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Zohar Chadash Parshas Noach 28b

Rebbe Opened the discourse:

"And God smelled the aroma of the sacrifice and exclaimed "I will no longer curse the ground because of mankind" Gen. 8 21

When Noah exited the ark, he opened his eyes and saw the whole world destroyed And began to cry.

He exclaimed, "Master of the Universe ! If (you did this) because of man's sin (sinning nature) or because of fools will you destroy the world? Then why did you create it in the first place?

He brought sacrifices and prayed and the aroma ascended and God assumed responsibility never to destroy the world again.

On further reflection it is the cry and protest that explains the gap in the biblical text between the the exit from the ark, the sacrifice and the oath never to destroy the world again.

The Midrash inserts the dialogue that triggered God's empathy with the destruction and commitment to never destroy the world again.

However what is also implied is the fact that to took Noah's cry to melt God's heart and compassionately commit to a new covenant signed with the rainbow.

This cry reverberated from one of the world to the other and was followed by the plea in hereunto in the sacrifices, maybe the Lord will be pleased by my offering and my tears? The offering were the very tears.

His tears flowed into an ocean of tears that the Vurke Rebbe stared at¹ this ocean of suffering that humanity continues to endure.

Exiting the ark he sees only destruction. Does God not see it? Did it require the supplication and tears of Noah to finally melt God's heart?

In another Zohar God rebukes Noah, "stupid shepherd, why did you not cry before the flood? You may have averted the very destruction with those tears!"

In this darker midrash, God actually blames the Tzaddik for not worrying enough about the world ahead of the destruction.

We too are crying.
We awoke from the European destruction and a bathed in tears.
We have not recovered.
Not merely about numbers.
What hurts most are the children,
Their voices from the Beis Medrash gone
Their hopes and dreams
Reverberate in our souls
We are the survivors of a world that burned them
We are unwitting complicit partners
Living as if...
It never happened
But it did
And we are
And Noah's cry reverberates too.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIBBJo0Op0k>