

PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT-KEDOSHIM  
LEVITICUS 16:1-20:27  
HAFTARAH AMOS 9:7-15  
6 IYAR 5783/27 APRIL 2023



*Bohemia Lies by the Sea*

Oil, emulsion, shellac, charcoal and paint on burlap by Anselm Kiefer

## THE HOLINESS OF BEING UNDERWAY

1. If Bohemia still lies by the sea, I'll believe in the sea again.  
And believing in the sea, thus I can hope for land.

....

I still border on a word and on another land,  
I border, like little else, on everything and more,

a Bohemian, a wandering minstrel, who has nothing, who  
is held by nothing, gifted only at seeing, by a doubtful sea,  
the land of my choice.

(Excerpts from "Bohemia Lies by the Sea" by Ingeborg Bachmann)

2. But perhaps God needs the longing, wherever else  
should it dwell,  
Which with kisses and tears and sighs fills  
mysterious spaces of air –  
And perhaps is invisible soil from which roots of  
stars grow and swell –  
And the radiant voice across fields of parting  
which calls to reunion there?  
O my beloved, perhaps in the sky of longing  
worlds have been born of our love –  
Just as our breathing, in and out, builds a cradle for  
life and death?  
We are grains of sand, dark with farewell, lost in

births' secret treasure trove  
Around us already perhaps future moons, suns and  
stars blaze in a fiery wreath.

(“But Perhaps God Needs the Longing” by Nelly Sachs)

3. “Underway” - A ship moving freely through the water as opposed to being anchored, moored, or aground (Oxford English Dictionary)
4. Longing is an expression of being-under-way. (Johannes Anderegg, “Nelly Sachs: The Poem and Transformation”)
5. Art is longing. You never arrive, but you keep going in the hope that you will. (Anselm Kiefer)
6. God spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron when they drew close to God and they died. (Leviticus 16:1) (Followed by details for Yom Kippur ritual.)
7. Against your will you live. (Pirkei Avot 4:22)
8. Rabbi Yehoshua says: The Holy Blessed One said to Moses, “All that Israel has to do is to go forward.” (Midrash Mechilta)