### Numbers

## Chapter 20

[Editor note: The story resumes here.]  
  
  
1It was during the 1st month that the people (the whole gathering of the children of IsraEl) traveled to the Sin Desert and stayed in KaDesh; and it was there that MiriAm died and was buried.  
  
2Well, there was no water in that place, so all the people came to Moses and Aaron 3and they started shouting at Moses, saying:  
  
 ‘We would rather have died when our brothers were destroyed before Jehovah!  
  
 4‘Why have you brought the gathering of Jehovah into this desert… To kill us along with our cattle?  
  
 5‘Just what kind of a place is this?! You brought us out of Egypt and took us into this evil place where we can’t plant grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates… And there’s no water for us to drink here!’  
  
6Then Moses and Aaron went to the entrance of the Tent of Proofs and stood before the people, and [they both] fell to their faces. Thereafter, the glory of Jehovah appeared to them, 7and [God] spoke to Moses, saying:  
  
 8‘Call an assembly.  
  
 ‘Then take your walking stick, and you and your brother Aaron must call out to the rock that stands before them, and it’ll give you its water! You must bring the water out of the rock for them and give it to the gathering and to their cattle to drink.’  
  
9So Moses took his walking stick that was there before Jehovah, just as the Lord had commanded him... 10Then Moses and Aaron assembled the whole gathering in front of the rock, and he said to them:  
  
 ‘Listen to me, you rebels!  
  
 ‘Must we bring water for you out of this rock?’  
  
11And at that, Moses raised his hand and hit the rock twice with his rod, and water came gushing out of it for the gathering and their cattle to drink!  
  
  
12But after that, the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and said:  
  
 ‘Because you didn’t put enough trust in Me to mention Me before the children of IsraEl, you won’t be allowed to lead this gathering into the land that I’ve given to them!  
  
 13‘This is [to be called] The Water of Rebellion, because this is where the children of IsraEl spoke rebelliously before Jehovah, as I remained holy among them.’  
  
  
14Then Moses sent messengers from KaDesh to the king of Edom to tell him:  
  
 ‘This is what your brother IsraEl is saying:  
  
 ‘You know of all the hard times we’ve seen, 15of how our fathers went down to Egypt and of the many [years] that we spent there, and of how the Egyptians oppressed us and our fathers... 16But when we called out to Jehovah, He heard our voices and sent His messenger who brought us out of Egypt!  
  
 ‘Well, now we’re in the city of KaDesh at the edge of your land, 17and we wish to pass through it!  
  
 ‘We won’t walk through your fields or through your vineyards, nor will we drink water from your cisterns... We’ll just travel along the King’s Highway (Via Nova Traiana), and we won’t turn to the right or left until we’ve passed your borders.’  
  
18But the Edomites replied:  
  
 ‘You may not pass through [our land]!  
  
 ‘And if you try to do so, we’ll go to war against you!’  
  
19So the children of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘Then we’ll go around the mountain... And if we and our cattle drink any of your water, we’ll pay you for it.  
  
 ‘It shouldn’t bother you if we travel around the mountain.’  
  
20But [the Edomites] replied:  
  
 ‘You may not pass through [our land]!’  
  
Well thereafter, the Edomites came out to meet them with a huge, well-prepared army, 21and they refused to allow IsraEl to cross their borders.  
  
So IsraEl turned and went another way… 22The whole gathering left KaDesh and traveled on to Mount Hor.  
  
  
23It was while they were at Mount Hor (on the border of the land of Edom) that the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and said:  
  
 24‘Aaron is now going to be laid [to rest] with his people…  
  
 ‘And you may not enter the land that I’ve given to the children of IsraEl, because you angered Me at The Water of Rebellion!  
  
 25‘So, take Aaron and his son EliEzer up Mount Hor before the whole gathering, 26then remove Aaron’s [official] garments and put them on EliEzer. And thereafter, Aaron will die and be added to [his people].’  
  
27So Moses did just as Jehovah had commanded him.  
  
He took them up Mont Hor before the whole gathering, 28then he removed Aaron’s clothes and put them on his son EliEzer… And Aaron died on top of the mountain.  
  
Well, when Moses and EliEzer walked down the mountain, 29the gathering realized that Aaron had died.  
  
Then the whole house of IsraEl wept for Aaron for 30 days.