

## Ma'amar Sod Etzba Elokim

Shalom to you great Rabbis and Ge'onim<sup>1</sup>. May Hashem save you from all evil and allow you to merit seeing the salvations you await. And may you enjoy many blessings forever, Amen Selah.

In short, on that which his honor sent to me questioning what I wrote concerning the words **דצ"ך עד"ש**, wanting to know how the redemption of the Jewish people from Egypt is hinted in these words, I will now reveal this to his honor, *"and let his arrow shoot forth before me as (clear as) lightning"* (based on Zechariah 9:14), and may He, the Merciful One, forgive sin.

Behold! I will begin by writing to his honor that which the Arizal writes in his work called 'Pelaos Rabos'.

**"Pharaoh was punished in Egypt with the ten plagues by the hands of 3,280 angels of retribution that are appointed on and that dwell in the three heavens of impurity. Of which, one is called שרע, another תמוך, and the third is called בישהא. Governing on these angels is the officer (overseeing angel) called דלפקטם (דלפקט), and at the head of them all, stands the officer called תקא. Remove 10 from the third, 6 from the fourth and 6 from the ninth as it is written.**

The Egyptians were punished in Egypt with 10 plagues and at the sea, they received 50, this came about through the name שפו. In this name, Dovid the son of Yishai grasps. The name (שפו) said and hit (the Egyptians). Through the name תקל the Egyptians received 40 plagues in Egypt and 200 at the sea. The name (תקל) said and hit (the Egyptians). Through the name אשצה (שצה) the Egyptians were punished with 50 plagues in Egypt and at the sea, they received 250. The name אשצה (שצה) said and hit (the Egyptians).

With precisely that which Hashem punishes, he heals the (pain of) exile. What was the sin and evildoing that our forefathers committed to deserve being placed in the "Iron Crucible" (Egypt)? Until they were redeemed with these names **דעב צדא כשחב**. Here the words of the Arizal end.

His words are baffling and impenetrable, seemingly unexplainable. Many of the greatest scholars and Rabbis have already requested that I enlighten them in understanding his intention, but I have not. Nonetheless, due to the great love I have for you, I will reveal the secret to you. It was revealed to me in a dream – a vision in the night.

The Arizal wrote,

**...“Pharaoh was punished in Egypt with the ten plagues by the hands of 3,280 angels of retribution”...**

His intention is as follows: In the writings of Kabbalah it is taught that there are 3,280 angels whose job it is to punish the evildoers to purify them from their sins. This concept is alluded to in the passuk (Yeshaya 58:4) **ועל כן באגרף רשע**, *"To strike wickedness with a fist."* The word אגרף, a fist, stands for **ג אלפים ר"פ**, 3,280, implying

<sup>1</sup> It is should be pointed out that one must be careful not to enunciate any of the names of the angels etc. brought in the Ma'amar, being that this can cause harm.

that the wicked are beaten (punished) via 3,280 messengers, who are appointed specifically for this task. What is truly an amazing secret, is that when the ten plagues are written in the following manner

**דָם צַפְרָדַע כְּנָם עֵרֶב דָּבָר שְׁחִין בְּרֵד אַרְבֵּה חֹשֶׁךְ מַכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת**  
(634) (460) (328) (208) (206) (368) (206) (272) (110) (444) (44)

Blood, Frogs, Lice, Wild Animals, Pestilence, Boils, Hail, Locust, Darkness, Death of the Firstborn) they have the numerical value of 3,280. This signifies that it was these 3,280 punishing angels that dwell in the three heavens of impurity שְׂרַע תְּמוּךְ בִּישָׁהָ, whose task it is to bring about punishment on the wicked to purify them, that brought the punishments of the ten plagues on Egypt. This is truly an amazing insight.

This calculation though, is only exact when כְּנָם, Lice, is written without the י (as opposed to כְּנָיִם), עֵרֶב, Wild Animals, without the ו (as opposed to עֵרֶבֶו) and חֹשֶׁךְ, Darkness, without the ו (as opposed to חֹשֶׁכְו).

