

10 Days Completed

Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider **interactions** on this journey, undertaking to know more each day about the workings of oppression, so that we might get ourselves, all of us, out from under this millstone that is the Narrow Place.

Exodus text tells us very little about interaction between ordinary *Yisrael-ites* and *Mitzrayim-ites*. It is not even clear where the two groups lived, relative to one another. One of many viewpoints is offered by R' Benno Jacob:

The details of our story suggest that [the *Yisrael-ites*] were scattered throughout [*Mitzrayim*], which must have led to many personal friendships; only a systematically encouraged hate propaganda was able to change this. -- B. Jacob, *The Second Book of the Bible* p.343

This viewpoint may seem unremarkable, if a little preachy...until considering that Benno Jacob (1862-1945) was born in Breslau and lived in Germany during the Third Reich. Watching synagogues burn and community members shipped off to concentration camps, he continued to indict "a systematically encouraged hate propaganda," rather than the neighbors.

This perspective strongly affirms the humanity of all involved. In addition, R' Jacob argues that *Mitzrayim-ites* engaged in "clear public protest against the policies of the royal tyrant," and that Moses was continuing to work for "peace between the two peoples" (*The Second Book of the Bible*, p. 343-4). The picture he draws is one in which individual *Mitzrayim-ites* have no more power over the tyrant's policies than do the *Yisrael-ites*.

R' Jacob argues that existing personal friendships were changed through propaganda. **Might a counter-effort** have helped them survive?

History has shown us individual friendships surviving, and serving to ameliorate effects of oppressive conditions around the globe, for short periods.

What about the long-haul? At what point does friendship become untenable if the systemic conditions are not addressed?

Consider the role of "systematically encouraged hate" in our lives today.

How has it affected relationships between community groups?

How has it affected your personal relationships?

Ritual Focus

Here I am, ready and prepared

[use traditional *kavanah* and/or continue here]

Here I am, ready and prepared to fulfill this project of counting 49 days,
from Narrowness to Expansion,
seeking to examine oppression and envision liberation,
inspired by the Torah's counting of the Omer,
counting seven full weeks, from Liberation to Revelation,
until I reach fifty days,
and prepare to bring new thoughts before the Eternal and into the world.

Bless

[See "Blessing "page for masculine or feminine God-language]

Brukkeh ateh YHVH

Elohéinu hei ha'olamim

asher kidshétnu

bəmitzvotéihe vətzivétnu

al sefirat ha'omer

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הַעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וַצִּוֵּתָנוּ

עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר

Blessed are you, YHVH,
our God, Life of endless worlds,
who made us holy
with Voix commandments and commanded us
to count the Omer.

Count

הַיּוֹם אֶחָד עָשָׂר יוֹם שֶׁהֵם שְׁבוּעַ אֶחָד וְאַרְבָּעָה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.

Hayom achad asar yom shehem shavua echad v'arbaah yamim la-omer

Today is eleven days, which is one week and four days of the Omer

visit <http://Rereading4Liberation.com>
for more on Recounting Exodus and
Rereading Exodus along the Anacostia