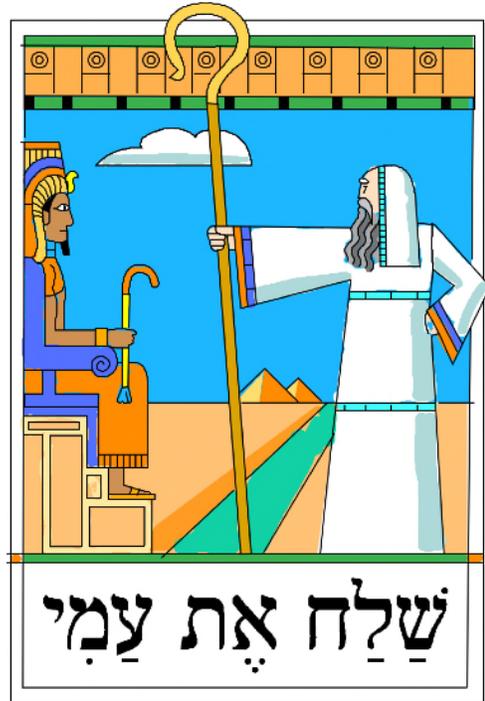


# PALTIEL'S DIARY

A Diary of Life in Mitzrayim

By: Rabbi Ellis J. Safdeye



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## Plague of Blood

13 Av 2447

Paltiel Reuveni  
26-18 Bechor Drive  
Goshen, Mitzrayim

Dear Diary,

Wow! I can't believe what is happening! There is blood everywhere, just as Moshe predicted. Real, smelly, thick blood not just red colored water. Moshe and Aharon were so brave these last three weeks! Everyone in Mitzrayim knows, you are not allowed to leave your house before 8:00 am. No one knew the reason. Well, now we do! Pharaoh wanted everyone to believe that he is a god and therefore, doesn't need to use the bathroom. Early in the morning when everyone is inside, he goes to his Nile River, which he claims he created, and uses the bathroom without anyone seeing. For the last three weeks, Moshe and Aharon went every morning to the river when Pharaoh was there and gave him a warning about a plague of blood coming. They told him that since he made us work so hard, and didn't listen to Hashem's request to let us go serve him for 3 days in the desert, he will be punished. All the water in Mitzrayim will turn into blood. The Egyptians will not have any water to drink. Pharaoh didn't listen to the warning and look what happened!

This morning, every body of water in Mitzrayim, suddenly turned into disgusting blood! The entire Nile River is a body of blood. All the fish and sea animals died, and the smell is terrible. All the food in Egyptian houses is ruined! Any food that contained any water, even if it was cooked, got blood in it. The water inside all trees turned to blood and the trees are oozing out blood. The beams in their houses are leaking blood. The fruit they squeeze and try to eat is full of blood! All the Egyptian idols have blood all over them! Mitzrayim is like a big pool of blood!

The Egyptians can't eat or drink anything. Today, after I came home from working in the field, Khamudi came to our house. He said he heard that we have water and he needs some now. Of course, we gave him a cup, as he demanded. As he began drinking, the water he drank turned to blood. When I took the cup back from him, I got water. Desperate, he decided that we should try sharing the cup of water while drinking with 2 separate straws. However, that too failed. I got water and he got blood! I then told him to pay me 100 silver coins for a cup of water. He bargained me down to "only" 50

## Plague of Blood

coins but when he picked up the cup it immediately turned into blood. With no other choice, he reluctantly agreed to pay the enormous sum I asked for. Then he was finally able to drink water.

With Bnei Yisrael in charge of the price of water, I'm assuming the price is going to skyrocket over the next couple of days! Hopefully, we will make loads of money before this plague is over!

Some Egyptians began digging in their fields to find water underground. After much digging, they found some water and were able to drink the water. However, it was very difficult to find the water.

Seeing the blood all over Mitzrayim reminded me of all the blood of the Jews, that the evil Egyptians spilled over the many years. They threw our children into the Nile River many years ago. And more recently, Pharaoh bathed in the blood of freshly slaughtered Jewish children to cure himself from his leprosy. It could be that they are getting paid back for what they did to us!

