

Chapter 11

The Dove Fleeing in the Rock

Exod 14:13 (Beshalach)

MRI

ed. Lauterbach, ch. 3, 140–41

ed. H.-R., ch. 2, 94

MRS

ed. E.-M., 54–55

transl. Nelson, 97–98

1. Translation

MRI	MRS
1 <i>Stand by, and witness the deliverance which the Lord will work for you today</i> (Exod 14:13).	<i>Stand by, and witness</i> (Exod 14:13).
2 They asked him: When?	
3 [He said] to them:	
4 Today the holy spirit will be sent ⁴³⁸ over you.	
5 And there is no ‘standing’ anywhere, but the holy spirit.	There is no ‘standing’ anywhere, but the holy spirit.
6 As it is said: <i>I saw my Lord standing by the altar</i> (Amos 9:1).	As it is said: <i>Call Joshua and go stand (in the Tent of Meeting)</i> (Deut 31:14).
7 <i>The Lord came, and stood there</i> (1 Sam 3:10).	And it is said: <i>The Lord came, and stood there</i> (1 Sam 3:10).
8 <i>Call Joshua and go stand (in the Tent of Meeting)</i> (Deut 31:14).	And it is said: <i>and take them to the Tent of Meeting and let them stand there</i> (Num 11:17).
9 [<i>And his sister went to stand at a distance</i> (Exod 2:4)] ⁴³⁹ .	And it is said: <i>And the Lord was standing beside him</i> (Gen 28:13).
10	And it is said: <i>I saw my Lord standing</i> (Amos 9:1).
11 To what⁴⁴⁰ were Israel similar in that moment?	To what were Israel similar in that moment?

⁴³⁸ So O; the other witnesses have ‘rests upon you’.

⁴³⁹ Not in O, but present in the other textual witnesses.

⁴⁴⁰ O has a redundant word here which I did not translate, and it seems to have mixed up the word order. I follow the other versions here: see ‘Versions’.

MRI	MRS
12 To a dove that fled from before a hawk,	To a dove that flew off ⁴⁴¹ from before a hawk.
13 and entered in the cleft of a rock,	She entered a cave into the cleft of a rock,
14 and a snake was hissing at her.	and a rolled-up snake was inside for her.
15 If she enters inside,	To enter inside, she could not
16 [see, there is the snake.] ⁴⁴²	because of the snake.
17 And when she goes outside,	To go outside she could not,
18 see the hawk is there to fetch her.	because of the hawk.
19	So she was crying and clapping her wings,
	so that the dove-cote's owner would hear and
	come.
20 So were Israel in that moment:	So as soon as Israel saw
21 The sea closing (them) in and the enemy pursuing (them).	the sea closing (them) in and the enemy pursuing (them),
22 [Immediately] ⁴⁴³ they set their eyes in prayer.	they raised their eyes in prayer.
23 About them it is explained in the traditional writings (<i>kabbalah</i>):	About them it is explained in the traditional writings (<i>kabbalah</i>):
24 <i>O my dove, in the cranny of the rocks</i> (Song 2:14).	<i>O my dove, in the cranny of the rocks</i> (Song 2:14)
25	<i>for your voice is sweet</i> (Song 2:14 cont.) – in prayer
26	<i>and your face is comely</i> (Song 2:14 cont.) – in deeds.

2. Textual witnesses

2.1. MRI

T-S C4.10b (G2) ⁴⁴⁴	Mosseri VI 172, 1a (G4) ⁴⁴⁵	Constantinople 1515 (EP)	Ms Munich (M)	Ms Vatican (V)	Ms Oxford (O)	
התיצבו וראו גו'	התיצבו וכו'	התיצבו וראו וגו'	התיצבו וראו וגו'	התיצבו וראו וגו'	התיצבו וראו את ישועת יי	1
אמ' לו אמיתי		אמרו לו ישראל אימתי	אמרו לו אימתי	אמרו לו אימתי	אמ' לו אמיתי	2
[...]	אמר להם	אמר להם משה	אמ' להן	אמ' להן	[אמ'] להם	3

⁴⁴¹ So Ms Firkovich. The other manuscript witness of MRS has 'that fled', as in MRI. See 'Versions'.

⁴⁴² Not in O, but present in the other textual witnesses.

⁴⁴³ Not in O, but present in the other textual witnesses.

⁴⁴⁴ Cf. Kahana, *Genizah Fragments*, 44; Kahana, *Catalogue*, 44.

⁴⁴⁵ Cf. Kahana, *Genizah Fragments*, 46; Kahana, *Catalogue*, 46. This fragment is from the Mosseri collection, and is currently kept in the Cambridge University Library. I am grateful to Ben Outwaite for letting me study this as yet unpreserved fragment.