

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.

שְׁמוֹת ג':ט'
וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה צַעֲקַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאָה
אֱלֹהִים וְגַם־רָאֵיתִי אֶת־הַלְּחֵץ אֲשֶׁר
מִצְרָיִם לְחִזְצִים אֶתְּמָם:

Exodus 3:10

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

Exodus 3:11

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

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.”

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?”

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':י"

וְעַתָּה לֹכֶה וְאִשְׁלַחֲךָ אֱלֹהִים הָרָעָה וְהַזָּא
אַתְּ עַמִּי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמּצְרָיִם:

שמות ג':י"א

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֱלֹהִים מֵי אָنֹכִי כִּי
אַלְךָ אֱלֹהִים הָרָעָה וְכִי אֹזְנִיא אַתְּ בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמּצְרָיִם:

שמות ג':י"ב

וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־אָהִינוּ עָמָק וַיְהִי־לֹךְ הָאֹות כִּי
אָנוּכִי שְׁלֹחַנִּיךְ בְּהַזָּאֵה אַתְּ־קָעַם
מִמּצְרָיִם קָעַבְדוּנִים אַתְּ־הָאֱלֹהִים עַל
הַגּוֹרֶן הַזֶּה:

שמות ג':י"ג

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֱלֹהִים הָפֵה אָנֹכִי
בְּאָלֹהִים יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ לָהֶם
אֱלֹהִי אָבוֹתֵיכֶם שְׁלַחֲנִי אֲלֵיכֶם וְאָמַרְתָּ
לָהֶם מַה־שְׁמָמוּ מֵה אָמַר אֱלֹהֶם:

שמות ג':י"ד

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים מֹשֶׁה אָהִינוּ אֲשֶׁר
אָהִינוּ וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי תֹאמֶר לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אָהִינוּ שְׁלַחֲנִי אֲלֵיכֶם:

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'

בְּעַנְךָ מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר וְהִנֵּה לֹא-יַאֲמִינוּ לְيִ
וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ בְּקֹלִי כִּי יֹאמְרוּ לֹא-גָנְךָ
אֱלֹהִיךְ 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 אֱלֹהִים בְּיַדְךָ לֹא
אִישׁ קְבָרִים אָنֹכִי גַם מִתְמֻולֵּגַם
מִשְׁלַשֵּׁם גַם מִזְרָחָה אֱלֹהִים בְּיַדְךָ
כְּבָד-פֶּה וּכְבָד לְשׂוֹן אָנֹכִי:

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