

## HAGGADAH EXCERPT

<p>צא ולמד. מה בקש לבן הארמי לעשות ליעקב אבינו. שפרעה לא גזר אלא על הזכרים ולבן בקש לעקור את הכל. שנאמר ארמל אבד אבי וירד מצרימה ויגר שם במתי מעט ויהי-שם לגוי גדול עצום ורב</p>	<p>Go forth and learn what Laban the Aramean sought to do to Jacob, our ancestor. While Pharaoh only decreed [death] for the males, Laban sought to uproot everything, as scripture relates: “An Aramean [Laban] sought to destroy my father [Jacob]. He [Jacob] went down to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a great, mighty, and populous nation.”[11]</p>
<p>וירד מצרימה. אנוס על פי הדבור:</p>	<p>“He went down to Egypt:” He was compelled by the word [of God].</p>
<p>ויגר שם. מלמד שלא ירד יעקב אבינו להשתקע במצרים אלא לגור שם. שנאמר ויאמרו אל-פרעה לגור בארץ באנו כי-אין מרה לזאן אשר לעבדיך כי-כבד הרעב בארץ כנען ועתה ישבנו-נא עבדיך בארץ גשן</p>	<p>“And he sojourned there:” This teaches that he did not go down to settle in Egypt, but rather to sojourn there, as scripture relates: “They said to Pharaoh, ‘We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for the flocks of your servants, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen.’”[12]</p>
<p>במתי מעט. כמה שנאמר בשבעים נפש ירדו אבותיך מצרימה ועתה שמך יהיה אלהיך ככוכבי השמים לרב</p>	<p>“Few in number:” As scripture relates: “When your ancestors went down to Egypt there were seventy of them, and now Adonai, your God, has made you as numerous as the stars in the heavens.”[13]</p>
<p>ויהי-שם לגוי גדול. מלמד שהיו ישראל מצוינים שם:</p>	<p>“And they became a nation there:” This teaches that the Israelites were distinct there.</p>
<p>עצום. כמה שנאמר ובני ישראל פרו וישרצו וירבו ויעצמו במאד מאד ותמלא הארץ אתם</p>	<p>“Mighty:” As scripture relates: “And the Israelites were fruitful and swarmed and multiplied and became exceedingly mighty, and the land was filled with them.”[14]</p>
<p>ורב. כמה שנאמר רבבה כצמח השדה נתתיד ותרבי ותגדלי ותבאי בעדי עדיים שדים נכלו ושערך צמח ואת ערם ועריה</p>	<p>“And populous:” As scripture relates: “I made you abundant as the growth of the field, and you have become plentiful and grew and became very beautiful: your breasts formed and your hair sprouted, yet you were naked and bare.”[15]</p>
<p>וירעו אתנו המצרים ויענונו ויתנו עלינו עבדה קשה</p>	<p>“The Egyptians treated us harshly [or: vilified us] and afflicted us, and they set hard labor upon us.”[16]</p>
<p>וירעו אתנו המצרים. כמה שנאמר</p>	<p>“The Egyptians vilified us:” As scripture relates: [Pharaoh said,] “Come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply and join our enemies</p>

