

This verse has frequently been misunderstood, some writers even saying that it could not possibly have been written by Moses, and alleging that he would have to be extremely egotistic to make such a statement. Actually, one of the strong evidences of the divine inspiration of the Bible is its remarkable objectivity. It clearly shows the faults and weaknesses of Moses and other leaders, and even of the entire nation, in such a way as can be paralleled in no other literature. Faults are not hidden or glossed over, nor is there any false modesty about presenting good points exactly as they were. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Moses did not hesitate to record his own sins and weaknesses in the clearest of language. It would be contrary to the remarkable objectivity of the Bible if he did not also record his strongest point, his meekness. When Moses was standing for the honor of God, he was fearless and ready to overcome any opposition whatever. Attacks upon himself and his wife he took without a murmur, leaving it to God to vindicate him in His own time. While it cannot be proved that this verse is not an inspired insertion in the midst of Moses' writing, it is more likely that Moses wrote it himself, under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Its contents are necessary to a true understanding of the chapter.

In normal times God may allow one of His servants, for the man's own spiritual good, to remain under a cloud of unjust accusation for a ~~fit~~ long time before he is vindicated. The present situation was too vital for that. It was necessary that Moses' leadership be upheld and vindicated at once. Although Moses took no step in his own defence (a fact which could not possibly be understood without the statement in verse 3), God suddenly intervened (4). He called Moses and his two detractors to come before Him. Then He called Aaron and Miriam apart and rebuked them directly (5).

God pointed out the superiority of Moses to all other human leaders of His people (6-8). To others He might speak in a vision or in a dream; but to Moses He spoke face to face. God did not say that Aaron and Miriam had, or had not, received messages directly from Him. He simply pointed out the superiority of Moses