



DAYENU

A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Pesikta DeRav Kahana 11:13

ר' יוחנן הוה יתיב דרש כיצד היו המים עשויין לישר' כחומה. דרש ר' יוחנן כאילין קנקיליין.
אדיקת שרח בת אשר ואמרת תמן הוינא ולא הוון אלא כאילין אמפומטא. ר' יוחנן הוה יתיב דרש
כל הנפש הבאה ליעקב מצרימה יצאי יריכו וגו' – בראשית מו:כו

Rabbi Yohanan once asked his students to describe the appearance of the walls of the Red Sea when the waters parted for the children of Israel to cross. When none could do so, Rabbi Yohanan described them as resembling a window lattice. Then, all at once, they heard a voice say: "No, it was not like that at all!" And when they looked up, they saw the face of a very old woman peering in the window of the house of study. "Who are you?" demanded Rabbi Yohanan. "I am Serah bat Asher," came the reply, "and I know exactly what the walls resembled. I was there, I crossed the Red Sea—and they resembled shining mirrors, mirrors in which every man, woman, and child was reflected, so that it seemed like an even greater multitude crossed there, not only those of the present, but also those of the past and future as well." And when Serah had finished speaking, none dared contradict her, for her knowledge was firsthand.

Interpretive translation by Howard Schwartz, Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism, p.381