

PARSHAT HA'AZINU
DEUTERONOMY 32:1-32:52
HAFTARAH HOSEA 14:2-10, MICAH 7:18-20
6 TISHREI 5784/21 SEPTEMBER 2023



Still Life with Violin and Pitcher
Oil on canvass by Georges Braque

THE POWER TO SHATTER,
THE POWER TO HEAL

1. The Rock! God's deeds are complete (*tamim*). (Deuteronomy 32:4)
2. Behold! My word is like fire, like a hammer that shatters rock. (Jeremiah 23:29)
3. "Listen, O heavens, and I shall speak" (Deuteronomy 32:1). This refers to the Ten Commandments. "Let earth hear the words of My mouth" (Deuteronomy 32:1). This refers to the ten utterances of Creation. That is oral Torah. God gave the Torah so that Israel would repair all that had been created by the ten utterances. Torah is thus a commentary or interpretation of Creation itself. (Sefat Emet)

4. Art is a wound transformed into light. (Georges Braque)
5. “Listen, O heavens.” Because Moses was close to the heavens, he said “*Listen*, O heavens.” And because he was far from the earth, he said “and *hear*, O earth, the words of my mouth.” Isaiah came and followed suit, saying “*Hear*, O heavens, and *listen* earth,” (Isaiah 1:2), being far from the heavens and close to the earth. (Sifrei Devarim 306)
6. That is why this Ha’azinu *shirah* was sung by Moses and Joshua together, joining the written Torah to the oral Torah. It says: “May my teaching drop as rain” (Deuteronomy 32:2); for the purpose of Torah is to bring forth into reality all that which God has hidden in the world, just as the rain brings the fruit of the soil forth from the earth. (Sefat Emet)