Khamudi mentioned, that rumor has it, that Pharaoh is not affected by this plague. Maybe it's because he took care of Moshe when he was growing up in the palace. But it's interesting to note, that the Nile River was affected! Isn't the Nile River their god!? Probably, Hashem is showing them who is really the G-d of the world. Pharaoh claimed he didn't know who Hashem is. Well, I'm sure he is now starting to realize.

People are saying that the magicians tried to copy this plague but were only able to make water look like blood. Only Hashem can turn water into blood. The poor Egyptians are just going to have to suffer through this plague. I heard it is going to last for 7 days, but it's probably going to take the smelly river a long time after that to get back to normal again.

I've got to go to bed now since I must show up to work tomorrow. Even though there is so much to write, I will have to stop now. I hope we will be able to stop working soon! I heard there are another nine more plagues coming! Let's see what happens!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

## Plague of Frogs

1 Elul 2447

Paltiel Reuveni  
26-18 Bechor Drive  
Goshen, Mitzrayim

Dear Diary,

The plague is long over. All the blood turned back to water, and things are getting back to normal. Well, not exactly normal. The Mitzriyim are still miserable. They can't get away from the smell of the dead fish, and they are upset that they have no fish to eat. Yet still, they are claiming that it was a natural disaster and not a plague from Hashem. They are trying to recoup their losses and are continuing to enslave us. Moshe and Aharon already began warning Pharaoh and his advisors about another Plague that is coming. They said it in front of his advisors so that he can't deny the warning. They are talking about a plague of Frogs coming. But, how bad can frogs be?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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8 Elul 2447

Dear Diary,

I guess frogs can really be bad! You should have seen the sight! Moshe and Aharon went to the Nile River with Moshe's stick. Since Moshe was saved when he was a three month old baby by the river, Hashem didn't want him to hit the river. Instead, Aharon hit the river, and out came this huge, tremendous frog. It was making its way straight to the palace. The guards began hitting it, trying to kill it. With each blow, many frogs came out from its mouth. The more they hit it, the more came out, but they were so angry that they couldn't stop hitting the frog. Suddenly, it gave a loud croak, and frogs from all directions came hopping into Mitzrayim. The frogs made their way into the royal palace and headed straight for Pharaoh's bedroom. They jumped onto his bed and climbed under his blanket. This time the plague affected him. The plague of blood didn't bother

## Plague of Frogs

him, but now he was the first to get it. After attacking Pharaoh, the frogs swarmed all over his servants and then the rest of Mitzrayim. The frogs are everywhere. Any water found in Mitzrayim, even just a puddle, produced frogs. The Mitzriyim can't walk without stepping on frogs. The frogs are like a carpet throughout Mitzrayim. The frogs are jumping on the people and attacking every part of their body. They even found their way into the Mitzriyim's body affecting their organs and biting their intestines. The country is infested with frogs. They are even hopping into kitchens and jumping into the food and into the kneading bowls. Some frogs are even leaping fearlessly into the ovens! Some reports are saying that crocodiles who normally eat the fish from the Nile, came out and are eating animals, humans and anything in sight.

Once the frogs arrived, the Mitzriyim were so exhausted from the croaking of the frogs all night, they couldn't force us to go to work, so we have been home for the past few days. Every so often, an update on the situation reaches us here in Goshen. We don't have any frogs here, but I was told that the frogs filled the entire Mitzrayim, covering all the land which belongs to Mitzrayim. They didn't go into the neighboring country of Cush.

Pharaoh is sitting on his throne wearing his royal garments with dozens and dozens of frogs jumping all over him. It must be a sight to see! He even heard the conversation of two frogs from deep in his stomach. "When do we get out of here?" one frog asked. "When Moshe, the son of Amram, prays for us to leave," replied the second one.

Pharaoh called his magicians to have them copy this plague. They were only able to make was an illusion of frogs, not real frogs like Moshe and Aharon brought. Pharaoh began to realize that this must be coming from Hashem as a punishment for what he had done to us for so long. Since Pharaoh didn't let us sleep, the frogs don't let him sleep. Since the Mitzriyim sent us out to catch insects, rodents and reptiles, now they are suffering from filthy frogs.

