

PARSHAT TOLDOT
GENESIS 25:19-28:9
HAFTARAH MALACHI 1:1-2:7
3 KISLEV 5784/16 NOVEMBER 2023



The Supper at Emmaus
Oil on canvass by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

TO BE PRESENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUESTION

1. לָמָּה זֶה אֲנִי (Genesis 25:22)

“Why is it that I am...?” “Why is there an ‘I’?”

2. She went to inquire of God. (Genesis 25:22)

3. רבקה

מַרְבֵּק - stall (where a calve is fed)

קָרַב - to approach; קִרְבָּה - an approach; קֶרֶב - inward part, midst

4. “Anochi Adonai Eloheicha (I am Adonai your God)” [Exodus 20:2]. The word *Ani* is not used, but rather *Anochi*. Had it been written “*Ani*,” the meaning would have been that the Holy Blessed One had revealed God’s light to Israel in all its completeness, and then they could not have reached deeply into God’s words, for God would have already revealed everything. The additional letter *caf* in “*Anochi*” (אֲנִי, אֲנִי) teaches that it is not in a state of completeness, but an imagined image of the light that the Holy Blessed One would reveal in the future. (Mei HaShiloach)

5. לָמָּה זֶה אֲנִי

“Why am I the site of an unfolding divine story?”

“Why, I am the site of an unfolding divine story.”

6. In the weed of summer comes this green sprout why...

Peter the voyant says, “Mother, what is that” –

The object that rises with so much rhetoric,

But not for him...

His question is complete because it contains

His utmost statement. It is his own array,

His own pageant and procession and display...

~ Wallace Stevens, “Questions Are Remarks”

7. We do not need an answer to our question. To be present in the middle of the question is itself complete. (Taigen Dan Leighton)