

BH. RASHI HEADING: And the Lord spoke to Moses on that very day:

In three places Scripture employs the phrase: On that very day!

First, regarding Noah “On that very day Noah entered.

The people said: “We swear by that time, if we notice him about to enter the ark, we will not let him proceed! **Furthermore**, we will take axes and hatchets and split open the ark!” So the Holy One, Blessed is He, said: “I will have Noah enter at midday, **and let anyone who has the power to prevent it, come and prevent it!**”

Second, regarding Egypt, “On that very day, the Lord brought [the children of Israel] out [of the land of Egypt]”

The Egyptians said: “We swear by that time, if we notice them about to leave, we will stop them! **Furthermore**, but we will take swords and other weapons, and kill them!” So, the Holy One, Blessed is He, said: “I will bring them out in the middle of the day, **and let anyone who has power to prevent it, come and prevent it!**”

Likewise here, regarding Moses’ death, “on that very day.” The children of Israel said, “We swear by that time, if we notice Moses ascending the mountain to die, we will not let him! **The man who brought us out of Egypt**, divided the Red Sea for us, brought the manna down for us, made flocks of quails fly over to us, brought up the well for us, and gave us the Torah-we will not let him!” Thereupon, the Holy One, Blessed is He, said: “I will have Moses ascend the mountain [to his resting place] in the middle of the day!”

Rebbe’s Questions on Rashi:

1. How did they think to prevent Moshe’s death?
2. Why cite the two other examples?
3. Why cite reasons for their opposition, unlike by Noah & Egypt?
4. By Noah & Egypt he adds: Furthermore... (we’ll destroy/kill them)
5. By Noah & Egypt he adds: Let anyone with power to oppose come, unlike here?

6. Why include in Rashi's header: Hashem spoke to Moshe?

REBBE'S EXPLANATION on all the above:

Here: Righteous people; Noah & Egypt were sinners. Hence:

1. Like there it's about preventing change of Moses' location
2. We need proof to this rebellion
3. The intention here is good, to fulfill mitzvah of Gratitude
4. Here they trusted Hashem's word it'll be that day
5. Here intention isn't to oppose G-d, but to fulfill a mitzvah
6. Explains how they had a right to oppose G-d's instruction: it was given to Moshe
Plus: They saw this instruction as an opening (e.g. Golden Calf forgiveness)

Deeper meaning: "On this very day", the "ESSENCE" of the day:
The ESSENTIAL continuity of the Jews depends on Moses' death

Lesson: Why is my "inner Moses" hidden?
To challenge me to uncover my ESSENCE