Let's see how long this plague will last!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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## Plague of Frogs

11 Elul 2447

Dear Diary,

It seems like Pharaoh had enough. Today, Pharaoh called Moshe and Aharon and asked them to pray to Hashem to get rid of these frogs. "If the frogs leave," Pharaoh promised, "I will send you and your nation out of Mitzrayim to sacrifice and celebrate to Hashem."

Moshe said to Pharaoh, "Test me! I will pray now to get rid of the frogs. When do you want it to happen? This will be only for the frogs on the land, but the frogs in the water, will remain."

Pharaoh wanted to make sure that Moshe is not doing any kind of magic. Since magic could only be done from noon until midnight, he therefore replied, "Tomorrow morning,"

Moshe answered him, "No problem, I will do as you ask. Tomorrow morning you will see that this plague really came from Hashem and is not magic. You will see that there is none like Hashem."

I can't wait to see what happens. I wonder if Pharaoh will free us tomorrow. I think I will start packing now. Where are all the frogs going to go?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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## Plague of Frogs

12 Elul 2447

Dear Diary,

This morning the Mitzriyim woke up to a surprise! All the frogs are dead! Not one frog on land is left alive! Pharaoh wanted the frogs to leave, but I guess that's not what Hashem wanted. The Mitzriyim should be rejoicing that the frogs are dead, but instead they are mourning! Mitzrayim is left in ruins! The waters are polluted, and the land is carpeted with smelly dead frogs! The Mitzriyim are working so hard to pile them up. There are so many frogs that even the slowest workers are able to collect piles and piles of dead frogs. Already the entire country smells from the dead frogs. Some Mitzriyim are even dying from the terrible smell. This must be still part of the plague.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

\* \* \* \*

15 Elul 2447

Dear Diary,

The worst seems to be over. The smell is subsiding. The land and waters are recovering. Moshe went back to Pharaoh to ask him to let us leave, but he became very stubborn once again! Since he is not suffering anymore, he doesn't feel the need to keep his promise. Pharaoh claimed that Moshe said he will get rid of the frogs, but the land is still covered with dead frogs. Some say, Pharaoh just denied making such a promise to Moshe. Moshe didn't even warn him about any new punishments. Now what?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

## Plague of lice

1 Tishrei 2448

Paltiel Reuveni  
26-18 Bechor Drive  
Goshen, Mitzrayim

Dear Diary,

Pharaoh didn't let us free yet. What a disappointment! We're assuming another plague will come forth. However, so far two weeks have gone by and Moshe has not warned Pharaoh about any new plague. What is going to happen! Will we ever leave this place? I wonder what the next step in the plan is!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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8 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

I can't believe what is happening! Without even warning Pharaoh, Moshe and Aharon brought the next plague. Well, it wasn't really Moshe, rather Aharon. Moshe told Aharon to take his stick and hit the ground. Once again, Moshe wasn't able to bring forth the plague since the ground saved him about 60 years ago, when he killed the Egyptian who was beating a Jew. Moshe saw that nothing good was going to come from that man, so he said a name of Hashem and killed the Egyptian. He then went and buried him in the ground. He almost died for saving the Jew and had to run to Midyan where he was for many years until now when Hashem told him to finally free us from slavery. For this reason, he was not able to administer this plague and, it needed to be done through Aharon.

Everyone is talking about it, Aharon waved his stick in all directions over the land of Mitzrayim and then hit the ground. As soon as he hit the ground, a cloud of lice rose up from the ground and spread across Mitzrayim. These are not regular lice. These lice are huge! They are the size of a hen or a goose's egg. It looks like there are 14 species of lice. Besides for lice, there are worms and fleas all over!

## Plague of lice

The earth became so covered with lice, that the ground became like a carpet of lice which is 2 amot, about 4 feet, deep! Even the dirt inside their houses turned to lice. The Egyptians have lice all over their bodies. The lice are attaching themselves to the Egyptian's hair, skin, and all parts of their body. The latest report says each Egyptian has about 30 pounds of lice attached to him! They can't even see where they are going since their vision is being blocked. They are in so much pain scratching all the lice. The Egyptians are trying so many ways to rid of them, but nothing is working. The lice are following them wherever they are going. Some people even tried jumping in the river to get rid of the hated insect, but the lice just came down with them. They are bleeding all over from all their scratching. Wow are they in so much pain.