הָבָה נִתְחַכְמָה לּוֹ פְּרִירָבָה וְהָיָה כִּי־תִקְרָאנָה מִלְחָמָה וְנוֹסֶף גַּם־הוּא עַל־שִׁנְאֵינוּ וְנִלְחַם־בָּנוּ וְעָלָה מִן־הָאָרֶץ	when war comes, and fight against us, and leave the land.”[17]
וַיַּעֲנוּנוּ. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר. וַיִּשְׁימוּ עָלָיו שְׂרֵי מַסִּים לְמַעַן עֲנֹתוֹ בְּסִבְלָתָם וַיִּבְנוּ עָרֵי מִסְכָּנוֹת לְפָרְעָה אֶת־פִּתּוֹם וְאֶת־רַעַמְסֵס	“And afflicted us:” As scripture relates: “They placed taskmasters over them in order to afflict them with their burdens, and they built storage cities for Pharaoh, [called] Pithom and Ramses.”[18]
וַיִּתְּנוּ עָלֵינוּ עֲבֹדָה קָשָׁה. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ מִצְרַיִם אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפָרָד	“And they set hard labor upon us:” As scripture relates: “The Egyptians worked the Israelites severely.”[19]
וַנִּצְעֹק אֶל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה אֶת־קִלְנוֹ וַיֵּרָא אֶת־עֲנִינוֹ וְאֶת־עֲמָלָנוּ וְאֶת־לַחְצָנוּ	“We cried out to Adonai, God of our ancestors, and Adonai heard our voice and saw our suffering, our burden, and our oppression.”[20]
וַנִּצְעֹק אֶל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם וַלְמַת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיֹּאנְחוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן־הָעֲבֹדָה וַיִּזְעֲקוּ וַתָּעַל שׁוֹעֲתָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הָעֲבֹדָה	“We cried out to Adonai, God of our ancestors:” As scripture relates: “Eventually, the king of Egypt died, and the Israelites sighed from their labor and cried out, and their plea for rescue from their labor reached God.”[21]
וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה אֶת־קִלְנוֹ. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נַאֲקָתָם וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֶת־אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִצְחָק וְאֶת־יַעֲקֹב וַיֵּרָא אֶת־עֲנִינוֹ.	“And Adonai heard our voice:” As scripture relates: “And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”[22]
זו פְּרִישׁוֹת דָּרָךְ אָרֶץ. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּדַע אֱלֹהִים	“And saw our affliction:” This refers to the separation of men and women, as scripture relates: “God saw the Israelites, and God knew.”[23]
וְאֶת־עֲמָלָנוּ. אֵלֵינוּ הַבָּנִים. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר כָּל־הַבֶּן הַיֵּלֹד הַיֹּאֲרָה תִּשְׁלַיְהוּ וְכָל־הַבִּת וְתַחֲיוֹן	“Our burden:” This refers to the sons, as scripture relates: [Pharaoh said,] “Cast every son who is born into the Nile, but let every daughter live.”[24]
וְאֶת־לַחְצָנוּ. זֶה הַדָּחֶק. כָּמָה שִׁנְאָמָר וְגַם־רָאִיתִי אֶת־הַלְחָץ אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם לַחֲצִים אֹתָם	“And our oppression:” This refers to the persecution, as scripture relates:[God said:] “I also saw the oppression with which the Egyptians oppressed them.”[25]
וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבִזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה וּבִמְרֹא גָדֹל וּבְאֹתוֹת וּבְמִפְתִּים	“And Adonai brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with great fearsomeness, and with signs and wonders.”[26]
וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם. לֹא עַל יְדֵי מַלְאָךְ. וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שְׂרָף. וְלֹא עַל יְדֵי שְׁלִיחַ. אֶלָּא	“And Adonai brought us out of Egypt:” Not by an angel and not by a messenger, but the Holy One, Blessed Be He, Himself, in His Glory, as scripture relates: [God said,] “I will pass through the land of Egypt tonight, and I will smite every firstborn in the land

