Things were just going along the way they'd been...

"Now Moses was tending the flock" (Exodus 3:1). The Holy One tested Moses by means of the flock, as our masters explained: When Moses our teacher was tending Jethro's flock in the wilderness, a lamb scampered off, and Moses followed it until it approached a shelter under a rock. As the lamb reached the shelter, it came upon a pool of water and stopped to drink. When Moses caught up with it, he said, "I did not know that you ran away because you were thirsty. Now you must be tired." So he hoisted the lamb on his shoulder and started walking back with it. The Holy One then said: Because you showed such compassion in tending the flock of a mortal, as you live, you shall become shepherd of Israel, the flock that is Mine. —Ex. Rabbah 2:2

...And then they changed: a later life calling

Exodus 3 (trans. Everett Fox)
1. Now Moshe was shepherding the flock of Yitro his father-in-law, priest of Midyan.
   He led the flock behind the wilderness—
   and he came to the mountain of God, to Horev.
2. And YHVH messenger was seen by him,
   in the flame of a fire out of the midst of a bush.
   He saw:
   here, the bush is burning with fire,
   and the bush is not consumed!
3. Moshe said,
   Now let me turn aside
   that I might see this great sight—
   why the bush does not burn up!
4. When YHVH saw that he had turned aside to see,
   God called to him out of the midst of the bush,
   he said:
   Moshe! Moshe!
   He said:
   Here I am.

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Feeling his people’s pain

“But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it.” (Exodus 17:12). Did Moses have no cushion or bolster to sit on? Of course, but Moses said, When Israel are deep in distress, I must be in it with them. –Babylonian Talmud Ta’anit 11a.

At Sinai: Revelation–Reciprocal relationship with God

R. Joshua b. Levi also said: When Moses ascended on high, he found the Holy One of blessing tying crowns on the letters [of the Torah, and Moses remained respectfully silent]. Finally God asked, “Moses, where you come from, were you not taught to extend greetings?” Moses replied, “May a servant presume to greet his master?” “Neverthless,” said God, “you should have encouraged Me [by saying something].” Presently [during a later ascent] Moses cried out [without being reminded], “May the power of the Lord increase!” [Then he added], “Is this not what You told me to do?” (Numbers 14:17)–Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 89a, as retold in Sefer haAggadah, Bialik and Ravnitzky

In the wilderness: Advocating with God on behalf of Israel

“And now let Me be” (Exodus 32:10). Rabbi Abbahu said, were Torah not so explicit, it would have been impossible to say such a thing. For the verse implies that, like a man who grabs hold of his fellow by his garment, Moses, if one dare say it, grabbed hold of the Holy One and brazenly said to God: Master
of the universe, I will not let You be until You pardon and forgive Israel. — Babylonian Talmud Berachot 32a
Vigor in Later Life

Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eyes were undimmed and his vigor unabated. –Deuteronomy 34:7

Passing the Mantle of Leadership

And Moses said to Joshua: The people I am putting in your care are not yet goats but only kids, not yet sheep but only lambs, for they have not yet had much practice in the commandments and they have not yet become goats and sheep. Hence, “go follow the tracks of the lambs, and graze your kids by the shepherds’ tents.” (Song of Songs 1:8) –Avot d’Rabbi Natan 17

Fighting death

...Moshe said, “Master of the Universe, give me permission, and I will become a bird and fly in the air by the power of the Name, or make me into a fish, and I will make my two arms like two finds, and my hair like scales, and I shall jump into the Jordan, and at least see the land.” The Holy One said, “If I do this for you, I am abrogating My oath.” Moshe said, “Master of the Universe, lay me upon the clouds...that I might just see the land from above the Jorndan.” God said, “This, too, would constitute a violation of my oath.” Moshe said, “Master
of the Universite, cut me limb by limb and cast me across the Jordan, then bring me back to life that I might see the land." God said, "This, too, is a violation of my oath." Moshe said, "Show me the land in the blink of an eye." God said, "To this request I shall accede, for it is written, 'You may view the land from a distance, but you shall not enter it.'" (Deut. 32:52) So the Holy One showed him the land 400 miles by 400 miles...and gave his eyes the power to see it all, lowlands and heights, hidden and visible, far and near, and said, 'this is the land I gave to Abraham,' etc. -- Midrash Petirat Moshe, my translation

Accepting Death

 bathtub בידיו וכתב עליה שם המפורש וברת הושאר.ヘル מearth לאשה על וҺושאר למסור זה.

מק经验和 רביםחנו עם שלא ימשאר את זה. ראהו כל יושביו כל זה במתים כל זה מהologically וברחיביה להזיהו את זה.

ממשו ובעבר והיירו ארמיنز מה על כל שמשות ונסלאת את זה כי יזרע להזיהו.

מנהג ובא בוא של ראוון מה מענה אחרי את זה. "אני משמיר יצירה" ראהו של ראוון מה מענה אחרי את זה.

تحمل את זה הכובד מוסר ושüzüו ושאר. "אני משמיר יצירה" ראהו של ראוון מה מענה אחרי את זה.

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מק经验和 רביםחנו עם שלא ימשאר את זה. ראהו כל יושביו כל זה במתים כל זה מהologically וברחיביה להזיהו את זה.

 украשה בקשתו הרוחי ועכשו הרוחי נפשו היהבך כו נפשי חלבי פもし מהו.

Midrash Petirat Moshe, translation adapted from Ginzburg, Legends of the Jews.

[The people who had gathered as usual before Moses' tent to hear from him the word of God failed to find him there, and hearing that he had gone to Joshua, went there also, where they found Moses standing and Joshua seated. 'What are you thinking of?' they called out to Joshua, 'that you are seated, while your teacher Moses stands before you in a bowed attitude and with folded hands?'...Joshua now began his discourse with Moses sitting at his right, and with Aaron's sons, Eleazar and Itamar, at his left. But hardly had Joshua begun his lecture with the words, 'Praised is God who has delighted in the pious and their teachings,' when the treasures of wisdom vanished from Moses and passed over into Joshua's possession, so that Moses was not even able to follow his disciple Joshua's discourse. When Joshua had finished his lecture, Israel asked Moses to review with them what Joshua had taught, but he said, 'I know not how to reply to your request!' He began to expound Joshua's lecture to them, but could not, for he had not understood it....He [Moses] now said to
God, 'Lord of the world! Until now I wished for life, but now I put my soul in Your hands.'}