

PARSHAT VAYETZEI
GENESIS 28:10-32:3
7 KISLEV 5783/1 DECEMBER 2022



Language of the Birds
Oil on linen by Ali Banisadr

TO FIND HOPE IN THE DOORWAY

1. Jacob left (*vayetzei*) Beersheba and set out for Haran. (Genesis 28:10)

God said to Abram, “*Lech lecha...*” Abram left (*b'tzeito*) Haran...for the land of Canaan. (Genesis 12:1, 4-5)

God appeared to him [Isaac] and said, “Do not go down to Egypt, stay in the land...reside in the land. (Genesis 26:2-3)

2. Rabba said: It is a mitzvah to place the Hanukkah lamp within the handbreadth adjacent to the entrance. And where, on which side, does one place it? There is a difference of opinion: Rav Aḥa, son of Rava, said: On the right side of the entrance. Rav Shmuel from Difti said: On the left. And the halakha is to place it on the left so that the Hanukkah lamp will be on the left and the mezuzah on the right. (Shabbat 22a)

Rav Yehuda says that Shmuel says: The halakha is that a mezuzah must be affixed to the doorpost on its right side, and the right side is determined by the direction from which one enters the room. (Menachot 33a)

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3. Faith in Judaism means seeing the world exactly as it is and yet not giving up the belief that it could be otherwise, if we are ready to act with others to make it so. Faith is realism that has been touched by hope. And hope has the power to transform the world. (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Dignity of Difference*).