<p>הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּכִבּוּדוֹ וּבְעֶצְמוֹ. שֵׁנָאֲמַר וְעִבְרַתִּי בְּאַרְצ־מִצְרַיִם בְּלִילָה הַזֶּה וְהִכִּיתִי כָּל-בְּכוֹר בְּאַרְץ מִצְרַיִם מֵאֲדָם וְעַד-בְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים אֲנִי יְהוָה</p>	<p>of Egypt, from man to beast. And I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt. I am Adonai.”[27]</p>
<p>וְעִבְרַתִּי בְּאַרְצ־מִצְרַיִם. אֲנִי וְלֹא מַלְאָךְ. וְהִכִּיתִי כָל-בְּכוֹר. אֲנִי וְלֹא שָׂרָף. וּבְכָל-אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים. אֲנִי וְלֹא הַשְּׁלִיחַ. אֲנִי יְהוָה. אֲנִי הוּא וְלֹא אֲחֵר:</p>	<p>[This verse can be explained as follows:] “I will pass through the land of Egypt:” I, and not an angel. “and I will smite every firstborn:” I, and not a fiery angel. “And I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt:” I, and not the messenger. “I am Adonai:” I am He, and no other.</p>
<p>בְּיַד חֲזָקָה. זו הַדָּבָר. כָּמָה שֵׁנָאֲמַר הִנֵּה יַד-יְהוָה הוֹיָה בְּמִקְנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה בְּסוֹסִים בְּחֻמְרִים בְּגִמְלִים בְּבָקָר וּבְצֹאן דָּבָר כָּבֵד מְאֹד</p>	<p>“With a strong hand:” This refers to the disease of livestock, as scripture relates: [Moses said to Pharaoh,] “Then the hand of Adonai will strike your livestock in the field – the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the cattle, and the sheep – with a very severe disease.”[28]</p>
<p>וּבִזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה זו הַחֶרֶב. כָּמָה שֵׁנָאֲמַר וְחֶרְבּוֹ שְׁלֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ נְטוּיָה עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם</p>	<p>“And with an outstretched arm:” This refers to the sword, as scripture relates: [When God was about to send a plague against Jerusalem, an angel stood between earth and heaven,] “and his sword was unsheathed in his hand, stretched out against Jerusalem.”[29]</p>
<p>וּבְמִרְאָ גָדֹל. זו גְּלוּי שְׂכִינָה. כָּמָה שֵׁנָאֲמַר אֹו הִנֵּסָה אֱלֹהִים לָבוֹא לָקַחַת לּוֹ גּוֹי מִקְרֵב גּוֹי בְּמִסְתָּ בְּאֵתֹת וּבְמוֹפְתִים וּבְמִלְחָמָה וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה וּבִזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה וּבְמוֹרָאִים גְּדֹלִים כָּל כָּל אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה לָכֶם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּמִצְרַיִם לְעֵינֶיךָ</p>	<p>“with great fearsomeness:” This refers to the revelation of the divine presence, as scripture relates: “Has any god endeavored to take a nation for himself from within the midst of another nation, with trials, with signs and wonders, with war, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with displays of great fearsomeness, like all that Adonai, your God, did for you in Egypt before your eyes?”[30]</p>
<p>וּבְאֵתוֹת. זֶה הַמַּטֵּה. כָּמָה שֵׁנָאֲמַר וְאֶת-הַמַּטֵּה הַזֶּה תִּקַּח בְּיָדְךָ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה-בּוֹ אֶת-הָאֵתוֹת</p>	<p>“And with signs:” This refers to [Moses’] staff, as scripture relates:[God said to Moses,] “Take this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”[31]</p>
<p>וּבְמוֹפְתִים זֶה הַדָּם. כָּמָה שֵׁנָאֲמַר וְנָתַתִּי מוֹפְתִים בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבָאָרֶץ דָּם וְאֵשׁ וְתִמְרוֹת עָשָׁן</p>	<p>“And with wonders:” This refers to the [plague of] blood, as scripture relates: “I will put wonders in the heavens and the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke.”[32]</p>

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11. Deut. 26:5  
12. Genesis 47:4  
13. Deut. 10:22  
14. Exodus 1:7  
15. Ezekiel 16:7  
16. Deut. 26:6  
17. Exodus 1:10  
18. Exodus 1:11

19. Exodus 1:13  
20. Deut 26:7  
21. Exodus 2:23  
22. Exodus 2:24  
23. Exodus 2:25  
24. Exodus 1:22  
25. Exodus 3:9  
26. Deut. 26:8

27. Exodus 12:12  
28. Exodus 9:3  
29. I Chronicles 21:16  
30. Deut. 4:34  
31. Exodus 4:17  
32. Joel 3:3

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