

Commentaries

Rashi, Shemot 15:20

And Miriam the prophetess took—

Where was it that she prophesied? It was when she was only Aharon's sister before Moshe was born. She then said, "My mother is destined to give birth to a son who will save Israel." Another reason for Aharon's sister, because he put his life in jeopardy for her when she was struck with leprosy.

The Tuf—An instrument for certain kinds of music.

With drums and timbrels—The righteous women of that generation were confident that the Holy One Blessed be He would make for them miracles, so they prepared timbrels and dances.

Shemot Rabba 1,17

"*Achrachel*" (Divrei Hayomim 4,8)—this is Miriam.

Why was she called this? Because "all the women went out after her (*achareha*)."

Talmud, Sotah 11b

Rav Avira expounded: In the merit of the righteous women of that generation, Israel was redeemed from Egypt. When the women would go to draw water, the Holy One, Blessed is He, would prepare small fish for them in their jugs. And when they would draw up the

רש"י על שמות פרק טו פסוק כ

ותקח מרים הנביאה - היכן נתנבאה
כשהיתה אחות אהרן קודם שנולד
משה אמרה עתידה אמי שתלד בן וכו'
כדאיתא בסוטה (דף יב) ד"א אחות
אהרן לפי שמסר נפשו עליה כשנצטרעה
נקראת על שמו :

את התוף - כלי של מיני זמר :

תתופים ובמחולות - מובטחות היו צד'
קניות שבדור שהקדוש ברוך הוא עושה
להם נסים והוציאו תופים ממצרים :

jugs, they would be half full of water and half full of fish. They would come and place two pots on top of the oven, one full of hot water and one full of fish, and they would take them to their husbands in the field.

The women would bathe their husbands and anoint them, feed them and give them drink, and they would then join with them conjugally between the borders of the field.

Yalkut Shimoni, Shemot 165

Miriam—She was called so because in those days the Egyptians began to embitter (mar) the lives of the Jewish people.

Miriam from the root *mari*, rebellion.