

PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA
NUMBERS 8:1-12:16
17 SIVAN 5782/16 JUNE 2022



Spreading the Light
Painting by Yoram Raanan

A PALACE OF MIRRORS

1. “God said to Abram: Go forth from your native land . . .” (Gen. 12:1) . . . Rabbi Isaac said: This may be compared to a man who was traveling from place to place when he saw a *birah doleket* (“a palace in flames”). (Midrash, Genesis Rabbah 39:1)

Birah doleket may also be read as “a palace full of light.” (Abraham Joshua Heschel)

2. The essence of the Menorah and its lights is in the sphere of Binah, which is likened to a “palace of mirrors” that reflects and multiplies the pure light of Chochmah, the flow of insight and holy inspiration. (Yoram Raanan)

3. There is no righteous person on earth who does not sin. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

“He married a Cushite woman!” (Numbers 12:1)

There is no righteous person on earth who, in doing good, does not sin. (Yosef Albo)

Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. (Numbers 20:11)

4. Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done. (Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*)

If you are willing to get closer to people who are suffering, you will find the power to change the world. (Bryan Stevenson)

5. "Could enough flocks and herds be slaughtered to suffice them?"....And God answered Moses, "Is there a limit to the power of Adonai?" (Numbers 11:22-23)
6. There is in all things a hidden wholeness. (Thomas Merton)