

Beit Rabban Parashah Page

Parashat Va'era

Exodus 6:2-9:35

פרישת וארא

שמות ו:ב-ט:לה

Parashat Va'era includes most of the story of the ten plagues, including the famous plague of frogs. When Pharaoh begs Moshe to stop the plague, Moshe's reply is interesting (Ex. 8:5):

Moshe said to Pharaoh, "You may have this glory over me: at what time should I plead on behalf of you, your servants and your people to remove the frogs from you and your household—they will remain only in the Nile."

וניאמר מֹשֶׁה לְפָרָעָה, הַתִּפְאֵר
עַלִּי, לִמְתִּי אַעֲמִיר לְךָ וְלְעַבְדֵּיךָ
וְלְעַמֶּךָ, לְהִכְרִית הַצְּפָרָקָעִים
מִפְּנֶיךָ וּמִפְּנֶיךָ: רַק בִּיאָר,
תִּשְׁאַרְנָה.

Why do you think Moshe gave Pharaoh the power to choose the time that the plague would end? How do you imagine Pharaoh felt in that moment? What do you think Moshe hoped would happen if he gave Pharaoh some control over the situation? What might Pharaoh have learned from the fact that Moshe could plead to HaShem that the frogs be removed at any time he chose?

When you think about your own life, what are some situations that you have the power to control? What situations are out of your control? How do you feel when you get to make decisions and have some control over what happens? How do you make sure that you make smart choices in these moments?