Moses and the burning bush skit
by Walt Wiltschek

SETTING THE STAGE

Actor 1 (Mark) comes out to front stage right.

M: Hello. We’re here to set the stage of tonight’s scripture story for you. It comes from Exodus 3—a story about Moses. But I’m missing my acting partner. (turns and yells) Tyler? Tyler!

T: (comes out from stage left, running across the stage, screaming, and fanning his bum, as if it were on fire, exiting stage right. A trail of smoke would be ideal.)

M: Well, that was peculiar. (turns to stage right, looking for Actor 2) Umm….Tyler?

T: (comes running back out from stage right, still screaming in spurts, patting his bum as if putting out the remaining embers of a fire; runs in a circle around stage until coming to stand near Mark, breathless.) Oh, hey Mark.

M: Uhh, Tyler—why were your shorts on fire?

T: You said you needed a burning toush!

M: No, no, no—a BUSH. We need a BUSH for this scene!

T: Ohhh…that does sound less painful. Well here (claps hands twice, image of George W. Bush appears on screen).

M: (slightly exasperated) Tyler, that’s President Bush.

T: I know.

M: That’s not what we’re looking for here.

T: You want his father?

M: (fully exasperated) NO! Tyler, this is the story of Moses and the burning bush from Exodus. We need a shrub in the desert, not a guy in the White House.

T: Oh, well why didn’t you say so. Here! (claps twice, image of burning bush appears on screen)

M: (sighs) OK, much better. Now, here’s how the story begins. Tyler, you act out Moses’ part.
T: OK.

M: (takes out Bible and starts reading from Exodus 3) “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.’ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said…” (gestures to Tyler)

T: (looks at bush image on screen) Uh, hello, talking bush! You new around here? I love what you’ve done with your leaves.

M: (sighs) No, Tyler—you’re Moses. You just say, “Here I am.”

T: Here I am?

M: Yes, just a simple statement that you’ve recognized the voice calling your name.

T: OK, then. (turns back toward screen and spreads arms) Here I am!

M: (continues reading) “‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ And then God said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”

T: (throws of his shoes, cowers, and covers his face) Holy ground, Batman! I’m so afraid!!!!

M: (rolls eyes) A little hammy, but better.

T: (to Mark) So why is it I have to take off my shoes? I like my shoes. They’re comfy.

M: Like it says, Moses was on holy ground because God was there. It was a sign of respect, of removing anything that would separate him from God.

T: But God’s here with us, too, right? So isn’t all this holy ground? Your feet still seem to be fettered in footwear, my flatulent friend.

M: I guess you’re right! (bends down and removes shoes) In fact (speaks to audience and gestures to them), I invite all of you to take off your shoes as a symbol that we’re on holy ground together here—that wherever God is, that’s holy ground.

(pause a moment while people take off shoes)
T: *(breathes deeply)* Ahhh… I can smell the holy-ness already! … So what happens next, Mark?

M: Well, God tells Moses that the Hebrew people’s cries from their suffering in Egypt have been heard, and God hasn’t forgotten them. God will lead them to a new and wonderful place, a Promised Land flowing with milk and honey.

T: Sounds delicious! Like Greek yogurt.

M: It was a metaphor, Tyler, but yes, it was going to be a special place.

T: Ah! More holy ground.

M: That’s right. And so God sends Moses to go tell Pharaoh that Moses will be leading the people out of Egypt. Moses balks at first, but God promises to be with him. And someday, God says that the people of Israel will all worship God on this very mountain where God was talking with Moses right now.

T: I like that story! So how does it end?

M: It’s all in the Bible, Tyler. You know how it ends—but this is how it begins: with a promise and a patch of holy ground and Moses finding his place in the midst of it all. That’s the long and the short of it.

T: *(looking at backside)* Speaking of shorts, I think I should go change into something a little less crispy.

M: OK, let’s go. I think our work here is finished. The stage is set.

*(Actors exit, stage right)*