

Shemot Rabbah 1:26

Commentary on Exodus 2:10, 4:10 and 6:12

When the child grew up (Ex. 2:10). She suckled him only for twenty-four months (and did not commission her to raise him) and you say: *When the child grew up?* This is to teach you that he grew abnormally.

She brought him to Pharaoh's daughter (Ex. 2:10). Pharaoh's daughter used to kiss and hug him, loved him as if he were her own son and would not allow him out of the royal palace. Because he was so handsome, everyone was eager to see him, and whoever saw him could not tear himself away from him. Pharaoh also used to kiss and hug him, and he [Moses] used to take the crown of Pharaoh and place it upon his own head, as he was destined to do when he became great. It was this which God said to Miriam: *So I made a fire issue from you* (Ezek. 28:18), and even so did the daughter of Pharaoh bring up him who was destined to exact retribution from her father. [The Messianic king, too, who will one day punish Edom, dwells with them in that province, as it is said: *There calves graze, there they lie down* (Isa. 27:10).]

The magicians of Egypt sat there and said: "We are afraid of him who is taking off your crown and placing it upon his own head, lest he be the one of whom we prophesy that he will take away the kingdom from you." Some of them counseled to slay him and others to burn him, but Jethro (Moses' future father-in-law) was present among them and he said to them: "This boy has no sense. However, test him by placing before him a gold vessel and a live coal; if he stretch forth his hand for the gold, then he has sense and you can slay him, but if he make for the live coal, then he has no sense and there can be no sentence of death upon him." So they brought these things before him, and he was about to reach forth for the gold when Gabriel came and thrust his hand aside so that it seized the coal, and he thrust his hand with the live coal into his mouth, so that his tongue was burnt, with the result that he became slow of speech and of tongue.