I was just thinking about this plague. I am remembering all the lice which I had on my body a short while ago. These Egyptians didn't allow us to bathe at night after all of our hard work in the field. That caused our bodies to become infested with lice. Now they will see how feels!

I'm remembering all those dirty streets and market places from which the taskmasters made us clean all the dirt. Now, all that dirt became lice and they can't ask us to clean it anymore. This sure serves them right!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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10 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

Moshe has been telling us that this is the final plague of the first set of plagues. He said that these three Plagues were to prove to Pharaoh that Hashem does exist. Moshe told us, that the first plague originated in the water and stayed there. The second originated in the water and moved to land. This third one is totally on land. To show us that Hashem is exists on water and on land. What a great message!

Sincerely yours,

## Plague of lice

Paltiel Reuveni

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11 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

Pharaoh can't take it anymore! He's in so much pain. Today, he called for his magicians to ask them to copy this plague and to end it. He thinks this plague was caused from the contamination of the decomposing frogs in Mitzrayim. He is yet to get the message that it is really from Hashem.

A while later, the magicians came back to him and told him that there is nothing that they can do about this plague. They can't copy it or get rid of it for a few reasons. One, although they have the best powers of magic in the entire world, Aharon's power for this plague is greater than theirs! Their magic can only work if they are working with items that are usually at least the size of a barley or lentil. Since lice are normally smaller than that size, they can't do any magic, even though these lice are so much bigger. They have to follow the normal size. Two, in order to do magic, a magicians feet need to be on the ground. But right now all the land in Mitzrayim is full of lice, so they can't get their feet on the ground. Three, they are too busy scratching themselves. They can't do their magic that way. What a disgrace!

The magicians admitted to Pharaoh that Moshe and Aharon must be greater magicians than them. Actually, I was told that they told Pharaoh that Moshe really wasn't doing magic, rather we must be seeing the Finger of Hashem. The Egyptians finally have realized the existence of Hashem. Just like Moshe told us that this is the end of the set of plagues that are telling the world that Hashem exists. I hope they are getting the message!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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## Plague of lice

12 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

Pharaoh dismissed his magicians today. He told them that he never needs them again since they don't know what they are doing. Pharaoh is acting so stubborn and thinks that since he is in palace with the marble floors, no lice will come to bother him. But they kept going making their way to the palace and bothering him too, maybe now he will let us free.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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14 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

Why is Pharaoh so stubborn? He thinks that since he wasn't warned for this plague, Moshe had not known it was coming. It must have been a work of nature, connected to the idols and stars, not to the God of the Jews.

Pharaoh was lucky that today completes the seventh day of the week long plague and it is finally over. It seems like many people will have these lice stuck on them until they die.

It seems that once Pharaoh saw that the plague wasn't bothering him he harden his own heart and didn't let us to leave yet.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

## Plague of Wild Beasts

15 Tishrei 2448

Paltiel Reuveni  
26-18 Bechor Drive  
Goshen, Mitzrayim

Dear Diary,

Wow! The plague of lice is just barely over, and Moshe already headed to Pharaoh's Palace to warn him of the next plague. It seems like the Egyptians are going to be unsettled once again. I need to find out what the warning is all about. What kind of plague will be coming?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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22 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

The reports are slowly coming to Goshen. Moshe is warning Pharaoh about a plague of wild beasts that are coming. He is warning Pharaoh that if he doesn't let us go, a mix of wild animals, and birds of prey would come and attack him. Even animals which usually stay deep in the forests and are afraid of people, will come and attack him. I wonder if the rumors are true.