This is the Arizal's intention when he writes,

...**"remove 10 from the third, 6 from the fourth and 6 from the ninth as it is written"**...

The plagues have to be spelled as they are written in the Torah. Remove 10 from the third means leave the י (whose numerical value is ten) out of the spelling of the third plague which is כְּנָם. Remove 6 from the fourth means leave the ו (whose numerical value is 6) out of the fourth plague which is עֵרֶב. Remove 6 from the ninth means leave the ו (6) out the ninth plague which is חֹשֶׁךְ.

Then the Arizal writes,

...**"that dwell in the three heavens of impurity. Of which, one is called שְׂרַע, another תְּמוּךְ, and the third is called בִּישָׁהָ"**...

This is the secret of the words אֵלֶּיךָ מִצְרַיִם הַבָּקָה בְּמִצְרַיִם, "These are the ten plagues that the Holy One blessed is He brought in Egypt." Taking a closer look, one will see that the letters of the names of these heavens, שְׂרַע תְּמוּךְ בִּישָׁהָ, also make up the words מִצְרַיִם (בִּישָׁהָ) שְׂרַע, "The ten plagues that He brought." Thus, the words מִצְרַיִם הַבָּקָה allude to the three heavens in which the 3,280 angels dwell. They also allude to the 3,280 angels of punishment themselves, since that is the numerical value of the ten plagues that Hashem had these very angels carry out on the Egyptians.

... **"(Governing on these angels is the officer called דְּלִפְקָט (דְּלִפְקָט))"**...

This name is derived from the word מִצְרַיִם, the Egyptians, by combining the letters that precede the letters of the word מִצְרַיִם.

ה precedes ד

ל precedes מ

צ precedes פ

ר precedes ק

י precedes ט

The letter מ remains the same. It is not reckoned with, being that it is only to turn the word מִצְרַיִם from the singular tense to the plural tense; and so it is not part of the root of the word. This leaves us with the name דְּלִפְקָט.

This name is hinted to in the Haggadah when it says על המצרים הקב"ה אל עשר מכות שהביא הקב"ה על המצרים, "These are the ten plagues that Hashem brought on the Egyptians". In other words, 'on HaMitzriyim' means the letters that precede those that spell the word המצרים, which are דלפקטם (דלפקט). This officer saw to it that the 3,280 angels delivered the plagues on the Egyptians. This explanation I have received from my teachers. May Hashem, forgive.)

Continuing, the Arizal writes,

**...“Governing on all of these angels is the officer called תקא”...**

His intention is as follows. When taking the first letter of each plague

דצ"ך (114)

עד"ש (374)

באח"ב (13)

the numerical value of this combination equals 501, the exact numerical value of the name תקא. (Hence, his name symbolizes his mission – to oversee all the plagues being brought on Egypt).

The name תקא is also numerically equal to the word אשר. This is the meaning of the passuk (Shemos 10:2), למען תספר באזני בנך ובן בנתך את אשר התעללתי במצרים, *“So that you shall tell over in the ears of your children and grandchildren, of My setting Egypt to scorn.”* אשר alludes to the scorn that came via the ten plagues whose abbreviations equal 501 – אשר.

This is also the meaning of the passuk that says (Shemos 4:17), ואת המטה הזה תקח בידך אשר תעשה בו את האתת, *“And this staff you shall take in your hand, with which you shall perform the signs.”* The Medrash teaches that this staff had the letters דצ"ך עד"ש באח"ב engraved on it. The passuk implies with the word אשר, that the signs would be the ten plagues whose abbreviation's numerical value is that of the word אשר.

These are two of the countless pessukim that use the word אשר when speaking about the ten plagues, alluding to this secret, since it numerically equals the abbreviations of the ten plagues and the name תקא. There are many more amazing secrets, however, כבוד אלקים הסתר דבר, *“For the honor of Hashem they are better unrevealed.”* (Mishlei 25:2, due to the inability of the human mind to grasp their depth.)

