בס"ד

Chabad.ORG

Shabbos Hagadol

Likkutei Sichos Vol 27

With Rabbi Shalom M. Paltiel

Talmud: “Shabbos before Pesach is Shabbos Hagadol - the Great Shabbos; because a great miracle happened that day (which was the 10th of Nissan).”

Alter Rebbe’s Code (from tosfos): “When Jews took the lambs, Egypt’s firstborn asked about it. They explained it was a Passover offering on impending death of Egypt’s firstborn. So Egypt’s firstborn beseeched Egypt to free Jews. When Egypt refused, they waged civil war upon them. As stated: He smites Egypt with its firstborn” (Psalms 136).

Tur’s Code: “The Egyptians watched as Jews took lambs, their deity, to be sacrificed. They gritted their teeth but were unable to say or do anything.

Rebbe's Questions:

1. Why memorialize day of the **week**, rather than day of the **month**, like all holidays? (Miriam's passing is practical reason; there must also be thematic reason.)
2. Why does Alter Rebbe choose Tosfos' approach rather than Tur?
3. How is this a GREAT miracle compared to the plagues?
4. Plus it didn't actually affect Jewish people.

The Two Categories of Miracles:

SUBDUES nature	**TRANSFORMS** nature
Aligns with **month** (Chodesh = renewal)	Aligns with **week**
Lunar cycle - renewel	Solar cycle - consistency

"He smites Egypt with its firstborn" = Miracle **transformed** nature itself!

Not all **miracles** are created equal:

Passover miracle	**Breaks** nature
Chanukah miracle	Acts through nature
Purim	Miracle entirely disguised in nature
Shabbos Hagadol	Nature itself behaves **miraculously**

Shabbos **Hagadol**: The **great** Shabbos

HaShem is great and very praised in the city of our G-d" (Psalms 48:2)

גדול י-ה-ו-ה ומהולל מאד בעיר אלוקינו (תהלים מח:ב)

Zohar: When is He great? When He is "in the city of our G-d

HaShem:
Infinite "miraculous" Name of G-d.

Elokim:
Finite expression of G-d within nature

"**Great**": When the two combine seamlessly!

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְ־ה־וָ־ה אֱלֹקינוּ יְ־ה־וָ־ה אֶחָד׃

Hear Oh Israel, Hashem is Elokeinu,

Hashem is One

ביום ההוא יהיה ה' אחד ושמו אחד

"On that day, HaShem will be one, and

His Name will be one