

Soozie had taught for several years, and the students loved her. But a new principal came into power who did not know her. This "leader" was her own champion, and was not concerned with the real challenge of teaching people. She did not care about the value of great teachers, either, and put her ideas into effect without finding out anything about how the school had operated in the past. She did not try to find out which teachers cared about the students.

So she took away the period that Soozie needed to work with the student council kids. Each year that she had been their advisor she worked a considerable amount of uncompensated overtime. Now she would have to meet with all of them after school, and this was virtually impossible, as most of them had jobs with conflicting schedules.

If you remember the story of the Exodus, there are some interesting parallels. Both concern a leader who loved power and treated the real workers as slaves, and who demanded that they produce at the same levels without the raw materials that they needed. Finally the slaves revolted and those that could, left the ruler's presence.

Say what you will about Pharoah, though; at least he knew the value of his slaves and tried to keep them. He even pursued them with a great army. But the new principal pushed his slaves away, thinking that teachers are a dime a dozen and could be easily replaced.

The word came from the head office, of course, that Soozie left to "pursue other interests". This was true, but in the same sense that you pursue another route when there's been a 10-car pileup on the highway you are traveling on. Changing direction is much better than beating your head against a wall.

Was she crazy to quit? She looks smarter all of the time. She's ready to come back and teach if they should bring sanity back into the school, but the educators are probably too "educated" to allow that.

If I remember correctly, the Pharoah of old was done in by too much water. The new Pharoah had trouble with another liquid, and it did her in as well. I'm just glad she found a job in a bigger place (anywhere but here).