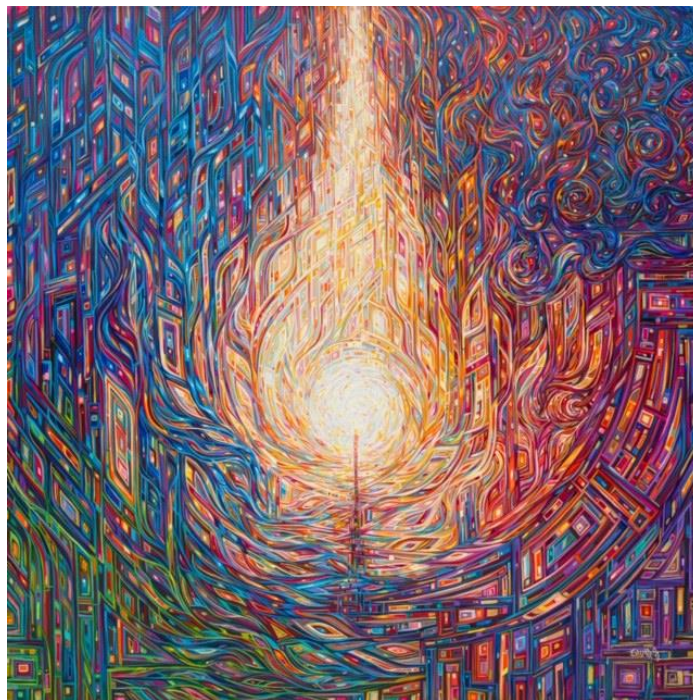


READING FOR SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT  
EXODUS 33:12-34:26  
DATE OF STUDY SESSION  
18 TISHREI 5783/13 OCTOBER 2022



*Threshold*

Painting by Eduardo Rodriguez Calzado

AT THE THRESHOLD OF HOMECOMING

1. Moses said, “Oh, let me behold Your Presence!” (Exodus 33:18)
2. “My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?” (Psalm 22:1)  
  
“Do not hide Your face from me...Do not forsake me, do not abandon me.” (Psalm 27:9)
3. And God answered, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim before you the name Yud-Hei-Vav-Hei and the grace that I grant and the compassion that I show, but you cannot see My face.” (Exodus 33:19-20)
4. When one sits in the succah of the shadow of faith, the Shechinah spreads her wings over that person from above...and Abraham and five righteous ones and David with them dwell with that person....A person should rejoice each day of the festival with these guests....One must also gladden the poor, because the portion of these heavenly guests must go to the poor. For if one sits in the shadow of faith and invites those heavenly guests and does not give their portion to the poor, the heavenly guests all depart.” (Zohar)

5. The word of God to Zechariah continued. Thus said God of hosts: “Render true judgments, show kindness and compassion to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the stranger, or the poor, and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.” (Zechariah 7:9-10)

There is nothing remarkable about this catalogue of obligations, except that it is mouthed just at the cusp of homecoming. (Walter Brueggemann, *A Wilderness Zone*)