This film presents five stories of the times of man, as shaped by one of the essential elements of life – water. The ancient temples of Nubia begin life anew, as does the Sudanese village of Wadi Halfa, when floods caused by the damming of the Nile engulfed them both. Syria harnesses the Euphrates to meet modern water needs, while some of her rural communities restore ancient Roman cisterns to collect rain water. In the Sahel, over-grazing, soil erosion and droughts turn vast regions into barren wasteland. But, where water can be found, arid lands are made productive and forests are planted as barriers against the sands. In Somalia, thousands of drought-stricken nomads leave their scorched rangelands for ever and forge a link with the sea by becoming fishermen.

Produced, written and directed by Krishna Singh

Research guidance Dennis Craig

Narrator Oscar Rose

Sudanese voice Hassan Kabbashi

Camera Joseph Cabibbo

Sound Philip Lee

Production assistant Simone Di Bagno Guidi

Executive Producer Peter Hollander

A production of the United Nations and the World Food Programme

Production No. 201276

Release Date: December 1978

78-46434