

## **"And I will bring you out from under the burdens of Egypt, and I will save you from their bondage." (6:6)**

It would seem that this *posuk* is repetitive, because if the Jewish people are taken out from under the burdens of Egypt, undoubtedly they are saved from their bondage. *The Kotzker Rebbe Zt"l* suggests that there are two necessary stages to complete liberation. First, the slave must be physically set free, then his slave mentality must be cast off. One who is freed physically but still is mentally subservient, is in reality, not actually free. The word "burdens" may be derived from the word "acceptance or tolerance" which generally means acceptance or tolerance. During their stay in Egypt, the *Bnei Yisroel* had gradually accepted the Egyptian lifestyle. That which was considered an abomination by *Torah* standards had now become tolerable. Repulsion progressively gave way to indifference and ultimately to acquiescence and acceptance. Hashem told Moshe that He would redeem the *Bnei Yisroel* not only from their physical affliction, but also from their mental and spiritual bondage. Not only would the Jew be taken out of Egypt, but Egypt would be taken out from the Jew. True freedom does not merely mean liberation from physical servitude to a given master, but the ability to choose and make proper decisions that are not influenced by contemporary values and ways of life which are products of an environment alien to *Torah* ethics. This dual liberation is the essence of freedom.