

# BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



## Freedom in Quarantine

### DAY 14- TEN PLAGUES



Did Hashem really need to punish the Egyptians with ten makkot? Was sending ten individual plagues really necessary? Couldn't Hashem just directly declare His dominance in some other way?

There is an important principle in writing called: "show me, don't tell me." A great author does not need to tell you whether a character is happy or sad or embarrassed. You just know from the dialogue and scenery what they're feeling.

The prolific F. Scott Fitzgerald emphasized this point when he said that using an exclamation point in a sentence is like laughing at your own joke. **Show me, don't tell me.**

The best way to understand is through an immersive experience. Describing something as "very serious" is not as effective as living the message directly. The best way to teach character traits is not by telling others about them, but by showing them. This, after all, is how we build relationships and credibility. Real relationships emerge from experience. It is not enough to express our love, our commitment, or our leadership; this needs to be demonstrated.

Perhaps this is the core reason for the plagues as well. Through the ten plagues God demonstrated that He controls the world. **He didn't just tell the Egyptians. He showed them.**

For many of us, coronavirus is the closest personal experience we have had to the ten plagues performed in Egypt. It is a plague that is not only impacting the world's day to day living experiences, but is unfortunately causing illness and death as well. Do you remember how you felt when you heard about the coronavirus in China? Was it similar or different to the way it felt to hear about your school or shul closing down?



This is the reason we place such an emphasis during the seder on reliving the experience of leaving Egypt. **God revealed Himself to the world experientially--He didn't just tell us, He showed us. At the seder we do the same; we don't just profess our commitment, we experience it.**

Join the Conversation

What shtick do you use to act out the ten plagues at your seder?

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