a change of heart. I think I made a mistake letting the Hebrew slaves go.

**ADVISOR #1:** You did the right thing. Those plagues were awful.

**ADVISOR #2:** And Moses kept saying, "Let My People Go." Now I can't get that phrase out of my head. Actually, it would make a great song.

**PHARAOH:** Silence! I need my slaves back. I need more buildings built.

**ADVISOR #1:** You have thousands of buildings.

**PHARAOH:** You can never have enough buildings. Come on, let's go chase down the Hebrew slaves and bring them back.

**ADVISOR #2:** I don't think this is a very good idea.

**PHARAOH:** Advisors, when I want your advice, I'll ask for it. Gas up the chariots. We're off!

**ADVISOR #1:** (*Whispers.*) Off his rocker.

**PHARAOH:** I heard that!

**ZAYDE:** And so Pharaoh and his soldiers chased after the Hebrews. You can imagine how frightened the people must have been.

**ISRAELITE #3:** Moses, we're frightened! The Egyptians are behind us!

**ISRAELITE #4:** And the Sea of Reeds is in front of us. What are we going to do?

**MOSES:** Watch this.

(*Moses lifts his hands.*)

**AARON:** The sea has parted. We can run through it to safety.

**MOSES:** Well, let's get a move on.

**ZAYDE:** After the Hebrews made it safely across the sea, Pharaoh ordered his soldiers to follow.

**PHARAOH:** Another great trick — their God has split the sea.

**ADVISOR #2:** Guess we should turn back.

**ADVISOR #1:** Good advice.

**PHARAOH:** Don't be cowards. Follow the Israelites through the sea!

**ADVISOR #2:** Hey, when they were in Egypt, they were Hebrews. Now that they are leaving, you called them Israelites. How come?

**ADVISOR #1:** Because Israel is where they're headed.

**PHARAOH:** Stop jabbering and start riding. Go ahead. Into the sea. Go!

(*They start to go.*)

**ADVISOR #2:** Is it just me, or is the water rising?

**ADVISOR #1:** I advise you to start swimming . . .

(*Advisors and Pharaoh exit.*)

**ZAYDE:** And the Egyptians drowned in the Sea of Reeds.

**GIRL:** Pharaoh, too?

**ZAYDE:** Very likely.

**BOY:** What happened next?

**ZAYDE:** Miriam led the Israelites in songs of joy.

**MOSES AND ISRAELITES:** "Mi chamocha ba'aylim Adonai ... " Who is like You, Adonai among the mighty? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome, working wonders?

**ZAYDE:** But their joy turned to sorrow when they came to Marah.

**MOSES:** We will rest here. Relax, drink some water.

*(Israelites drink some water.)*

**ISRAELITE #1:** Yuck. This water tastes terrible.

**ISRAELITE #2:** Moses, do you know where we can purchase a filter around here?

**ISRAELITE #3:** I'd like some Perrier!

**MOSES:** I'll place a tree in the pond to make the water sweet.

**ZAYDE:** And Moses threw a tree into the water . . .

**ISRAELITE #4:** *(Tasting the water)* It worked. The water tastes great.

**ISRAELITE #1:** Hey, we can make a fortune bottling this stuff! We could call it Desert Dew.

**ZAYDE:** And when the Israelites moved on, they were hungry. So God made food fall from the heavens.

**AARON:** Moses — am I going crazy or is it snowing in the desert?

**MOSES:** It's not snow, Aaron. Eat some.

**AARON:** Actually, I'm still full from that matzah I had last week.

**MOSES:** Look, I'll eat it first. *(Tastes it.)* Mmm . . . not bad.

**AARON:** *(Trying it.)* Could use a little salsa. What do you call this stuff?

**MOSES:** Manna. God has provided food from the sky, so that the Israelites will not starve.

**ISRAELITE #2:** But we're thirsty again, and there's no water here.

**MOSES:** No problem. All I need to do is hit this rock . . .

*(Moses starts banging on a rock.)*

**AARON:** Moses, I know you're frustrated, but you're going too far.

**MOSES:** You don't understand. God told me that if I hit that rock, water will come out.

**ISRAELITE #3:** It's working. You did it!

**ISRAELITE #4:** Moses, you're a miracle worker!

**MOSES:** No, God is the worker of miracles. This should prove that God will help us through anything.

**ISRAELITE:** I hope you're right, Moses. Because the Amalekites are coming after us!

**BOY:** Zayde, who were the Amalekites?

**ZAYDE:** Evil, powerful people, who wanted to destroy the Jews.

**GIRL:** I bet God protected the Jews.

**ZAYDE:** Yes. But you won't believe how.

**AARON:** Moses, how will we defeat the Amalekites?

**MOSES:** When I lift my arms, we will be able to defeat them. When I drop my arms, we will not be strong enough to win.

**AARON:** That's pretty hard to believe, Moses . . .

**MOSES:** Didn't God split the Sea of Reeds? Didn't God bring water from a rock and manna from the heavens?

**AARON:** Yes.

**MOSES:** Then have faith, Aaron. Now I will raise my arms. *(He raises his arms.)* Look at the battle below . . .

**AARON:** You're right — we're winning!

**MOSES:** Only one problem.

**AARON:** What?

**MOSES:** My arms are getting tired.

**ZAYDE:** And so, Joshua and a man named Hur held up Moses' arms while the Israelites defeated the Amalekites. What do you think of that, children?

**GIRL:** You were right, Grandpa. It's hard to believe that so many amazing miracles happen in just one parashah — Beshalach!

**BOY AND ZAYDE:** Gezundheit!