

TARGUM ONQELOS

Yithro – Sipra d'Mapkana (Exodus) 18-20 – כשלה

¶ And Yithro, the rabba of Midian, the father-in-law of Mosheh, had heard of all that MarYah had done for Mosheh and for Israel His people, and that MarYah had brought Israel out of Mizraim. And Yithro, Mosheh's father-in-law, took Zipporah the wife of Mosheh, after he had let her go, and his two sons, the name of one, Gershom; for, he said, I have been a sojourner in a strange land; and the name of the other, Eliezer; for he said Alaha of my fathers has been my helper, and has delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh. And Yithro the father-in-law of Mosheh came, and his sons, and his wife, to Mosheh in the desert where he had encamped at the mountain upon which was revealed the glory of MarYah.

¶ And he had told Mosheh, I, your father-in-law Yithro, come to you with your wife, and her two sons with her. And Mosheh went forth to meet his father-in-law, and bowed, and kissed him, and each saluted the other with peace; and they entered the tabernacle.

¶ And Mosheh recounted to his father-in-law all that MarYah had done to Pharaoh and to Mizraim for Israel's sake; and all the tribulation that they had found upon the way, and how MarYah had delivered them. And Yithro was glad over all the good which MarYah, who had saved him from the hand of Mizraim, had brought about for Israel.

¶ And Yithro said, Blessed be MarYah, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Mizraee, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and has delivered the people from under the domination of the Mizraee. Now know I that MarYah is great, and that there is no Alaha but He for by the thing by

which the Mizraee had thought to punish (judge) Israel, they themselves are punished.

¶ And Yithro the father-in-law of Mosheh offered a burnt offering and sacrificed holy things before MarYah. And Aharon came, with all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with the father-in-law of Mosheh before MarYah.

¶ And on the day after, Mosheh sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Mosheh from morning until the evening; and the father-in-law of Mosheh observed all that he did to the people. And he said, What thing is this that you are doing to the people? Why do you sit alone, with all the people standing about you from morning until evening?

¶ And Mosheh said to his father-in-law, Because the people-come to me to ask instruction from before MarYah. When they have a matter for judgment they come to me, and I mediate between a man and his neighbor, and make them to know the statutes of MarYah, and His laws.

¶ But the father-in-law of Mosheh said to him, The thing you are doing is not right; surely you will tire out with weariness, you and also this people who are with you; for this is too weighty for you, you are not able to do it by yourself. Now listen to me, I will give you counsel, and the Memra of MarYah shall be your helper. Be for the people the seeker of instruction from the presence of MarYah, to bring the matters before MarYah: and you shall admonish them in the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which to walk, and the work that must be done. And you, seek out from the whole people men of

ability who fear MarYah, men of truth who abhor to take mammon; and appoint them as chiefs of thousands, and chiefs of hundreds, and chiefs of fifties, and chiefs of tens. And they shall judge the people at any time, and every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small thing they shall judge; and they will lighten it from you, and bear it with you. If you will do this, and MarYah teaches you, you will be able to endure, and of all this people, every one, will go to his place in peace.

¶ And Mosheh listened to his father-in-law, and did all that he had said. And Mosheh chose men of ability from all Israel, and appointed them heads over the people; chiefs¹ of thousands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, and chiefs of tens; and they judged the people at all times; a weighty thing they brought to Mosheh, and every minor thing they judged themselves. And Mosheh sent his father-in-law away, and he went unto his land.

¶ In the third month² of the outgoing of the sons of Israel from the land of Mizraim, on that day they came to the desert of Sinai. And they journeyed from Rephidim, and came to the desert of Sinai, and dwelt there by the side of the mountain.

¶ And Mosheh ascended before MarYah. And MarYah called to him from the mountain, saying, You shall speak to the house of Jakob, and show to the sons of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Mizraee, and how I carried you as on eagles' wings, and brought you near to serve Me: and now, if you will listen intently to My Memra, and will keep My covenant, you, before Me, shall be more beloved than all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you, before Me, shall be kings and priests, a holy people. These are the words which you shall speak with the sons of Israel.

¶ And Mosheh came, and called the elders³ of the people, and set all these words in order before them, as MarYah had instructed him. And all the people responded together, and said, All that MarYah has spoken we will do. And Mosheh brought back the words of the people before MarYah.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Behold, I will be revealed to you in the darkness of the cloud, that the people may hear, in My speaking with you, and also that they may confide in you forever.

