

Parshas Bo – What is Your “Rechush Gadol” [Great Bounty]?:

1. **Shmos 11; 2:** Please speak in the ears of the people. Let each man request/borrow of his fellow and each woman from her fellow silver vessels and gold vessels.
2. **Rashi:** The word “Na” can only be an expression of request. The verse is saying, I request of you to direct them with regard to this, so that the righteous man Avraham should not say, “He fulfilled in them the decree ‘They will enslave them and they will afflict them’, but He did not fulfill in them ‘And afterwards they will depart with great possessions.’”
3. **Bereishis 15; 13-14:** And He said to Avram, “Know with certainty that your offspring shall be sojourners in a land not their own, they will enslave them, and they will oppress them four hundred years. And also the nation that will enslave them, I shall judge, and afterwards they shall leave with great possessions.”
4. **Talmud Brachos 9b:** They said to him, “If only we would go free ourselves!” This is analogous to a person, who is incarcerated in prison, and people are telling him, “**Tomorrow** they will release you from prison and they will give you a great deal of money.” And he says to them, “I beg of you, take me out of prison **today** and I ask no more.”
5. **Nachmanides, Book of Numbers 10; 35:** But the meaning of this interpretation [of the Rabbis that they set forward from the mount of the Eternal indicates a punishment, is based on which] they found in the Agada, that “they set forward from Mount Sinai with joy, just like a child who runs away from school saying: ‘Perhaps He will give us more commandments [if we stay]!’”
6. **Shmos 15; 22:** Moses **caused** Israel to journey from the Sea of Reeds.... Rashi: He moved them against their will, for the Egyptians had adorneded their horses with ornaments of gold and silver and precious stones, and the Israelites were finding them at the sea. The spoils at the sea were greater than the spoils from Egypt... Therefore Moshe had to move them against their will.
7. **Shmos 16; 4:** Hashem said to Moshe, “Behold! I shall rain down for you food from the heaven; let the people go out and pick each day’s matter on its day, so that I may test him, whether he will follow My Torah or not.”
8. **Sforno:** When they will have food without toil as our sages say, ‘The power of interpretation of Torah was granted only to those who eat the Manna’ [mechilta].
9. **Or Chaim:** For bread from the heaven needs no preparation; thereby they will have much free time, and I will see if they will...
10. **Shmos 13; 19:** Moses took the bones of Joseph with him... Mechilta: This demonstrates Moshe’s wisdom and piety. All Israel was busy with the spoil, while Moshe was engaged in fulfilling Joseph’s behest concerning his bones [Bereishis 50:25] Of him Scripture says: The wise in heart will take commandments [Proverbs 10:8].
11. **Talmud Brachos 32a:** What is “and Di – Zahav”? ...Thus spoke Moshe before Hashem, “The silver and gold [Zahav] which you did shower on Israel until they said “Enough’ [Di], that it was which led to their making the calf.”
12. **Sforno, Book of Deuteronomy 32; 15,19:** Behold, you Jeshurun...have turned to material pleasures and grown thick (incapable), of understanding subtle truths.... And after He did not attain the perfection of Israel in the Land, he chose a third way, namely to refine them in the exile.
13. **Talmud Baba Metzia 83a:** Some potters negligently broke a barrel of wine belonging to Rabbah son of R’ Huna. Thereupon he seized their garments. So they went and complained to Rav. “Return their garments,” he ordered. “Is that the law?” he enquired. “Even so”, he rejoined: “That you may walk in the way of good men.’ Their garments having been returned, they observed, “We are poor men, have worked all day, and are in need: are we to get nothing?” “Go and pay them,” he ordered. “Is that the law?” he asked. “Even So” was his reply: “And **keep the path of the righteous.**”
14. **Daily Siddur:** And you established the covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanite, Hittite, Emorite, Perizzite, Jebusite, and Girgashite, to give it to his offspring; and you affirmed your word, **for you are righteous.**
15. **Sforno, Shmos 11:2:** The Jews should not worry lest the Egyptians will be induced to pursue them because of the monetary loss, for that itself will be their salvation.