

PARSHAT LECH LECHA
GENESIS 12:1-17:27
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 40:27-41:16
11 CHESHVAN 5784/26 OCTOBER 2023



Around the Circle

Oil and enamel on canvass by Vasily Kandinsky

A PLACE OF INFINITE DESIRE

1. God said to Abram, “לך לך...” (Genesis 12:1)

“for your benefit and for your good ...” (Rashi)

Once the blessed Holy One saw his arousal and desire, God immediately revealed Godself to him, saying: “Go to yourself, know yourself, to refine yourself, to perfect your rung.” (Zohar)

2. “...from your native land and from your father’s house...” (Genesis 12:1)

“from your native land...” In other words, get away from your old habits. (Mei HaShiloach)

“from your father’s house...” In other words, do not look at the way things seem at first glance but rather to the root of the matter. (Mei HaShiloach)

3. “It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.” (Pablo Picasso)
4. “One suspends what one knows so that one might discover what one could not see before.” (Edmund Husserl)

5. "...to the land that I show you," where I shall make you visible, where your potential being will be realized in multiform and unpredictable ways. (Sefar Emet)
6. "...to the land which I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)

Abraham desired to know the place where his life essence was intensely joined to God, and how far it reached. "To the land which I will show you" means that your intense union will be in a place called "which I will show you." For God has no end, and will always increase the lights of the blessed Infinite more and more for you, and this you will find in the land of Israel. (Mei HaShiloach)

7. The artist should be blind to the importance of recognition or non-recognition and deaf to the teachings and demands of the time. His eye should be directed to his inner life and his ear should harken to the words of the inner necessity. (Vasily Kandinsky)
8. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his sons Abram, and they set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans for the land of Canaan; but when they had come as far as Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah came to 205 years; and Terah died in Haran. (Genesis 11:31-32)