

“As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die

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in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'"

Exodus 14:10-12 NLT

lectio // Exodus 14:10-31

Oh those Israelites! They had a happy miserable life being slaves for four hundred years. They were content just to exist in captivity, like a beautiful snow leopard that is wild and meant to be free, but now paces in a cage and snarls at guests for a living. They had been slaves longer than they could remember. Their great, great, great, great grandparents only had stories of serving the great leaders of Egypt. Each successive Pharaoh just expected to breed humans, like animals to accomplish their dreams. And then one day, ONE DAY, royalty finds a baby and has compassion. The Jewish people were correct in their dark humor, “Weren't there enough graves in Egypt?” Physically, yes, but spiritually... NO. The Pharaoh's saw no value, no worth in a slave, other than the person's ability to build. But God was done with tyranny, and wanted his people to get on with the story, the story that answered their question - WHY? Because when you are owned by someone or something you are it's slave, and you don't know what freedom even looks like. Is it better to be a slave than a corpse? Not if this world is all that exists, but if there is more, than death is far more acceptable over slavery.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

The complainers have a valid point. Would I choose slavery over death? Even more so, would I choose slavery over a life of FAITH? Is it easier just to exist in a subpar condition because it, at least, is known. Faith takes the risk of venturing into the unknown, the “lack of control” in a completely different way. Faith takes DEEP trust in someone or something that is beyond yourself. It may feel a lot like slavery if I do not love or believe in the master. I believe in you. I know this is a journey of faith, of freedom. Many times I have felt just as much fear going forward as I did staying put.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root