

Va'aira 5776

BS"D Parashat Va'aira 5776

Rabbi Nachman Kahana

Eradication of evil doers and evil ideologies

This Shabbat, we will begin reading seven of the ten devastating plagues which eventually brought Paro and Egypt to their knees: water into blood, frogs, lice, wild beasts, diseased livestock, boils, thunderstorm of hail and fire. Next week's parsha will continue with the remaining three: locusts, darkness and the death of Egypt's firstborn.

Only HaShem could have brought about these plagues, nevertheless, Moshe and Aharon were commanded to be personally involved by performing a symbolic act, like raising a staff or hitting the water, as a condition for effecting each plague. Why?

Judicial process vs. revenge

The book of Shmuel 1 relates how King Shaul defeated the nation of Amelek, but sinned by leaving the last of them alive – Agag, the King.

The prophet Shmuel is filled with righteous indignation at Shaul's violation of HaShem's command to kill all Amalek and destroy all their possessions (to the last Volkswagon).

Agag is brought before Shmuel, and in his wrath the prophet declares:

וְיָבֹאוּ אֵלָיו אַגַּג וְכָל אֲנָשָׁיו וְיִשְׁמַע אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְאֵלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִשְׁמַע אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְאֵלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
:וְיִשְׁמַע אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְאֵלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Conclusion: According to the Torah, when judicial process is not feasible, victims of evil may take the law into their own hands and perform acts of vengeance against the perpetrators.

It is no secret, that at the end of the Second World War, many Jews from Eretz Yisrael who were serving in the British army in Europe, joined in groups to capture German sadists and pour out Jewish vengeance on them. I was told of the exploits of these groups by one of the proud Jews who took part in them.

The nation carried out judgement

We know Moshe and Aharon as HaShem's messengers to free the Jews from Egyptian bondage, and to bring the Torah from HaShem to His chosen people. However, their first task was performed in Egypt much before the actual exodus.

The Egyptians were the original Nazis! They enslaved the Jewish people, degraded and murdered them and their young children. The Jews deserved the right to take revenge on the Egyptians for their suffering while the perpetrators were still alive.

However, HaShem did not want the killing of millions of Egyptians by the people who were soon to stand at the foot of Mount Sinai to receive the holy Torah; beginning the next four thousand years of "Yiddishkeit" by acts of murder, as justified as they were.

Moshe and Aharon were proxies for the entire nation. When Moshe and Aharon raised their staffs to bring about a plague, every Jew felt as if he was holding the staff.

In 1962, Adolf Eichman was judged and sentenced by an Israeli court in Yerushalayim to death by hanging. On the appointed day, every Jew felt as if he was putting the noose around the neck of one of the arch murderers of our people, and that he

will be no survivors from Esau. The Lord has spoken.

People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead.

This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev.

Deliverers will go up from Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau.

And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

AMEN!!!!

Medinat Yisrael, through our holy army of Tzahal is the 'extended arm' of HaShem to implement the annihilation of evil in the world.

However, as it appears today, our Father in Heaven has a more elegant plan for the eradication of evil, without having to involve our holy soldiers.

Esau and Yishmael will explode upon each other, as we are now witnessing. ISIS, Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas and Al Quaida are murdering Moslems in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa. The Saudis and their Gulf State allies will soon take on Iran more effectively and at a lower cost to Israeli lives. Turkey and Russia. Egypt and the up-stream Nile River nations will neutralize each other. The European countries will be combatting with the millions of Moslems on the streets of Paris and London. And the Americans will be battling tens of millions of Moslems on the streets of St. Louis, Los Angeles and Flatbush.

The picture which our prophets paint of the future annihilation of evil is not be a pretty one. But, it is a law of nature that for a seed in the ground to germinate it must first decompose. So, too, the prior condition for a more perfect world is the eradication of evil doers and evil ideologies.

Let us just pray that when it comes about, the Jews now in galut will have the merit to come home to the protective embrace of Eretz Yisrael.

Shabbat Shalom,

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