

associated with judges and rulers,¹ and so this image might connect the miraculous moment at the Sea to the theme of God's judgement that is woven throughout the Exodus telling.

Meanwhile, Serah bat Asher's metaphor evokes movement and a kind of "door" that opened either into the Sea or to the dry area where the Israelites were walking. Pivot doors were common in Egypt² and were also symbolic of passing through various realms. As such it is a particularly fitting image for the Israelites' movement from slavery to freedom.

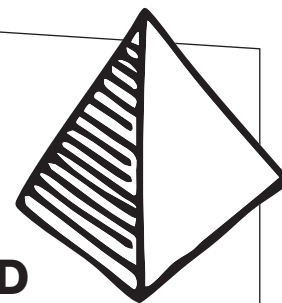
Both metaphors give us a chance to focus on different details, imagine the reality in higher definition, and get inside the experience of the Exodus.

In light of the insights from this *midrash*, we are excited to share with you an activity to enrich your Seder conversations. Use the prompts below to have your own "R. Yohanan and Serah" conversation!

1 The same word is used to describe the screens set up in front of judges; see, e.g., Bereishit Rabbah 78:8.

2 "An Early Egyptian Door-Socket." *Museum Bulletin* V, no.1 (January, 1934), pp. 9-13, <https://www.penn.museum/sites/bulletin/1315/>.

METAPHORS OUT OF MITZRAYIM: ACTIVITY AND CONVERSATION GUIDE



Choose a moment during the Seder that discusses a key aspect of the Exodus story, then offer the prompt:

What was it like to...

[describe the moment, e.g., carry *matzah* on our backs, mark the doorpost, eat the bitter herbs...]?



One participant responds with a metaphor of their choosing:

It was like...

[insert metaphor].



The next person says:

I was there, and it wasn't like

[repeat what last person said];

it was like...

[insert new metaphor].



Continue like this around the whole table.

Afterward, invite participants to turn and discuss:

- Why did you choose this particular metaphor?
- How did this activity make you think about the story and the experience differently?