¶ And Mosheh showed the words of the people before MarYah. And MarYah said to Mosheh, Go to the people and prepare them, today and tomorrow, and let them purify⁴ their clothing; and be ready for the third day; for on the third day MarYah will be revealed in the eyes of all the people upon mount Sinai. And you shall set a limit for the people round about, saying, Beware of going up on the mountain, or of approaching its border. Whoever approaches the mountain, he shall be slain. No hand shall touch him; for he shall be stoned, or he shall be pierced; whether beast or man, he shall not live. When the trumpet is prolonged they shall be allowed to go forward to the mountain.

¶ And Mosheh came down from the mountain to the people, and prepared the people, and they purified their clothes. And he said to the people, Be ready on the third day, do not have relations with a woman. And it was the third day⁵ at daybreak; and there were voices, and lightnings, and great clouds upon the mountain, and the voice of the trumpet exceedingly strong; and all the people trembled who were in the camp. And Mosheh led forth the people out of the camp to meet the Memra of MarYah; and they stood at the lower parts of the mountain. And the mountain of Sinai was altogether fuming from before the revelation of MarYah upon it in fire; and the

smoke went up as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. But when the voice of the trumpet went forth and became exceedingly strong, Mosheh spoke, and from the presence of MarYah he was answered by a voice.

¶ And MarYah was revealed upon mount Sinai, on the head of the mountain; and MarYah called Mosheh to the head of the mountain; and Mosheh went up. And MarYah said to Mosheh, Go down, warn the people lest they break through before MarYah to see, and many of them fall. And let the priests also, who are to minister before MarYah, sanctify themselves, lest MarYah slay them. And Mosheh spake before MarYah, The people are not able to come up to mount Sinai; for You have warned us, saying, Set a boundary to the mountain, and sanctify it.

¶ But MarYah said to him, Go, descend, and come up, you and Aharon with you; but do not permit the priests nor the people to break through to come up before MarYah, lest He slay them.

¶ And Mosheh went down to the people, and spake with them.

¶ And MarYah spoke all these words, saying, I am MarYah your Alaha, who has brought you out of the land of Mizraim, out of the house of servitude. You shall have no other Alaha beside Me. You shall not make to for yourself an image nor the likeness of any thing that is in the heavens above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the waters under the earth: you shall not worship them nor serve them; for I MarYah your Alaha am a jealous Alaha, visiting the sins of the fathers upon the rebellious children, to the third generation and to the fourth generation of those who hate Me; while the children continue to sin after their fathers; but doing good to thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My

commandments. You shall not use the name of MarYah your Alaha in a vain manner; for MarYah will not acquit him who uses His Name in a false manner. Remember the day of Shabbatha to sanctify it. Six days you shall do service and do all your work; but the seventh day is Shabbath before MarYah your Alaha. You shall not do every work; you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your servant nor your handmaid, nor your cattle, nor your sojourner who is in your city.⁶ For in six days MarYah made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; thus MarYah blessed the day of Shabbatha, and sanctified it. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged upon the land which MarYah your Alaha gives to you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not testify against your neighbor with a false testimony. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his servant, nor his handmaid, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

¶ And all the people saw the thunders, and the flames, and the voice of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and the people saw, and trembled, and stood at a great distance. And they said to Mosheh, You speak with us, and we will listen; but let it not be spoken to us from before MarYah, lest we die.

¶ And Mosheh said to the people, Fear not; for that He may prove you He has revealed to you the glory of MarYah, and that His fear may be before your face, that you may not sin. And the people stood at a great distance, but Mosheh drew near to the darkness where the glory of MarYah was residing.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, You shall speak to the children of Israel; You have seen that I have spoken to you from the heavens. You shall not make before Me idols of silver, neither idols of gold shall you make for yourself. An altar of earth shall you make before Me, and shall sacrifice upon it your burnt offerings and your sanctified offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I may cause My Shekinah to dwell, there will I send My blessing, and will bless you. And if you will make for Me an altar of stone before Me, you shall not build it with cut stones lest you lift up your cutting-tool upon it and profane it. And you shall not ascend by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be discerned upon it.

Notes

1 Sam. Vers., "scribes."

2 Sivan

3 Sam. Vers., "wise men."

4 Sam. Vers., "make white."

5 Sixth of Sivan.

6 Sam. Vers., "your cities."

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