

PARSHAT TETZAVEH
EXODUS 27:20-30:10
9 ADAR 5782/10 FEBRUARY 2022



Les Voyages Extraordinaires (d'après Jules Verne)

Triptych by Joseph Zrihen, 2019

“one man with two passions; a doctor of the body, a painter of the soul”

THE BEAUTY OF ATTUNING BODY AND SPIRIT

1. Creation (one chapter); Mount Sinai (three chapters); story of the exodus (eleven chapters); construction of the Mishkan (thirteen chapters)
2. “Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)
Let them make Me a house of holiness. (Rashi)

The first step involves priming the material resource as a “vessel” for Godliness. (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson)
3. “Make sacral vestments for your brother Aaron, for dignity (*kavod*) and beauty (*tiferet*). (Exodus 28:2)
5. The beauty of triptych: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3.

4. The spirit

likes to dress up like this:

ten fingers,

ten toes,

shoulders, and all the rest

at night

in the black branches,

in the morning

in the blue branches

of the world.

It could float, of course,

but would rather

plumb rough matter.

Airy and shapeless thing,

it needs

the metaphor of the body,

lime and appetite,

the oceanic fluids;

it needs the body's world,

instinct

and imagination

and the dark hug of time,

sweetness

and tangibility,

to be understood,

to be more than pure light

that burns

where no one is –

so it enters us –

in the morning

shines from brute comfort

like a stitch of lightning;

and at night

lights up the deep and wondrous

drownings of the body

like a star.

(Mary Oliver, *Poem*, the spirit like to dress up)