

וְיָבִיאוּ אִתָּם מִן־הַדֶּשֶׁת מִיָּבֵשׁ מִיִּזְרַיִם עָשָׂה עָשָׂה לְפָנָיו

Who is this coming up from the desert, like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, of all the powder of the peddler??
(Shir Hashirim 3:6)

Did Hashem bring them up from the dessert? Was it not from Mitzrayim, as the pasuk states (Shemos 3:17), “I will bring you up from the poverty of Egypt? Rather [this teaches us] regarding the endearment of Klal Yisroel to Hashem, who are dear to Him as something one found in the dessert. Similarly, the pasuk (Devarim 32:10) states, “He will find Him in a dessert land” and (Hoshea 9:10) “As grapes in a dessert I found Klal Yisroel.” (Medrash Lekach Tov)

Hashem turned over the natural order of the entire world to an extent never seen in history to redeem his children from *Mitzrayim* with the most wondrous of miracles. Yet, out of His great love for us, He says to us: ***Who is this who comes up from the dessert***, as if He is a lucky groom who came upon the most wonderful bride without any personal investment to attain her or for her to have to be indebted to him!

Similarly, how does Hashem describe His great kindness of redeeming us from the torture of our slavery in Egypt through the greatest miracles the world has ever seen, leading us to the Promised Land with the protection of the *Ananei HaKavod*, and providing our every need miraculously for forty years?: *Go and call out in the ears of Yerushalayim, saying: so said Hashem: I remember to you the lovingkindness of your youth, the love of your nuptials, your following Me in the desert, in a land not sown. (Yirmiyahu 2:2)*

His palate is sweet, and He is altogether desirable; this is my Beloved, and this is my Friend! (Shir HaShirim 5:16)

