

PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT I
LEVITICUS 16:1-17:16
21 NISAN 5782/21 APRIL 2022
SHVII SHEL PESACH/CHAG HAMATZOT
DAY 6 OF COUNTING THE OMER: YESOD OF CHESED



Untitled
Painting by Mark Rothko (1937)

“TO INFINITY...AND BEYOND!”

1. God spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron... “Tell your brother Aaron...” (Leviticus 16:1-2)
2. It was reported to Pharaoh that the people had fled; and Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, What is this that we have done, that we have released Israel from serving us? (Exodus 14:5)

On the night preceding the seventh, they went down into the sea. In the morning of the seventh day, the Israelites recited the Song of the Sea. Therefore, we read the Song on the seventh day, that is the seventh day of Passover. (Rashi on Exodus 14:5)

The seventh day is the day of Pharaoh’s drowning and being rendered powerless. (Ibn Ezra)

3. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread....You shall celebrate a sacred occasion on the first day and a sacred occasion on the seventh day... (Exodus 12:15-16)
4. As Pharaoh drew near...the Israelites cried out...“What have you done to us?” (Exodus 14: 10-11)

Midrash Mechilta identifies four camps into which the Israelites were divided:

- “Let us throw ourselves into the sea”
- “Let us return to Egypt”
- “Let us wage war on the Egyptians”
- “Let us pray to God”

Hasidic tradition identifies four parallel archetypes

- Tzaddik in a fur coat
- Slave
- Warrior
- Spiritualist

Rabbi Yehoshua says: The Holy Blessed One said to Moses, “All that Israel has to do is to go forward.” (Midrash Mechilta)

5. “But Perhaps God Needs the Longing” by Nelly Sachs
6. Yesod of Chesed (Day 6 of Week 1)

When the storm passes, the wicked is no more;
And the *tzaddik* is an everlasting foundation (*yesod*).
(Proverbs 10:25)