

PARSHAT SHEMINI  
LEVITICUS 9:1-11:47  
HAFTARAH II SAMUEL 6:1-7:17  
22 NISAN 5783/13 APRIL 2023



*The Enigma of a Day*  
Oil on canvass by Giorgio de Chirico

### GIVE THANKS FOR STRANGENESS

1. “What is especially needed is great sensitivity: to look upon everything in the world as an enigma....To live in the world as in an immense museum of strange things.” (Giorgio de Chirico)
2. Nadav and Abihu offered strange fire before Adonai...and fire came forth from Adonai and consumed them. (Leviticus 10:1-2)
3. I who was there still do not understand. (Elie Wiesel)
4. I will sing of God’s steadfast love forever; to all generations I will proclaim Your faithfulness with my mouth. I declare, “Your steadfast love is confirmed forever; there in the heavens You establish Your faithfulness.”  
....

You have rejected, spurned, and become enraged at Your anointed. You have repudiated the covenant with Your servant; You have dragged his dignity in the dust. (Psalm 89: 2-3, 38-40)

5. Jewish ways of reading yield fragments. The God of this tradition leaves traces....This is a text and a God and a people and a reading habit that give their due to fissure....The rich textual witness to that dislocation [exile] is sufficient evidence that Israel did not know what to say, any more than we do in our moment of fissure. As a consequence of not knowing, Israel said many things.” (Walter Brueggemann, “A Fissure Always Uncontained”)