

6 Days Completed

Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider **these old bones** we carry in 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.

The People get out. Success, finally! Halleluyah! Then --

When Pharaoh sent the people out, God did not lead them by the coastal/Philistine route, although it was nearer, for God said: "Lest the people may have a change of heart when they see war, and return to Mitzrayim." So God led the people roundabout, by wilderness route, at the Sea of Reeds...

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for he had extracted a vow from the Children of *Yisrael*, saying: "God will surely remember you; and you shall carry up my bones away with you."

-- Exodus 13:17-19

A momentary sense of escape is followed by this roundabout path in order to avoid "change of heart" -- a phrase which can also mean to seek comfort. And then the *Yisrael-ites* are carting along old bones. This is to honor a vow made generations earlier, back when the old Pharaoh still knew Joseph (Gen 50:24-26 and Ex 1:8, Ex 13:19).

The Exodus story itself is calling us to consider how we deal with conflict and the fear of it.

Are those not actively suffering from oppression allowed to decide what the times will bear in terms of community change? How can this reality be highlighted so as to encourage a change of perspective?

Have you heard these themes directed at you or others?

"You're too young to know" and/or "You're too old to understand."

"Now is not the time...Be patient." or "You'll get us all killed."

"We are better off with the devil we know."

What kinds of responses have been tried? What might work better?

And what about these old bones? Are we honoring ancestors by carrying them? Or are we tied to older visions and promises that are holding us back, might even shame those same ancestors? What does it mean for a community to be obligated? at all? What do we owe leaders, other community members, or vows of the past?

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]

Brukheh ateh YHVH

Elohéinu hei ha'olamim

asher kidshétnu

bəmitzvotéihe vətzivétnu

al sefirat ha'omer

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ הוּא הַעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וַצִּוִּיתָנוּ

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 שִׁבְעָה יָמִים שֶׁהֵם שָׁבוּעַ אֶחָד לְעֹמֶר

Today is seven days of the omer, making one week.
Hayom shivah yamim shehem shavua echad la-omer.

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