

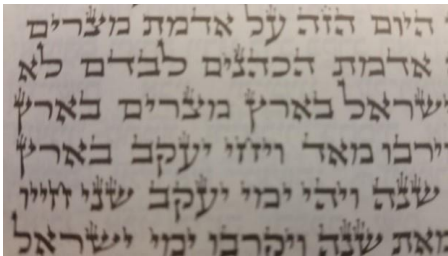
PARSHAT VAYECHI
12 TEVET 5763/05 JANUARY 2023
GENESIS 47:28-50:26
HAFTARAH I KINGS 2:1-12



Water Lilies

Triptych oil on canvass by Claude Monet

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES



1. Why is this passage closed? (Rashi)
2. “I will tell you what will happen in the end of days (בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים)” (Genesis 49:1). He wished to reveal to them the end of all exiles, but the Shechinah departed from him, and he began to say other things. (Rashi)
3. After they had finished dinner, Rabbi Yitzhak said, “This is what Rabbi Yohanan said: Our father Jacob did not die.” Rabbi Nachman said, “But surely there was eulogizing and embalming and burying him! Was it for nothing that they did this?” Rabbi Yitzhak said, “I am interpreting (*doreish*) a Biblical verse.” (Talmud, Ta’anit 5b)

Even though he was in the Land of Egypt, he knew that all of “Egypt” was just a hiding, inside of which there was nothing but that divine life-force....In the Talmud Rabbi Yohanan says: “Jacob our father did not die.” When the sages objected, “But was he mourned, embalmed, and buried for naught?” Rabbi Yohanan answered: “I am just interpreting scripture.” When a person seeks to interpret scripture and struggles at it, oral Torah is created. Such a person can find some of the light that comes from Jacob our Father’s living even within the hiding. (Sefat Emet)

4. A book lives as long as it is unfathomed. Once it is fathomed, it dies at once. (D. H. Lawrence)

5. Closure is the sense that something has not simply ended, but instead has been resolved and is now complete....Closure is always a fiction....Even the beginning and ending of life are hotly contested issues in law, in religion and in ethics. (Andrew Craig, "Closure and the Novel")

6. כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְיָ לְבַיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל דְּרִשׁוּנִי וְחִיּוּ (Amos 5:4)
Thus said Adonai to the House of Israel: Seek Me (*dirshuni*) inquire of Me/interrogate Me/weave stories through Me, and you will live.