



# *Finding the Best at the Bottom*

With the Eirev Rav, the Yidden left Mitzrayim,  
They were Egyptians who wanted to convert to Judaism.  
When Hashem spoke to Moshe, He referred to them as "your nation,"  
They were troublemakers who made the Golden Calf and got some Yidden to sin.

At the time Moshe was on Har Sinai,  
Hashem said, "YOUR people are disloyal, descend from on high!"  
It seems like Hashem blamed Moshe for the situation,  
Since, to take the Eirev Rav along, Moshe didn't ask permission.

For the sin of the Golden Calf there were punishments three,  
Death by sword was for those who were warned and had witnesses that did see,  
Those who were not warned but had witnesses, through a plague did die,  
To both Jews and the Eirev Rav these punishments did apply.

The last type of death was unique,  
A special type of drink,  
Was only given to B'nei Yisrael,  
If they sinned without a warning or witnesses their bodies did swell.

In Temple times, this drink was also given,  
To an Isha Sotah, a woman,  
Who with another man was hidden,  
Her loyalty, the drink would determine.

The reason this drink was given only to the Jews,  
Was because it was only them that Hashem did choose,

To be His bride so dear,  
While to maidservants the Eirev Rav did compare.


If a person from the Eirev Rav, had no warning and no witnesses, but did sin,  
Since the drink wasn't something that he could take part in,  
From punishment he was free,  
Because part of the chosen nation he wasn't considered to be.


But after Hashem says "Go lead the people to where I have told you,"  
Which refers to the Yidden who to Hashem were true,  
Hashem adds a new statement for the Eirev Rav to be elevated,  
"Go ascend from here, you and THE people," they were finally included.

They weren't called Moshe's people anymore,  
From the Golden Calf they did Teshuva like never before.  
"From here," because of the Golden Calf specifically,  
The Eirev Rav became part of the Jewish nation permanently.

The Golden Calf was a royal decree,  
The evil inclination controlled them temporarily,  
To give the Yidden the opportunity to do Teshuva,  
On their own they would never reach this Avodah.

Compared to Tzaddikim, Ba'alei Teshuva are greater,  
Because to the dark and unholy places they first venture.  
When they return they elevate and transform Hashem's spark,  
Which was hidden in places that were forbidden and dark.





In the Haftorah we read about a contest that Eliyahu Hanavi did make,  
At a time when the Yidden served idols, he told the idol worshippers to take,  
Twin bulls that came from the same mother,  
One would be for Hashem and for Avodah Zara would be the other.

The idol worshippers would start,  
To prepare a bull on their altar they would do their part,  
Then they would pray to their gods and see,  
If a fire would consume their sacrifice completely.

Then Eliyahu's turn it would be,  
He would sacrifice the second bull and all would see,  
From heaven a fire would come,  
And prove that Hashem is one.

The bull that the idol worshippers did choose,  
Said, "It's not fair, to be used for Avodah Zara I refuse!"  
"Just like the bull that is designated for Hashem," Eliyahu Hanavi did say,  
"Through you Hashem will be sanctified in the same exact way!"

"As a matter of fact you will be,  
The first to show Hashem's glory!"  
To light a fire under their altar a man did hide,  
But he was bitten by a snake and he died.

The idol worshippers screamed with all their might,  
But there was no fire in sight.  
A fire only came down for Eliyahu Hanavi's sacrifice,  
The Yidden did Teshuva because they realized that their actions weren't nice.

Everything Hashem did create,  
Good and bad He did designate.  
Even in that which is forbidden,  
There are sparks of Hashem that are hidden.

The lesson is clear for me and you,  
It's our responsibility to help every Jew.  
There are some people that say,  
To help a sinner I don't have time in my day.

But they don't realize the power that sinners do possess,  
To the sparks of Hashem in forbidden things only they have access.  
When they do Teshuva because they realize that Hashem is one,  
Into Mitzvos their Aveiros become.

Gold and diamonds are found,  
Deep in the ground,  
To dark and dirty places sinners may descend,  
But with great treasures they ascend in the end!

The sin of the Golden Calf was so great it is true,  
But it taught us that Teshuva we can do!  
When we fall we must realize that we have the opportunity,  
To take holy sparks that are stuck in captivity and set them free!

*From Likkutei Sichos 16, Tisa 4*

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