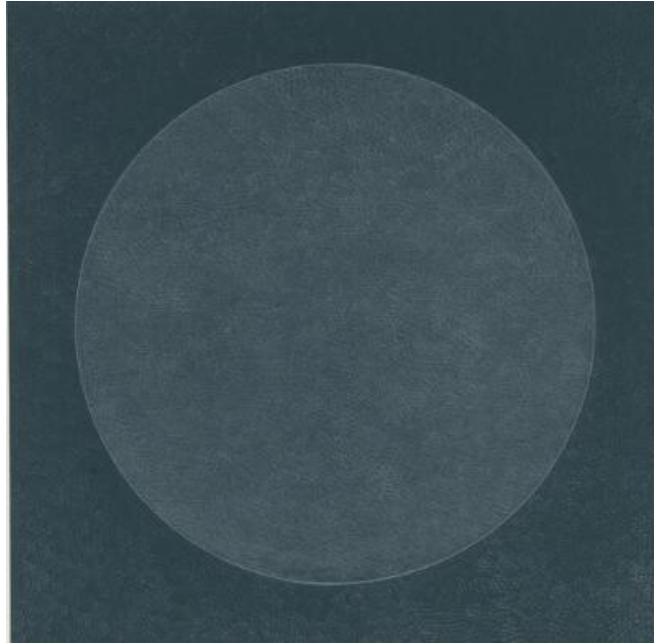


PARSHAT VAETCHANAN
DEUTERONOMY 3:23-7:11
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 40:1-26
SHABBAT NACHAMU
10 AV 5783/27 JULY 2023



#5 (*The Negative Way*)
Lithograph by Paul Brach

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

1. It has been clearly demonstrated to you that Yud-Hei-Vav-Hei is God. There is none beside Him (*ein od milvado*). (Deuteronomy 4:35)

Know therefore this day and keep in your heart that Yud-Hei-Vav-Hei is God in the heavens above and the earth below. There is none else (*ein od*). (Deuteronomy 4:39)

2. Do not follow other gods...consign their images to the fire. (Deuteronomy 6:14, 7:5)
3. It is a great achievement to make something out of Nothing; even greater is to make Nothing out of something. The goal of a spiritual life is to rearrange *ani* ("I"), spelled *alef-nun-yud* into *ayin* (nothing), spelled *alef-yud-nun*. For the ego to dissolve into the undifferentiated Nothing.
4. Wisdom comes forth from nothing (*ayin*). (Job 28:12)

5. גולה – person who is an exile
גלות – exile

גאולה - redemption; restoration

6. שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד (Deuteronomy 6:4)

7. “What our work suggests is that nothing is also something you can hear.” (Rui Zhe Goh, lead author of “The Perception of Silence,” published with NIH July 18, 2023).

Our results suggest that silence is truly heard, not merely heard, introducing a general approach for studying the perception of absence. (From the abstract to “The Perception of Silence”)