

The Different Names of Moses:

On the verse: "וַיִּקְרָא שְׂמֵהּ מֹשֶׁה" (Exodus, Ch. 2, v. 10): "And she (Pharaoh's daughter) called his name Moses, and she said: because I drew him out of the water", the commentary "Mey'am Lo'ez" says the following:

Our sages tell us that Moses had many names.

① His father, Amram, called him חֵוֶר, Hever, since it was because of Moses that he, Amram, got together with his wife again after he had separated from her because of Pharaoh's evil decree.

In addition, this name is appropriate also since, through Moses, Bnei Yisroel formed a bond with their Father in Heaven.

② His mother, Yocheved, called him יְעֻקֵּיֵל, Yekutiel (from the Hebrew root יָקַו, hope). She said, I had hope (faith) in Hashem, and He brought me back to my husband and Moses was born. Furthermore, he renewed the hope in the Jewish people.

③ His sister, Miriam, called him יֶרֶד (יָרַד), meaning to go down). Since, because of Moses, she went down to the river after their mother placed him in the basket, to see what would happen to him. This name is suitable, moreover, since it was Moses who brought down the Torah to the Jewish people from the heavens.

- (3) As well, the maama came down to feed Bnai Yisroel, thru his merit.
- (4) His brother, Aharon, called him אֲבִי זַנַּח (Ari Zannach) (lit., my father, abandoned) since his father "forgot" his mother (separated from her to prevent further births because of Pharaoh's evil decree). But he came back and took her again in order that Moses should be born. And, furthermore, the name is suitable for two reasons:
- (i) He made the Jewish people abandon idol worship
 - (ii) Due to his prayers, he made Hashem "forget" about Israel's sins.
- (5) His governess (!) called him אֲבִי שׁוֹחַ (Ari Socho, from the root to see, to foresee) since he will be the forerunner of all of the prophets of Israel. Even though his mother nursed him (for 2 years, after his being found by Pharaoh's daughter), they took a "nanny" for him.
- (6) His grandfather, Kehat, ~~the~~ ~~is~~ called him אֲבִי גֵדֵר (Avigdor, from the root: to put a fence ~~is~~ around) since, thru Moses' merit, Hashem fenced (i.e. put a stop to) Pharaoh's evil decree. ~~Since~~ After Moses' birth, no more children were thrown into the river.

7) Bnei Yisroel called him Shema'ya ben Netanel (שֵׁמַע'יָ בֶן־נְתַנְיֵאל), from the root to hear (Shema). This was because, in Moses' day, Hashem listened to our agonies.

From all these names, the only one he is known by is that given to him by צִיפּוֹרָה בַּת־פַּרְעֹה, Pharaoh's daughter. And not a single one of these names is written in the Torah. And Hashem himself ~~is~~ only called Moses by that name - the one Pharaoh's daughter gave him. This shows the special merit she has in Hashem's eyes, to the extent that she is sometimes considered his mother.

From this we learn that everyone who brings up an orphan in the proper way is considered as if he himself had given birth to him. So indeed spoke Hashem to Pharaoh's daughter:

= Even tho' he wasn't your son, you acted towards him as if he were. Therefore, I will call you Batya בַּת־יָצָא, i.e.

Bat - ya : ~~daughter~~ God's daughter.

And she entered Gan Eden alive - and we know that anyone who saves even a single life from Bnei Yisroel is credited with saving the whole world - and Hashem seeks ways to reward him accordingly.