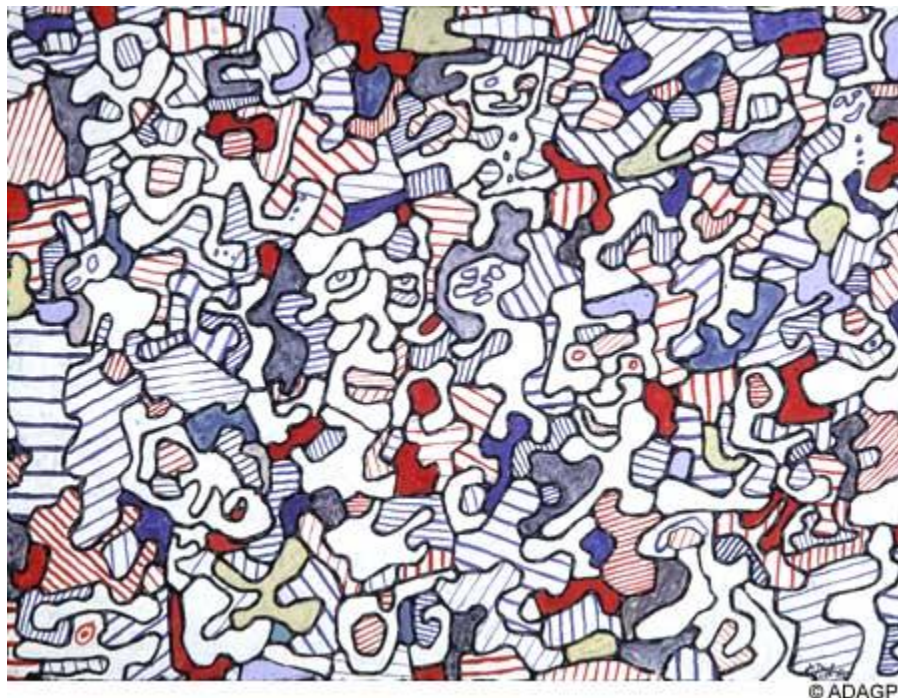


PARSHAT BO
EXODUS 10:1-13:16
HAFTARAH JEREMIAH 46:13-28
4 SHEVAT 5783/26 JANUARY 2023



Comings and Goings
Painting by Jean Dubuffet

COMINGS AND GOINGS:
THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF TORAH

1. וַיֹּאמֶר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בֹּא אֶל־פַּרְעֹה (Exodus 10:1)

Why does it say, “Come to Pharaoh”? It should have said, “Go to Pharaoh.” God brought Moses into a chamber within a chamber, to the supernal and mighty serpent from which many levels evolve which Moses feared to approach himself... When the blessed Holy One saw that Moses was afraid, the blessed Holy One waged war against him [Pharaoh]. (Zohar 2:34a)

2. בוא - to come in, enter (the ark; Lot's home; Abraham enters Egypt)

אצא - to come out, go out (exit the ark)

הלך - to go forth, proceed, move

3. “None of you shall go outside (תצא) the door of your house until morning.” (Exodus 12:22)

[Pharaoh] summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, “Arise, go out (אצא) from among my people, you and the Israelites with you!” (Exodus 12:31)

“Go (לכו), worship Adonai as you said...and begone (לכו)!” (Exodus 12:31-32)

4. “In you must go.”
“What’s in there?”

“Only what you take with you.”

(Yoda and Luke at the Dagobah cave, *The Empire Strikes Back*)

5. Searching out the underground was what Dubuffet relished in, he loved uncovering what was beneath the surface. As the artist wrote in 1967: “Our culture is like a garment that does not fit us, or in any case no longer fits us. This culture is like a dead language that no longer has anything in common with the language of the street. It is increasingly alien to our lives.” (Nadja Sayej, Forbes 01/04/21)

“The real function of art is to change mental patterns, making new thought possible.” (Jean Dubuffet)

6. “Dubuffet marveled at the fabric of everyday life, he was an alchemist experimenting with dust and dirt, conjuring up visual gold.” (Jane Alison, Head of Visual Arts, Barbican Centre).