

5 Days Completed

Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider this **millstone** that we're under,
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.

What would it mean for us, collectively, to "come forth from *Mitzrayim*"? One clue is suggested by a passage, Exodus 6:1-7, in which God and Moses discuss names and big changes to come. It appears here that God intends the people to learn something new.

God says: "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty [*El Shaddai*], not by My name YHVH..." (Ex 6:3). An odd thing to say, given

- YHVH was already revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3:6);
- Moses was earlier told to share the name YHVH with the children of Yisrael (Ex 3:15) and with the elders (Ex 3:18); and
- the name YHVH also appears in the first audience of Aaron and Moses with Pharaoh (Ex 5:1ff).

So, what does it mean, this "but (by) my name YHVH I was not known"? What is it that is still unknown? Umberto Cassuto (Italy, 1883–1951) argues that this unknown is a future experience. We won't really know a divine Liberator, "who brings you out from beneath the burdens [*sivlot*] of *Mitzrayim*," until we collectively experience the getting out from under.

And I will lift you out from under the millstone that is [*Mitzrayim*]"

-- *New American Haggadah*, p.9 (Little Brown, 2012)

unusual translation of Ex 6:6, linked to Passover's first cup of wine

Racism is like a millstone, a crushing weight that relentlessly presses down on people intended to be a permanent underclass. Its purpose is to press profit from us, right to the edge of extermination and beyond.... -- Aurora Levins Morales

Understanding Antisemitism: An Offering to Our Movement, A Resource from Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, 2017

Can anyone be brought out "from under the millstone that is [*Mitzrayim*]" while they themselves remain unmoved?

Is rescue possible for those who remain chained to old ideas, accepting enslavement, for themselves or others, as due course?

Can anyone be redeemed “with an outstretched arm and formidable judgments” without experiencing disruption to life as usual?

Can a Liberation experience have an impact for us or for anyone else, if nothing changes in our commitments?

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 kidshétu

bəmitzvotéihe vətzivétu

al sefirat ha'omer

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוִּיתָנוּ

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 שֵׁשָׁה יָמִים לָעֹמֶר

Hayom shishah yamim la-omer

Today is day six of the Omer.

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