

" וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִשְׁמָעוּ אֵלַי "

They're never going to believe me says moshe  
when 's sends him to 'הר' : 'ס

! וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִשְׁמָעוּ אֵלַי

Moshe asks Hashem, according to many, for an איל - some sort of sign to help him succeed in his mission..

And we know that 's gives him Three...

stick -> snake

hand -> ארס

water -> blood.

what's hard to figure out ... why three?

The פ'קוד clearly say that those not convinced by the first should be convinced by the second

Those not sold after the second -> there's a third!

But are these tricks really one better than the next?

do they really build?

which one's the greatest trick? It's a tough call

so what's the pt. of 3...

אין ... either the <sup>first</sup> trick will cause belief or it won't.

and if the pt. is to cause belief .. why not do a "biggie" .. if you're doing a miracle anyway! ...



אֲשֶׁר נִלְכְּדוּ - the first exile was the prototype for exiles to come... of the slavery  
And though conditions were terrible... not just at the beginning, but throughout -

אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע  
though they hated their Egyptian masters they began to rely on them, learn from them - become like them..

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where did that come from? where did the אֱלֹהִים they worshipped come from?  
From the Egypt they thought they wanted no part of..

On the outside - אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע

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they wanted to be separate... they were separate  
they were proud to be Jews... probably even - certainly even  
disparaged their Egyptian counterparts

How much harder, then, it was to see how "comfortable" they had become in אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע

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the work... who wanted to be a slave?  
But אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע and Egyptian culture - it had become a pt. of even אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע

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This wasn't just about freedom -

It was about the אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע  
about LEAVING אֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ לְפָנָיו בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה וַיִּזְעַק וַיִּשְׁמָע וַיִּשְׁמָע AND BEHIND!

this - said Moshe - this they're not ready to hear..

! 'בְּיַד מִצֵּי הַיָּם יִשְׁמַח וְהוֹדוּ

And so יִשְׁמַח gives us not just 3 signs -

one sign would be enough

But 3 messages for הַיָּם: הַיָּם ..

#1 Take your staff

מִצֵּי הַיָּם = stick. (hitting הַיָּם: הַיָּם)

but it's also a support..

מִצֵּי הַיָּם provides food, shelter..

Take that stick -> show them it is really a snake..

#2 For others, מִצֵּי הַיָּם already a part of them.. it can't just be discarded like a stick!..

Show them that if that's the case..

part of them is sick.. dead. spiritually dead..

it must be gotten rid of

#3 And if they don't believe you? still can't hear

Go to the Nile - the symbol of Egypt..

and show them that Egypt is in their blood!

.. וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל

Show them just how much they've become a part of מִצֵּי הַיָּם

and just how much מִצֵּי הַיָּם has become a part of them!