

## Chapter 5

*Moyfes and Aaron require of Pharao in the behalfe of God, to let his people the Hebrewes goe and sacrifice in the desert. VVhich he contemning, 5. oppreffeth them more, denying them ftravv, and yet exacting the accuftomed number of bricke. 20. The people oppressed impute their miferie to Moyfes and Aaron. 22. But Moyfes prayeth to God for them.*

**A**fter these things Moyfes and Aaron went in, and said to Pharao: This faith the Lord God of Israel: dismiss me my people that they may sacrifice to me in the desert. <sup>2</sup> But he answered: Who is the Lord, that I should heare his voice, and dismiss Israel? I know not the Lord, and Israel I wil not dismiss. <sup>3</sup> And they said: The God of the Hebrewes hath called vs, to goe three daies iourney into the wilderneffe, and to sacrifice to the Lord our God: left perchappes there chance to vs pestilence or fword. <sup>4</sup> The king of Ægypt said to them: Why do you Moyfes and Aaron sollicite the people from their workes? Goe you to your burdens. <sup>5</sup> And Pharao said: The people of the land is much: you see that the multitude is secretly increased: <sup>a</sup>)how much more if you geue them rest from their workes? <sup>6</sup> Therefore he commanded in that day the ouerfeers of the workes and the exactores of the people, saying: <sup>7</sup> You shal no more geue ftraw to the people for to make bricke, as before: but let them felues goe and geather ftraw. <sup>8</sup> And the taske of bricke, which they did before, you shal put vpon them, neither shal you diminish any thing: for they are idle, and therefore they crie, saying: Let vs goe, and sacrifice to our God. <sup>9</sup> Let them be oppressed with workes, and let them accomplish them: that they hearken not to lying wordes. <sup>10</sup> Therefore the ouerfeers of the

---

<sup>a</sup> VVordlie men thinke Gods people encrease most by rest, but in dede they multiplie more, when they are oppressed. *S. Cyprian. de exhort. Mart. c. 10.*

workes and the exactors going forth faid vnto the people: Thus faith Pharao: I allow you no ftraw: <sup>11</sup> goe, and geather if you can find any where: neither fhall anie thing of your worke be diminifhed. <sup>12</sup> And the people was difperfed through al the Land of Ægypt to geather ftraw. <sup>13</sup> And the ouerfeers of the workes were infant, faying: Finifh your worke euerie day, as before you were wont to doe when ftraw was geuen vnto you. <sup>14</sup> And the ouerfeers of the workes of the children of Ifrael were fcourged of Pharaos exactors, faying: Why do you not make vp the tafke of bricke as before, neither yefterday, not to day? <sup>15</sup> And the ouerfeers of the children of Ifrael came, and cried out to Pharao, faying: Why dealeft thou fo againft thy feruantes? <sup>16</sup> Straw is not geuen vs, and bricke are commanded vs in like forte: behold we thy feruantes are beaten with whippes, and thy people is vniuftly dealt withal. <sup>17</sup> Who faid: You are idle, and therefore you fay: Let vs goe and facrifice to our Lord. <sup>18</sup> Goe therefore and worke: ftraw fhall not be geuen you, and you fhall geue vp the accuftomed number of bricke. <sup>19</sup> And the ouerfeers of the children of Ifrael faw them felues in a hard cafe, becaufe it was faid vnto them: There fhall not a whitte be diminifhed of the bricke for euerie day. <sup>20</sup> And they mette Moyfes and Aaron, who ftood ouer againft them, coming forth from Pharao: <sup>21</sup> and they faid to them: Our Lord fee and iudge, becaufe <sup>a</sup>)you haue made our fauour to ftinke before Pharao and his feruantes, and you haue geuen him a fword, for to kil vs. <sup>22</sup> And Moyfes returned to our Lord, and faid: Lord <sup>b</sup>)why haft thou afflicted this people? wherefore haft thou fent me? <sup>23</sup> For fince the time that I entered in to Pharao to fpeake in thy name, he hath afflicted thy people: and thou haft not deliuered them.

---

<sup>a</sup> The craftie diuel know̄g that weake men afflicted are eafely moued to murmur, fturred this people againft their owne leaders. *S. Greg. li. 29. c. 14. Moral.*

<sup>b</sup> Gods prouidēce fuffereth his children, to be moft afflicted, when reliefe is nere at hand. *Theod. q. 13. in Exod.*