As I am thinking of this now, I am remembering all those times that my Egyptian master, Sharek, made me go deep in the forest to find him animals for such dumb reasons. Like that time that he made me hunt a bear so that he can make a fur coat for himself. I nearly got killed and came back with nothing, but broken bones and blood oozing from all over my body from the battle I had with the bear. On a different occasion, he wanted me to go out into the jungle to find a cobra so that he can make a belt for himself. That time, I was in the jungle and I felt pressure on my leg. I looked down to see my foot was surrounded by 3 poisonous snakes, ready to attack me. Luckily, I knew how to get them off. I ran for my life. When I came home without the cobra, Sharek was so

## Plague of Wild Beasts

upset that he whipped me so many times until I wished I didn't get those snakes off of my body. My friends back home, here in Goshen, had similar problems with their masters. Some of my friends sadly never came back home. They weren't as lucky and experienced as me and got killed by the animals in the forests and jungles. I miss them so much. I'm assuming that this is the reason Moshe is warning Pharaoh about a plague of wild beasts. It is as if Hashem is saying, you want wild animals? Here, I'll give you all that you want. I wonder what is going to happen.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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29 Tishrei 2448

Dear Diary,

Moshe has been going to the palace every day for the last 2 weeks to warn Pharaoh of the upcoming plague. There hasn't been any word that Pharaoh changed his mind. Pharaoh is still not giving in. He's so stubborn!!! Moshe told him, that the first three plagues showed Pharaoh that Hashem exists in the world. The next three plagues will prove to Pharaoh and all the Egyptians that Hashem is actually controlling the world, every single detail, every single creature. I am actually getting scared of having these kinds of animals so close by. Why can't he just let us go?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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7 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

My friend, Avishalom, just came back saying that he heard the craziest story while working today.

## Plague of Wild Beasts

Today, Moshe went out early in the morning to the Nile river. No one is allowed to go out so early. But he went. Pharaoh thought he would go extra early to avoid seeing Moshe, but Moshe beat him to it. He got there the same time as Pharaoh. As Pharaoh was taking care of his bodily needs, Moshe told him, "I have a message from Hashem!"

Pharaoh told him, "Leave me alone! Can't you see? I'm busy now! I'm taking care of my bodily needs! Get away from here!"

Moshe asked him, "What kind of bodily needs do gods have? Don't you claim to the Egyptians that you're a god?"

Pharaoh answered, "You know know the truth. It's only the silly Egyptians who believe me. They are a bunch of fools! So now, leave me alone, and let me finish up!"

Moshe told him, "Well, before I leave, let me just give you one final warning. In exactly one day, meaning tomorrow morning, the entire land of Mitzrayim will be flooded with many different kinds of wild animals. No one has ever seen anything like it. You can avoid it by letting the Jewish People leave. This is your last chance. Beginning right now, all the animals are starting to gather together so that they can attack all at one time. Remember, this is your final warning!"

Moshe then left him. As he was using the bathroom, Pharaoh began to feel terrible pain. Rats came and bit him with their sharp teeth into Pharaoh's unclothed body. Pharaoh gave a loud scream, and many people came to see what was happening. When they saw that Pharaoh was taking care of his bodily needs, they were in complete confusion. They couldn't believe their eyes. They thought he was a god. Now they saw the truth. What a humiliation! Pharaoh went back to his palace so upset, he decided that he will for sure not allow the Jewish People go.

Amazing! What a way to start your day. Pharaoh must have had a very hard day after this! Good luck to him tomorrow! I hope those animals don't come after me!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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## Plague of Wild Beasts

8 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

Early this morning, we heard tons of noises. We looked out the window and saw many many different kinds of animals all heading to the palace. Since he was the first one to attack the Jewish People, he is now the first one to get attacked by these animals! He was the first one to throw the Jewish babies into the river, he is the first one to get attacked by this plague. I saw so many kinds of animals marching into Mitzrayim. Lions, bears, leopards, panthers, hyenas, wild goats, foxes and wolves just to mention a few. Even usually calm animals, like pigs, donkeys, oxen, kangaroos and cats came out to attack. We even saw rats, mice, weasels, lizards, turtles, snakes, scorpions, worms and leeches walking on the ground. I then looked up at saw eagles, vultures, ravens, owls, pelicans, ostriches and wild birds coming to snatch the Egyptians. I then noticed so many flies, fleas, mosquitoes, bees, hornets all flying overhead. I even saw the frogs again! It seems like they also want to join the fun. There are so many animals even the sun is being blocked by all these creatures. I feel like it is the middle of the night!

