

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah # 16: Beshalach “When he sent”

Shemot/Exodus 13:1-17:16

Rabbi Yehudah “Tochukwu” ben Shomeyr

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. Exd. 13:19

Igbo’s livening in the diaspora has his/her body sent home to be buried in Igboland. The Igbo community in the diaspora in which he lives contributes financially in order to ship his body home. This is reminiscent of Jacob and Joseph requesting not to be buried in a pagan land and making their children take an oath to insure that they are buried in the Promised Land (Gen. 47:29-30, 50:4-6, 12-12, 25-26, Exd. 13:19, Jasher 80:62-63).

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea... And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. Exd. 15:1, 20-21

Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying... Judg. 5:1

Music and song in the face of victory is something Igbos share with Israel; for Igbo warriors sung songs of victory as an offering of worship and thanks to Chukwu Abiama (The God of Abraham) after a successful battle.

SHABBAT SHALOM! IGBO KWENU!

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