

RABBI AHARON ZIEGLER, PARASHAT BO 5781 - 2021

“ARAB MENTALITY HASN'T CHANGED”

The final Makka is about to occur. This is the night that HaShem promised we would be freed. This is the night that the Egyptians will receive their final and fatal blow- “Makkat Bechorot” the death of all first-born Egyptians, including the family of Par'oh. Everyone is tense; the air is saturated with drama, fear and emotion. At midnight –the death begins.

Now the Torah states (12:30), “**VAYAKAM PAR'OH LIELA**”, Paroh rose up at midnight. Rashi has a one-word comment on this by saying –**MIMITATO**, from his bed!! Now, what is Rashi adding to our comprehension of the passuk, which we would not know for ourselves? Where else but from his bed would he be rising?

Rashi is giving us a profound insight into the mentality of an Arab. So far, every prediction of Moshe came true to the letter of the word. Here, Moshe predicted that at midnight every first-born will die, including the first born in the house of Par'oh. As the hour of midnight is approaching, which Jewish father or mother would be able to sleep knowing that his own child is about to die? Yet Par'oh does not pace the floor, he doesn't panic, he doesn't call for an emergency cabinet meeting, doesn't nap on a couch, **but sleeps on a bed until midnight**. Par'oh shows no sensitivity or feeling even for his own child.

The Arabs of today send their own children on suicide missions, they use children as shields from Israeli gunfire and they booby-trap homes of Arab families with children inside as a method of fighting a war against the Israeli army. So, are they any different today and then?

Shabbat Shalom From YERUSHALAYIM  
Rabbi Aharon Ziegler