After this the Arizal writes,

**... “The Egyptians were punished in Egypt with 10 plagues and at the sea they received 50, this came about through the name שפו. In this name, Dovid the son of Yishai grasps. The name (שפו) said and hit (the Egyptians). Through the name תקל the Egyptians received 40 plagues in Egypt and 200 at the sea. The name (תקל) said and hit (the Egyptians). Through the name אשצה (שצה) the Egyptians were punished with 50 plagues in Egypt and at the sea they received 250. The name אשצה (שצה) said and hit (the Egyptians)” ...**

The meaning in these words is as follows: They hint to an amazing and wonderful secret – the argument between R' Yossi HaGalili, R' Eliezer and R' Akiva (cited in the Haggadah) in which each one has a different opinion as to the number of plagues the Egyptians received.

On this the Arizal writes,

**...“ The Egyptians were punished in Egypt with 10 plagues and at the sea they received 50, this came about through the name שפּו”...**

This hints to R' Yossi HaGalili who is of the opinion, that in Egypt the Egyptians received 10 plagues and 50 at the sea, since

רבי (212)

יוסי (86)

הגלילי (88)

has the same numerical value as the name שפּו (386).

The Arizal also mentions Dovid the son of Yishai (Dovid HaMelech), since

דוד (14)

בן (52)

ישי (320)

also equals שפּו. This emphasizes what the Sodi Raza writes that R' Yossi HaGalili had a share of Dovid HaMelech's soul in him.

The Arizal continues,

**...“Through the name תקל the Egyptians received 40 plagues in Egypt and 200 at the sea”...**

This hints to R' Eliezer who is of this opinion, since רבי (212) אליעזר (318) has the same numerical value as the name תקל (530). Therefore, it is precisely he that holds that the Egyptians were punished with 40 plagues in Egypt and 200 at the sea.

**...“Through the name אשצה (שצה) the Egyptians were punished with 50 plagues in Egypt and at the sea they received 250”...**

This is a hint to the opinion of R' Akiva since רבי (212) עקיבא (183) equals אשצה (שצה) numerically (395), and he is of the opinion that the Egyptians were hit in Egypt with 50 plagues and with 250 at the sea.

Thus, the three names – רבי שפּו equaling רבי יוסי הגלילי, שפּו, תקל, אשצה (שצה) hint to these three sages, רבי יוסי הגלילי, רבי שפּו, and רבי יוסי הגלילי. This is a fascinating secret, a secret of secrets, hidden within the hidden as I have written to you.

After this the Arizal writes,

**...“With precisely that which Hashem punishes, he heals the (pain of) exile. What was the sin and evildoing that our forefathers committed to deserve being placed in the “Iron Crucible” (Egypt)?”...**

His intention with this is that the reason why the Jews went down to Egypt is hinted in the letters of the ten plagues, as I have already written to his honor. It was from these plagues that the Egyptians were hit and from them the Jewish people were healed, since from the plagues came the healing to Yisrael to redeem them blessed is He and blessed is His Name. I have another tremendous secret to answer his honor's question, however this that I have written is also a satisfactory explanation, true wonders in His pure and holy Torah.

The Arizal concludes;

...“until they were redeemed with these names כשחב צדא כעב”...

The meaning in this is as follows. The first letters of the words כעב צדא כשחב make up the word כעב. The second letters make up the word צדא and the last letters make up the word כשחב. Hinted to, are these three names with which we were redeemed. This then, is where the redemption and healing to Yisrael are found hinted to in the plagues that afflicted Egypt.

May it be the will of the Almighty to let us see the days of Moshiach with the angels associated with the final redemption speedily in our times, Amen Selah!



*“After this (the revelation of the Ma’amar), I was informed of the following secret. Anyone who studies this Ma’amar properly at least once a year and especially on erev Pesach, the eve of Passover, will merit great things. He will be saved from all misfortunes and will not die a strange death. No man will dominate over him; all his enemies will fall before him and he will tread in all of their high places. In every direction in which he turns he will be successful and he will prosper in all of his endeavors, until the coming of Moshiach.”*

