

## Datan

### 1. Exodus 2:11-14

And it was, at that time, and Moses matured and went out to his brethren, and he saw their suffering. And he saw an Egyptian man beating a Hebrew man, from his brethren. And he looked here and there, and he saw there was no one, and he struck the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

And he went out on the second day and behold, two Hebrews were fighting. He said to the wicked one, "Why will you strike your peer?" The man replied, "Who appointed you as officer and judge over us? Are you declaring that you will kill me, as you killed the Egyptian?" And Moses was terrified; he said, "But the matter is known!"

### 2. Midrash, Shemot Rabbah 1:30

Moses thought in his heart, "What sin did Israel commit, to be the only nation to be enslaved?" When he heard the man's words he said, "They have harmful speech among them! How will they deserve redemption?" Therefore he said, "The matter is known; now I know why they are enslaved."

### 3. Talmud, Erchin 15b

Reish Lakish asked: Why does Ecclesiastes 10 say, "If a snake bites without being charmed, there is no advantage for the one with the tongue"?

In the future, all of the animals will gather and approach the snake and say, "The lion tramples and eats, the wolf tears and eats, but what benefit do you have [when you bite]?" To which the snake will reply, "And what advantage does the one with the tongue possess?"

### 4. Midrash, Shemot Rabbah 1:28

[Moses] said, "This man is definitely liable for death!" As Leviticus 24 says, "One who strikes a person shall die." Further, he had been with the wife of Datan... Thus it says, "And he looked here and there" – he saw what [the Egyptian] had done to him in the house and in the field.

### 5. Numbers 16:12-13

And Moses summoned Datan and Aviram, sons of Eliav, and they said, "We will not go up. Is it a small thing that you brought us up from a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness – shall you also lord over us, as well?"

## What do we do with this problem?

### 6. Running counter to Fukuyama's thesis

- Abraham vs. the world
- Isaac vs. Ishmael
- Jacob vs. Esau
- Joseph and his brothers

### 7. Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times; a brother is born from trouble.

### 8. Rabbi Naftali Zvi Yehudah Berlin, Commentary to Exodus 2:23

"And they cried out" – They gathered to one place and decided to stand in prayer and cries.

9. Exodus 5:14

And the *shotrim* of the Jews, who had been put in place by Pharaoh's slave drivers, were struck, saying, "Why have you not completed your quota of brickmaking, like in previous times – not yesterday, and not today?"

10. Exodus 5:20-21

And they encountered Moses and Aaron, standing to greet them when they left Pharaoh. And they said to them, "Gd shall look upon you and call you to justice, for you have made our scent bad in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants, placing a sword in their hand to kill us!"

11. Mishnah, Pesachim 10:5

- Pesach – Because Gd passed over the houses of our ancestors in Egypt.
- Matzah – Because our ancestors were redeemed in Egypt.
- Maror – Because the Egyptians made the lives of our ancestors bitter in Egypt.

12. Rabbi Zalman Sorotzkin's formula      Flour + Water = Matzah, not Chametz

13. Practical attempts

- Betzalel of Judah, Oholiav of Dan
- Joshua of Ephraim, Caleb of Judah
- Reuben of Leah, Gad of Zilpah – and Menasheh of Rachel (with Dan of Bilhah, eventually)

And yet

14. Midrash, Mechilta d'Rabbi Yishmael, Beshalach "Vayehi" 4

The sea was split into twelve channels, as it says, "And raise your hand over the sea, and split it."

15. <http://epicpix.com/moses-transport/>

16. Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra to Numbers 2:2

"With signs" – There were signs on each flag. Our predecessors have said that Reuven's flag had the form of a man, due to the midrash on the *duda'im*, and Judah's flag had the form of a lion for Jacob compared him to it...

17. Sets of 12 stones

- At Sinai      Exodus 24:4
- The Kohen Gadol's breastplate      Exodus 28:21
- Crossing the Jordan      Joshua 3-4
- Mount Eval      Joshua 8:31
- Mount Carmel      Kings I 18:31

18. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 68:11

Rabbi Yehudah said he took twelve stones, for Gd had decreed that he would establish twelve tribes. He said, "Abraham did not establish them and Isaac did not establish them; if these twelve stones bind together then I will know that I will establish the twelve tribes." When the twelve stones bound together, he knew he would establish twelve tribes.

19. Three reasons      Identity, Traits, Security

20. Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein, Introduction to Aruch haShulchan on Choshen Mishpat

The splendour of a song is when the voices are different from each other; that is the essence of its appeal.