

Dear Friends,

We're all scrambling to make and remake our Pesach plans, to care for loved ones, to figure out how to buy Pesach goods, to reach out to those who are alone. As we do this, **something's changing inside of us.**

Today, I want to zero in on **this process of change.**

First, I want to share a beautiful Midrash.

Just before man was created, there was a great upheaval in Shamayim.

The Midrash in Bereishis Rabba (8:5) tells us about the debate of whether or not man should be created.

Kindness, chesed, was in favor of man's creation, **for man performs acts of kindness.**

Emes, truth, said, "Do not create man, for he is kulo shekarim, completely dishonest."

Tzedek, justice, said, "Create him, **for he performs acts of justice.**"

Peace said, "Do not create him, for he is filled with strife."

What did Hakadosh Baruch Hu do? He took truth, and He cast it to the ground.

Natal Emes v'hishlichu l'eret. In order to create man, Hakadosh Baruch Hu took emes and he threw it to the ground and then man was created.

What happens to things **which have been thrown onto the ground?**

What happens to an apple core, a seed of fruit when you throw it onto the soil?

First, it disintegrates. Slowly, the flesh melts away. The husk becomes part of the earth around it. **And a process of change and regeneration begins.**

Yetzias Mitzrayim was the creation of Man. Beni Bechori Yisrael. It was a process of birth. It was a process of transformation. And *when* did it happen? In the spring.

What happens in spring? All that has been planted months before, that has decomposed and lost some of its shape, begins to sprout. **Green shoots push out of the dark ground. New life is evident.**

In Mitzrayim, we were almost destroyed. We were oppressed and beaten, generation after generation, until we forgot what it was like to be free. The people we'd been until then slowly fragmented, the outer layer disintegrated. And only then were we able to be born anew and become servants of Hashem. **We were redeemed in the springtime—for new life emerges after the long winter, it is born through the long winter.**

When man was created, Hashem threw truth to the ground. But Dovid Hamelech says in Tehillim, **emes me'eretztitzmach - truth will blossom from the earth.**

Truth is not just thrown onto the ground. It is planted there. Deep in the soil, it disintegrates. **And what is formed is a new truth, a truth that rises from the earth.** It's a truth, a reality that has been won through hardship. Through toil. Through falsehood that has disintegrated in front of us, so that we can look at it and say, there's something more. There's something deeper.

Until now, we lived according to one reality.. The truth of our eyes. The truth of what we saw. The truth of beliefs formed from all our former experiences. The truth that certain actions yield certain results. That if we work hard, we'll have parnassah. If we take care of ourselves, we'll be healthy. We lived with the illusion of control. But suddenly, we're faced with a world that is infinitely more fragile than we ever believed.

We're facing life and death. **And all the things which seemed important, which used to be our truth, which felt significant, all that, has disintegrated like a seed in the ground. We're letting go. It's not easy. We wish it could be different. But the mirage is gone.** Plans we carefully laid have been changed. All our givens have been overturned. Every day, we come up - face to face with uncertainty—**and we're learning to live with that.**

We're not just in Covid-19 season. We're in springtime. We've been brought to a whole new level of realization of Hashem's guiding presence. **A new kind of truth**

has sprouted. A truth that is more real. A realization that is sprouting up from the fragments of our hearts.

Klal Yisrael came out of Mitzrayim in the springtime. That doesn't simply mean that there were blossoms on the trees and the harshness of winter made way for mild weather. It means that yetzias Mitzrayim was the sudden surprise of green sprouting from the earth. **It was a magnificent process of germination.**

That process is similar to what we are undergoing right now. It's nothing less than the creation of man. And what does it require? An emes that will sprout from the earth. From the midst of the hardship, the confusion, the pain. That truth. That clarity that we come to. Clarity of Hashem's ultimate and guiding presence. That growth that is pushing its way through the layers of darkness, yearning to reach the light.

May we be zocheh to sprout forth and metamorphosize into the people we are trying to become. **May this spring season germinate blossoms of exquisite truths – realizations that will fill us with breathtaking wonder and landfills of hope and vigor.**

Sincerely,

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