

PARSHAT BAMIDBAR
NUMBERS 1:1-4:20
3 SIVAN 5782/2 JUNE 2022
DAY 47 OF THE COUNTING OF THE OMER
HOD OF MALCHUT: HUMILITY IN NOBILITY



Standing With Truth Tent

Tempera on cotton and mixed media by Francesco Clemente
part of a multi-part 30,000 square foot installation titled *Encampment*

THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ENDLESS JOURNEY

1. “The value of images is to remind the Self of its limitations and, at the same time, of the possibility of an endless journey.” “Every single moment of the unfolding experience of the work [*Encampment*] is just a pretext to move on, to move forward from that moment. It’s never supposed to be a beginning or an ending; it’s just supposed to be a transition.” (Francesco Clemente)
2. “Each of the children of Israel shall camp with his standard (*diglo*), under the banner of their ancestral house...” (Numbers 2:2). “...and his army was...” (Numbers 2:4, 6, 8...).
3. When God revealed Godself on Mount Sinai, twenty-two thousand angels descended with God and they were all arrayed under separate flags, as it is said, “Marked out by flags from among myriads” (Song of Songs 5:10). When Israel saw them arrayed under separate flags, they began to long for flags. God said to them, “How you long to be ranged under flags! As you live, I shall fulfill your desire!” God immediately informed Israel by telling Moses, “Go arrange them under flags as they have desired.” (Bamidbar Rabbah 2:2)

4. “Each with its standard, under the banners of their ancestral house...” There is an allusion to this in “Who is this that looks forth as the dawn, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, terrible as an army with banners...?” (Song of Songs 6:10) Holy and grand was Israel beneath their banners. All the nations looked at them with rapt attention and wonder...These nations said to them, “Return, return, O Shulamite...” (Song of Songs 7:1), “cling to us, come to us, and we will make you governors, generals, commanders, lieutenants, commanders-in-chief. Return, and we will look upon you!” “Look upon you” means “appoint you to power.” (Bamidbar Rabbah 2:3)

5. He brought me into the house of wine, and his flag (*diglo*) of love was over me. (Song of Songs 6:3-4)
Rashi: Into the Tent of Meeting

6. There is an age-old split between thinking and feeling, justice and mercy, that underlies many of the clichés and stereotypes concerning the difference between the sexes...There are two modes of judging, two different constructions of the moral domain – one traditionally associated with masculinity and the public world of social power, the other with femininity and the privacy of domestic interchange. (Carol Gilligan, *In A Different Voice*)

7. The law of truth (*torat emet*) was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. (Malachi 2:6)

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the law of lovingkindness (*torat chessed*) is on her tongue. (Proverbs 31:26)

8. לְדַעַת – to know

9. One who pours oneself out like a stream is acknowledged at last by Knowledge;
and she leads him enchanted through the harmonious country
that finishes often with starting, and with ending begins.
(Rilke, *Sonnets to Orpheus*)