After they finished in Pharaoh's palace they continued to the houses of his servants and then to rest of Mitzrayim. It is as if the whole Mitzrayim is one huge jungle! But around here, in Goshen, there are no animals, not even one! This is really showing Pharaoh that Hashem is controlling the world! The animals are staying only in Mitzrayim, punishing the Egyptians for all they have done to us!

The truth is, I can't sleep. I am so scared that these animals will come to Goshen. But, I don't know what my problem is. Why can't I just trust in Hashem that we will be spared? If He can do all these miracles, then he can save us as well. Moshe promised that the animals will not come here.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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## Plague of Wild Beasts

9 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

Not only don't the animals come to Goshen, they don't start up with us at all. Today, my friend Shlomiél went to take his master's children for a walk. They wanted to go around to see all the different kinds of animals. We never have seen so many different animals. As they were walking in Mitzrayim so pleasantly, a lion ran to them and they began screaming. The lion then went and easily snatched one of the children! They decided to run home. However, as they began to run, a cow came out of nowhere and snatched a second child without hesitation. Shlomiél then continued to run with the rest of the children back home. However, running toward them was a bear. He tried to turn to go a different way, but the bear came and scooped up a child and ran away. The last 2 children were taken away by a leopard and an eagle. He didn't have to run anymore. He was able to walk at a leisurely pace. The animals only bother the Egyptians. Hashem is really taking care of us!

When he came back to his master, the master asked him, where are my children? Shlomiél told him what happened and his master screamed and yelled at him, but was too sad to punish him. He left his master crying and mourning. The snatching of the children reminds me of all the children that the Egyptians snatched away from us and stuck them in the walls when we didn't finish our quota of bricks for the day. It sure serves them right! Maybe now they will begin to feel what we have been going through all these years!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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10 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

Today, after yesterday's story, I went walking in Mitzrayim. What a sight to see! Not only did the animals come, but even the habitat of the animals came! The polar bears

## Plague of Wild Beasts

came with ice and snow all around them walking on ice caps so that they can survive in this hot climate. The giraffes came with their tall trees so that they can get their food. When they walked past each other the habitats merged. It almost looked like the tall trees were growing on the ice caps! You wouldn't believe what it looks like!

The animals came to me and let me pet them. I never felt a lion or a bear before, but they were so playful and they let me pet them and even ride on them. I had such a great time.

While I was playing with the lion, I heard a group of Egyptians children playing with some kukus nuts which they took off from the tall tree which is right near their house. Their mother came up to see what the children were doing and she saw her son standing near the window with part of his body outside while he was reaching for more nuts. As she was standing there, a gorilla came and snatched the child away from the window. The mother, children and victim were all screaming so loud, their voices were heard so far. This remind me of the time that the Egyptians came into our house and took away our children to go work for them and all the screams that they ignored. Now they know what it feels like to be snatched away. This plague serves them right for all that they made us go through. What they did to us, they are getting back in their face!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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12 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

What a sight! Lately, the Egyptians are getting the message. They thought it would help to stay indoors. They thought they were safe. The animals couldn't come in to their houses. But being inside didn't help them. Hashem has a plan for that too. All of the sudden, this huge sea monster came out from the water. It had many arms and each one was about 15 feet long. The huge sea monster came and ripped off the roof of the houses, opened the doors of the Egyptians' houses and let all the animals inside. Meanwhile, the

## Plague of Wild Beasts

snakes and insects, were already digging holes under the houses and came in from underneath. The animals then chased the Egyptians from room to room and attacked the babies in the cribs. It was really a sight to see.

My master has told me that they were not able to sleep since this plague started. The ground is full of snakes and the bees and flies are flying around their ears and keeping them up. What an exciting few days it has been! At least I'm not working at the construction site.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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13 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

It is now 6 days from the start of this plague. The Egyptians have been staying inside their houses, hoping that they will be safe. But for us, we did not have one wild animal in Goshen. This plague really showed Pharaoh and us that Hashem can separate between the Egyptians and the Jewish People.

