

PARSHAT SHMINI
LEVITICUS 9:1-11:47
21 ADAR II 5782/24 MARCH 2022



The Treachery of Images
Painting by René Magritte

THE ART OF SUBVERSION

1. Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them...Moses and Aaron went inside the Tent of Meeting...they blessed the people. And the Presence of Adonai appeared to all the people. Fire came forth from before Adonai and consumed the burnt offering...and all the people saw and shouted and fell on their faces. Now Aaron's sons Nadav and Abihu offered alien fire before Adonai...and fire came forth from Adonai and consumed them. (Leviticus 9:22-10:2)
2. Behold, My word is like fire, declares Adonai, and like a hammer that shatters rock! (Jeremiah 23:29)
3. "If you have a sapling in your hand, and someone should say to you that the Messiah has come, stay and complete the planting, and then go to greet the Messiah." (Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, Avot de Rabbi Nathan 31b)
4. Disciples of the Baal Shem Tov wanted to visit a great scholar. They asked the Baal Shem Tov how to know if he was a true *zaddik*. "Ask him to advise you what to do to keep unholy thoughts from disturbing you in your prayers and studies. If he gives you advice, then you will know that he belongs to those who are of no account."
5. Adonai said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am incensed at you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me!" (Job 42:7)

6. I will sing of Adonai's steadfast love forever;
to all generations I will proclaim Your faithfulness with my mouth.
I declare, "Your steadfast love is confirmed forever;
there in the heavens You establish Your faithfulness."

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Yet You have rejected, spurned, and become enraged at Your anointed.
You have repudiated the covenant with Your servant;
You have dragged his dignity in the dust....

O Adonai, where is Your steadfast love of old
which You swore to David in Your faithfulness?

(Psalm 89:2-3, 39-40, 50)