

# Vaeira

# וארא

Pearls  
of Chassidic Thought

## Blood and Frogs

### 1. *Reliving the Exodus*

Tanya ch. 47

וְהֵנָּה, "בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר, – וְכָל יוֹם וָיוֹם – חַיִּיב אָדָם לְרַאוֹת עֲצֻמוֹ כְּאִילוֹ הוּא יֵצֵא הַיּוֹם מִמִּצְרַיִם."

"In every generation and every day, a person is obligated to regard himself as if he had that day come out of Egypt."

וְהִיא יֵצִיאַת נֶפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹהִית מִמְאָסָר הַגּוּף, "מִשְׂכַּא דְחַוִּיָּא"

This refers to the release of the divine soul from the confinement of the body, the "serpent's skin,"

לִיכָלֵל בְּיַחְוֹד אֲוֶר-אֵינְ-סוֹף בְּרוּךְ-הוּא, עַל יְדֵי עֶסֶק הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹת בְּכֻלָּל,

in order to be absorbed into the unity of the light of the blessed Ein Sof by engaging in the Torah and commandments in general,

וּבִפְרָט בְּקַבְּלַת מַלְכוּת שְׁמַיִם בְּקִרְיַת שְׁמַע, שְׁבָה מְקַבֵּל וּמְמַשֵּׁיךְ עָלָיו יַחְוֹדוּ יִתְבָּרֵךְ בְּפִירוּשׁ, בְּאָמְרוֹ: "ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד."

and in particular through accepting the Sovereignty of Heaven during the recital of the Shema, wherein the person explicitly accepts and draws upon himself G-d's unity when he says: "The L-rd is our G-d, the L-rd is One."

### 2. *"The Waters of the Nile"*

Shemos 7:20

וַיַּעֲשׂוּ-כֵן מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן כַּאֲשֶׁר | צִוָּה י-הוָה וַיִּרְם בְּמִטָּה וַיִּךְ אֶת-הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר בַּיָּאֵר לְעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּלְעֵינֵי עַבְדָּיו וַיִּהְיֶה כֵן כָּל-הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר-בַּיָּאֵר לְדָם:

Moses and Aaron did so, as Hashem had commanded, and he raised the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile before the eyes of Pharaoh and before the eyes of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile turned to blood.

- *Two Waters, Two Forms of Coldness*

### 3. *"Dry Land"*

Shemos 4:9

וְהָיָה אִם-לֹא יֵאֱמְרֵנוּ גַם לְשָׁנֵי הָאֵלֶּת הָאֵלֶּה וְלֹא יִשְׁמַעוּן לְקוֹלְךָ וְלִקְחַתָּ מִמַּיִם הַיָּאֵר

And it will come to pass, if they do not believe either of these two signs, and they do not heed your voice, you shall take of the water of the Nile and spill it

וְשִׁפְכֶתָּהּ הַיְבֵשָׁה וְהָיָה הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר תִּקַּח מִן־  
הַיָּאֵר וְהָיָה לְדָם בַּיְבֵשֶׁת׃ upon the dry land, and the water that you take from the Nile will become  
blood on the dry land."

#### 4. *A Scorpion upon a Frog*

Shemos 7:20

שְׁמוּאֵל חֲזָיָהּ לְהוּא קְרוֹקִיתָא דְעֵקְרָפָא  
וְתִיבָא עַל אֲקְרוֹקִיתָא וְעָבְרָה נַהֲרָא טְרָקָא  
גְבֵרָא וּמְיִית קָרִי עָלֶיהָ לְמִשְׁפָּטֶיהָ עָמְדוּ  
הַיּוֹם

Shmuel saw a certain frog [kerokita], and also noticed that a scorpion was sitting upon the frog and the frog crossed the river. The scorpion stung a man on the other side of the river and the man died. Shmuel read and applied the verse to the dead man: "They stand this day according to Your judgments." Even the frog and scorpion are servants and agents of G-d.

The only way the scorpion could reach the man and kill him was by means of the frog taking it across the river.

#### 5. *"Into Your Ovens"*

Shemos 7:28

וְשָׂרְץ הַיָּאֵר צִפְרֹדְעִים וְעָלוּ וּבָאוּ בְּבֵיתְךָ  
וּבְחֲדָר מִשְׁכְּבֶךָ וְעַל־מִטְתְּךָ וּבְבַיִת עַבְדֶּיךָ  
וּבְעַמֶּךָ וּבְתַנּוּרֶיךָ וּבְמִשְׁאָרוֹתֶיךָ׃

And the Nile will swarm with frogs, and they will go up and come into your house and into your bedroom and upon your bed and into the house of your servants and into your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading troughs;

#### 6. *The Order*

Tehillim 34:15

סוּר מִרַע וְעֲשֵׂה טוֹב בְּקֶשׁ שְׁלוֹם וְרַדְפֵהוּ.

Shun evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it.