

PARSHAT TZAV  
LEVITICUS 6:1-8:36  
HAFTARAH MALACHI 3:4-24  
8 NISAN 5783/30 MARCH 2023



*Fire Within*  
Acrylic on canvass by Osnat Tzadok

WHERE THE APPARENT GIVES WAY TO THE HIDDEN

1. As a spiritual person but especially as an artist – flow is my motto. Flow is the art of letting things happen; it is where the subconscious is leading the conscious, and where the apparent is giving way to the hidden.
2. וְהָאֵשׁ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ (Leviticus 6:2). וְהָאֵשׁ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ...(Leviticus 6:5).  
The Jewish Publication Society translates these verses respectively as: “...the fire *on* the altar burns on it” and “...the fire *on* the altar.” Most of the other English translations of the Bible we consulted offer similar translations with the exception of the Authorized King James version, which in this case is truer to the Hebrew original in that it distinguishes clearly between the fire burning *on* the altar (*al ha-mizbe’ach*) and the fire burning *in* it (*tukad bo*), or if you wish, in him, namely in the officiating priest. It is not enough to have a fire burning on the altar, says the Chassidic interpretation pointedly, emphasizing that there must also be a “perpetual fire” of enthusiasm within us when we truly worship God. (Rabbi Pinchas Peli)
3. In the soul of everyone there lies a hidden point that is aflame with the love of God, a fire that cannot be put out. Even though “it may not go out” (Leviticus 6:6) here refers to a prohibition, it is also a promise. We also read: “The priest shall burn wood upon it each morning.” Everyone who worships God may be called a priest, and this arousal of love is the Service of the Heart, that which takes the place of sacrificial offerings. (Sefat Emet)

4. Instead of reading the phrase **לֹא תִכְבֵּה** (Leviticus 6:6) as “it shall not be put out,” we can read it as “it will put out the ‘not.’” The spark burning within the recesses of the heart if it is fed with the fuel of love will burn continually. The fire of love extinguishes the negative. (Maggid of Mezeritch)

5. The soul of a person is God’s candle (Proverbs 20:27)

There is a candle in your heart  
ready to be kindled.

There is a void in your soul  
ready to be filled.

You feel it, don’t you?

You feel the separation  
from the Beloved.

Invite Him to fill you up,  
embrace the fire.

(Rumi)