

## THE TELLING - מגיד

"...מצווה עלינו לספר ביציאת מצרים. וכל המרבה לספר ביציאת מצרים, הרי זה משובח."  
"...it is incumbent upon us to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. And the more one tells of the Exodus from Egypt, the more one is praiseworthy."

"...ביד חזקה ובזרוע נטויה..." דברים כו, ח

### "...with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm." Deut. 26:8

A "*strong hand*" refers to the sudden, dramatic intervention of G-d in our history, which immediately catapulted us from the depths of depravity in Egypt to the spiritual heights of Mount Sinai. But this is only one aspect of divine history. In addition to the *revolution* of the "*strong hand*," there must also be the *evolution* symbolized by the "*outstretched arm*." The arm is outstretched, meaning that the potential yet awaits its actualization. (Perhaps there is an etymological link of *zero'a* (arm) to *zera* (seed)). This outstretched arm alludes to the slow, gradual spiritual *evolution* of the Jewish People, to an ongoing process that will eventually climax in the coming of the long-awaited *Mashiach*.

These are the two tracks of history: One, a revolution engineered from above. Left to our own resources we would never have left Egypt. Supernatural divine intervention was required. BUT, the ultimate goal is not that the Torah go against the grain of nature but rather that human nature be refined so that the Torah can be integrated and absorbed within the framework of nature. This gradual refinement of our nature is an ongoing process over generations. Each individual generation has its part to play in the spiritual drama. For this reason we say in the *Hagadah*, "In every generation a person must see oneself as if he/she came out of Egypt." (*Mishnah Pesachim* 10:5) This Exodus of the "*outstretched arm*" is a work in progress. It yet awaits completion.

Regarding one's individual experience, we observe that there are moments of sudden enlightenment. These are the rare times when one experiences the "*strong hand*." But most of the time one must move along gradually, working the "field" of Judaism, performing the various commandments, though one does not grasp their depth. The commandments are all connected in some way to the Exodus from Egypt. This is the "*outstretched arm*."

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