

### **Parshas Va'Eira – The Plague of Blood – The First Lesson of Freedom:**

1. **Shmos 7; 20-21:** And all the water that was in the river changed to blood. The fish-life that was in the water died and the river became foul; Egypt could not drink water from the river, and the blood was throughout the land of Egypt.
2. **Midrash Shmos Rabbah 9; 9:** Even if an Egyptian shared a jar of water with a Jew, the Jew drank water while the liquid that ran down the Egyptian's throat was blood.
3. **Maharal in Gevuros Hashem, pg.16:** ...meaning that the natural water went to the Jew, and the miraculous went to the Egyptian...the power and ability of the One doing the action is revealed more when a miracle only happens to the one who needs the miracle while the natural state remains for the one who does not need the miracle. For in this miraculous act there are two opposites in one context, the miraculous and the natural.
4. **Talmud Sanhedrin 39b:** R' Elazer contrasts two verses: It is written, "Hashem is good to all," but elsewhere it is written, "Hashem is good to those who wait for him." [i.e. only righteous people] ? An analogy can be drawn to a man who has an orchard. When he irrigates, he irrigates the entire orchard; but when he hoes, he hoes only around the good trees that are among them.
5. **Talmud Pesachim 118a:** The 26 "Hodu's" parallel the 26 generations which G-d created in His world and had not yet given to them the Torah, thereby sustaining them with kindness.
6. **Talmud Sanhedrin 37a:** Therefore man was created singly...therefore each and every one is obligated to say, "For me the world was created."
7. **Yalkut Shimoni 1; 234:** Master of the universe, weren't the Jews idol worshippers in Egypt? Why do they deserve miracles?
8. **Shmos 14; 2:** ...you shall encamp opposite it – by the sea.
9. **Sefer Mai Shiloach Parshas Beshalach:** The Jews are parallel and similar to them; they will also have all the pleasures that are found in Egypt. Still in all, they will be redeemed from them and they [the Egyptians] will fall before them. Even though the Jews are similar to the Egyptians...how are they different from them... they is only love for Hashem in the hearts of the Jews.
10. **Shmos 20; 2:** I am Hashem, your (singular) G-d...
11. **Lecha Dodi Prayer:** Draw near to my soul – redeem it!
12. **Midrash:** In the merit of their belief, the Jews were redeemed from Egypt.