

Shemos-Three personalities

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

Shemos begins with the enslavement of Am Yisroel in Mitzrayim. Our Midrashim tell us that Paroh consulted with three personalities, Bilaam , Iyov and Yisro. Bilaam was totally in favor of the enslavement. Yisro opposed and left Mitzrayim when he saw his advice was not heeded. Iyov said nothing and some of our chachamim say that this was the reason for Iyov' s suffering that we are told about in his Sefer.

The Mashgiach, Rav Michel Barenbaum, Zt' l, explained that since silence is like agreeing as Chazal tell us, Iyov displayed an agreement and a lack of compassion. This is in sharp Contrast to Moshe who showed compassion for his fellow Bnai Yisroel as Chazal explain the phrase that Moshe saw their burdens. He sympathized with them. He even killed the taskmaster that was beating a fellow Yisroel. He felt totally connected to them. This was a major lesson for all of us to have compassion for our fellow Jews. Whenever we know of Jewish Suffering we have to feel the pain as if it is our own.