

Exodus, Redemption, Liberators, et al.

Source Sheet by Caroline Rothstein

1) Rabbi Sharon Brous, Limmud Conference, December 2015:

“Jews have so many stories. **We tell these stories all the time**, and we tell them not to relay historical events, but we tell them **to convey critical ideas, to instill values, to offer a sense of purpose in a chaotic world.**

One of these stories is told and retold obsessively, over the course of thousands of years, some of us retell this story at least 3 times every single day. You know what story I’m talking about. This is the story that’s arguably the core of our tradition, the **central operating narrative of our people**, which has animated and sustained us for thousands of years and inspired everything from how we eat to how we pray to how we read the newspaper in the world.

This is the **story of our redemption**, the **Exodus** from Egypt, *yetziat mitzrayim*. *Yetziat mitzrayim* – coming out from a narrow place, the triumph of freedom over slavery, of dignity over degradation, the movement from darkness into light, from paralysis into possibility, to self determination from systematized oppression. The **exodus** is a story of plagues and wonders, but the central feature of this story that we tell and retell is actually **an extraction process**, it is a **Yetziya**, a story of people going on a **journey**, leaving behind tyranny and persecution, reclaiming their humanity.

The Exodus story is a testament to the inextinguishable yearning both human and divine for freedom. And it’s timeless because it speaks to all people. It speaks to the powerless, telling those who are vulnerable, you matter, your struggle matters.”

– Rabbi Sharon Brous, Limmud Conference, December 2015

2) Exodus 3:9 – 14:

Exodus 3:9

Now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me; moreover, I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them.

שמות ג':ט'

וְעַתָּה הִגַּה הַגָּה צַעֲקַת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָזְנִי
אֲלֵי וְגַם־רָאִיתִי אֶת־הַלֹּחֶץ אֲשֶׁר
מִצְרַיִם לֹחֲצִים אֹתָם:

Exodus 3:10

Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall free My people, the Israelites, from Egypt.”

שמות ג':י

וְעַתָּה לָכֵן וְאֶשְׁלַחְךָ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְהוֹצֵא אֶת־עַמִּי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם:

Exodus 3:11

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?”

שמות ג':יא

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים מִי אֲנֹכִי כִּי אֵלֶךְ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְכִי אוֹצִיא אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם:

Exodus 3:12

And God said, “I will be with you; that shall be your sign that it was I who sent you. And when you have freed the people from Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.”

שמות ג':יב

וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־אֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ וְזֶה־לְךָ הָאוֹת כִּי אֲנֹכִי שְׁלַחְתִּיךָ בְּהוֹצִיאֲךָ אֶת־הָעַם מִמִּצְרָיִם תַּעֲבֹדוּן אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים עַל הַהָר הַזֶּה:

Exodus 3:13

Moses said to God, “When I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

שמות ג':יג

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים הַיְהִה אֲנֹכִי בֹא אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתִּי לָהֶם אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם וְאָמְרוּ־לִי מִה־נִּשְׁמֹו מָה אֶמַּר אֲלֵהֶם:

Exodus 3:14

And God said to Moses, “Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh.” God continued, “Thus shall you say to the Israelites, ‘Ehyeh sent me to you.’”

שמות ג':יד

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם:

3) **Exodus 4:1:**

Exodus 4:1

But Moses spoke up and said,
“What if they do not believe me and
do not listen to me, but say: The
LORD did not appear to you?”

שמות ד':א'

וַיַּעַן מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר וְהֵן לֹא־יִאֱמִינוּ לִי
וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי כִּי יֹאמְרוּ לֹא־נִרְאָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְהוָה:

4) **Exodus 4:10:**

Exodus 4:10

But Moses said to the LORD,
“Please, O Lord, I have never been
a man of words, either in times past
or now that You have spoken to
Your servant; I am slow of speech
and slow of tongue.”

שמות ד':י'

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה כִּי אֲדֹנָי לֹא
אִישׁ דְּבָרִים אָנֹכִי גַם מִתְּמֹל גַּם
מִשְׁלָשִׁים גַּם מֵאָז דִּבַּרְתָּ אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ כִּי
כִבְד־פֶּה וּכְבֹד לְשׁוֹן אָנֹכִי:

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