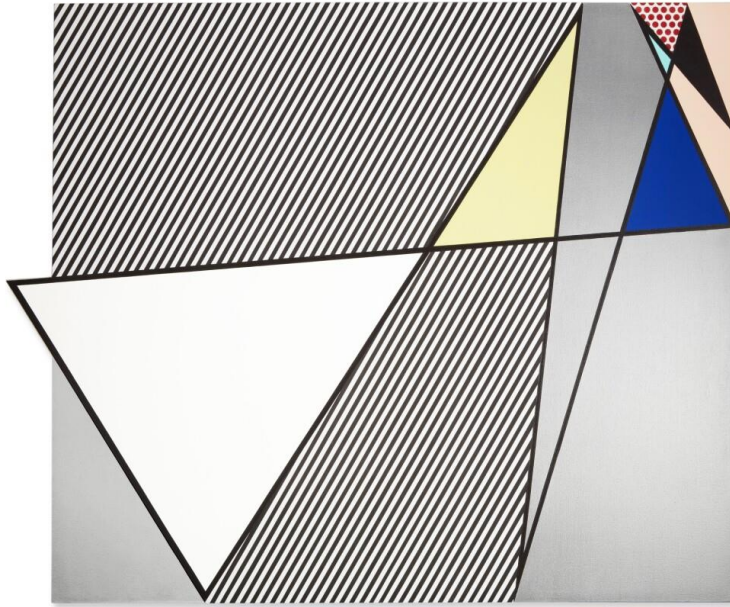


PARSHAT NOACH
GENESIS 6:9-11:32
2 CHESHVAN 5783/27 OCTOBER 2022



Imperfect Painting
Oil and Magna on canvass by Roy Lichtenstein (1986)

THE SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION

1. Noah was a righteous person. He was *tamim* in his age. (Genesis 6:9)

There are those among our Rabbis who expound this word as praise....And there are those who expound it as deprecation. (Rashi)

2. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate....The alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot....Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness....First of all, we had to quit playing God. (*Big Book*, Alcoholics Anonymous)
3. The spirituality of imperfection begins with the recognition that trying to be perfect is the most tragic human mistake....It is only by ceasing to play God, by coming to terms with errors and shortcomings, and by accepting the inability to control every aspect of their lives that alcoholics (or any human beings) can find the peace and serenity that alcohol (or other drugs, or sex, money, material possessions, power, or privilege promise but never deliver. (*The Spirituality of Imperfection*, Ernest Kurt and Katherine Ketham)

4. The very purpose of Creation was that all would be compelled to ask, “Who created all these?” – that all would know clearly that a supreme force, in its goodness, is sovereign of the world, and none would make a claim to autonomous power. To that end, God planted in each entity some lack, a fissure in its being, making them all incomplete. (Rabbi Ya’akov of Izbica-Radzyn)

5. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא נַפְשׁוֹת רַבּוֹת וְחֶסְרוֹנָן עַל כָּל מַה שֶּׁבָּרָאתָ לְהַחַיּוֹת
בָּהֶם נַפְשׁ כָּל חַי בָּרוּךְ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים

Baruch atah ado-nai elo-hai-nu melech haolam borei nefashot rabot v'chesronan al kol ma she'barata l'hachayot bahem nefesh kol chai baruch chei ha'olamim.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of numerous living beings and their needs, for all the things You have created with which to sustain the soul of every living being. Blessed is the One who is the Life of the worlds.

6. Everything with a soul is in need. And that is a good thing. (Based on Chofetz Chaim)
7. We must find some spiritual basis for living, else we die. (Bill Wilson)