This afternoon, while playing outside, I overheard a minister from Pharaoh's court who was talking to his friend. The news he said is very exciting! I was so excited, that I ran to tell it to my family. Here is what I heard:

Pharaoh realized that the plague is coming to him because he is not letting the Jewish People leave Mitzrayim. He therefore called Moshe and Aharon and told them that they can go slaughter to their G-d in Mitzrayim. Moshe explains to Pharaoh that this will be impossible, since it is disrespectful if we slaughter the god of the Egyptians in front of them. They might get so angry at us and they might kill us. Rather, we must go on a 3 day journey into the desert, and we will slaughter sacrifices to Hashem our G-d over there. Pharaoh agreed, but told Moshe that he can't leave until he gets rid of these wild animals and that it can be 3 day journey and no more. But then, Pharaoh added in some words. He said, "Please pray for me!" Moshe couldn't believe he heard that!

## Plague of Wild Beasts

Moshe then turned to Pharaoh and told him, "I will pray to Hashem now, and ask Him to remove the wild animals from Mitzrayim tomorrow morning." Just like Pharaoh asked a few months ago, by the plague of the frogs. Moshe then told Pharaoh, "But please don't continue to hold back the nation from going to slaughter to Hashem.

Moshe left the palace of Pharaoh. He came to Goshen, and my friends saw him praying to Hashem to take away this plague.

I began to pack for this 3 day journey! I can't wait to leave this place even for a few days! I am getting excited!

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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14 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

Wow! As fast as they came, that's how fast they are gone! There is not even one animal left in Mitzrayim. Not even one! I remember overhearing two Egyptians talking. They said to each other, "OK. We have to suffer for a week, but after the plague, imagined how much fur we will have. I can't wait until I can open a fur coat store." Ha Ha, the animals didn't just die in Mitzrayim like the frogs did. Rather, they went back to their places. This way, the Egyptians can't receive any pleasure from the plague.

Oh, yes. We are still here in Goshen! After the wild animals left Mitzrayim, Pharaoh hardened his heart and changed his mind and didn't let us leave. However, we are getting closer to redemption. After the plague of lice, Pharaoh admitted that it was the finger of Hashem, now he is even talking about the possibility of going to serve Hashem. Hopefully we will get there soon. Meanwhile, I am going to keep my bags packed.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

## Plague of Wild Beasts

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16 Cheshvan 2448

Dear Diary,

The strangest things have been happening here. I haven't seen an Egyptian here in Goshen in 2 days! They usually come to wake us up before dawn. No one has been coming. We have not been working at the construction sites or by the Egyptian houses. It seems like Pharaoh and the Egyptians realized that they got punished because of the way they treated us for the past 209 years and they got very scared. It really seems like Hashem has now started the redemption in a very subtle way. I hope we get out of here soon! When is Pharaoh going to finally let us go?

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni

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13 Nissan 2448

Paltiel Reuveni  
26-18 Bechor Drive  
Goshen, Mitzrayim

Dear Diary,

Remember that lamb that I wrote about? Remember how I said it was so weird to see the god of the Mitzriyim tied helplessly to my father's bed. Well it just got even more strange. Moshe Rabbenu has instructed us to slaughter the lamb tomorrow in front of the Mitzriyim's faces. After this whole year, this will be a great demonstration to us and the Mitzriyim that their god is worthless.

We are finally getting ready to leave this place. Moshe Rabbenu says that this next Makka will be the final Makka and afterwards Hashem will command us to leave. Looking back I can't believe what has happened here in Mitzrayim. All the Makkot have left the entire country in ruins. Seeing my former masters humiliated with no way to fight back has filled me with a new feeling. It has set me free in a way I could never have imagined. Where I used to fear them I could never think of being afraid of them again. Ha Ha! Those Egyptians look like a laughingstock in front of all the nations of the world. I find myself walking differently. I hold my head high like the prince that Moshe Rabbenu says we are. After watching all the Makkot, I now truly believe Moshe that we are a special people chosen by Hashem, and I am ready to act the part of Hashem's servant.

Sincerely yours,

Paltiel Reuveni