

Cong. Etz Chaim's
Torah at the Table
Parshat Shemot

The Medrash Tanchuma on the opening verse of Shemot, "And these are the names of the Children of Israel who were coming to Egypt..." comments that each name is a hint to the eventual redemption. Rabbi Yeshayahu Horovitz (1555-1630) writes that in each persons Hebrew name is a hint to their mission in this world.

What does your Hebrew name mean, and what does it tell you about your mission?

"Moshe grew up and went out to his brothers and observed their burdens" (2:11)

Even though Moshe grew up in the royal palace, he always identified himself as a Jew. He went out to see his brothers, the Jewish people. He very well could have forgotten his roots, and lived the comfortable life as the prince of Egypt.

Have you ever been conflicted with choosing your Jewish identity over some other, more comfortable option?

When Hashem approaches Moshe at the burning bush, Moshe first refuses to be the leader of Israel. He does not feel that he is up to the task. Moshe, as we know, became the greatest leader in Jewish history.

Have you ever doubted your ability to do something, and ended up succeeding? Did that experience make you more confident in the future?