

GALUS MENTALITY

Background

When Moshe Rabbeinu promised the Jewish people that HASHEM would bring down *mon* from the heavens, Moshe used an expression: “*Tonight you will know that HASHEM took you out of Egypt completely because He took you away from their customs as well.*”

The *Siforno* explains that the *Mitzrim* were hedonists. They ate and drank to excess. Moshe requested that when the *mon* came down, only the amount of food needed for that night was given so that the Jewish people would be able to consume only the amount of food needed for that meal. They would thereby be cured from the habits that they had learned in *Mitzrayim* – eating like gluttons.

Questions

How did the Jewish people pick up customs from the *Mitzrim*? We would assume that the Jews hated the people who oppressed and enslaved them. These ways of the *Mitzrim* were disgusting in their own right, but should have been doubly abhorrent to the Jews, who were forced to be their waiters and butlers. How was it possible that the Jewish people picked up the revolting behaviors of the *Mitzrim* when they didn't partake in these affairs, but were forced to be slaves serving at the feeding orgies?

ספר שמות פרק טז

(ו) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל כָּל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֹב וַיִּדְעֶתֶם כִּי יִדְוֹד הוֹצִיא אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

And Moshe and Aaron said to the entire Jewish people, “Tonight you will know that HASHEM took you out of Egypt.”

ספורנו עה"ת ספר שמות פרק טז פסוק ו

(ו) ערב וידעתם. יהי רצון שמה שאמר לי שיתן לכם מזון יהיה באופן זה שיתן לכם בערב צרכי הערב, בענין שתדעו שהאל יתברך הוציא אתכם לגמרי מארץ מצרים, כי יוציאכם גם ממנהגיה, שהייתם יושבים שם על סיר הבשר, בלתי זמן סעודה קבועה כבהמות, כאמרם ז"ל בתחילה היו ישראל כתרנגולים המנקרים באשפה, עד שבא משה רבינו וקבע להם זמן סעודה:

Tonight you will know: *It should be the will of HASHEM that He should give you food for the night in a manner that you will know that HASHEM took you out of Mitzrayim completely – that He took you away from their customs as well. You used to sit around the flesh pots without a set time for meals. As Chazal say, originally, the Jewish people in Mitzrayim were like chickens pecking in the dirt – until Moshe set up time for meals.*