

PARSHAT TZAV
LEVITICUS 6:1-8:36
14 ADAR II 5782/17 MARCH 2022



Fire Within
Painting by Osnat Tzadok

THE HIDDEN POINT REVEALED

1. Tzadok's motto is "flow," a letting go where the subconscious is leading the conscious, and where the apparent gives way to the hidden.
2. וְאֵשׁ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תִּנוקֵד בּוֹ (Leviticus 6:2). וְהָאֵשׁ עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ...(Leviticus 6:5).
The Jewish Publication Society translates these verses respectively as: "...the fire on the altar burns on it" and "...the fire on the altar." Most of the other English translations of the Bible we consulted offer similar translations with the exception of the Authorized King James version, which in this case is truer to the Hebrew original in that it distinguishes clearly between the fire burning on the altar (*al ha-mizbe'ach*) and the fire burning in it (*tukad bo*), or if you wish, in him, namely in the officiating priest. It is not enough to have a fire burning on the altar, says the Chassidic interpretation pointedly, emphasizing that there must also be a "perpetual fire" of enthusiasm within us when we truly worship God. (Rabbi Pinchas Peli)
3. Instead of reading the phrase לֹא תִכְבֶּה (Leviticus 6:6) as "it shall not be put out," we can read it as "it will put out the 'not.'" The spark burning within the recesses of the heart if it is fed with the fuel of love will burn continually. The fire of love extinguishes the negative. (Maggid of Mezeritch)
4. In the soul of everyone there lies a hidden point that is aflame with the love of God, a fire that cannot be put out. Even though "it may not go out" (Leviticus 6:6) here refers to a prohibition, it is also a promise. We also read: "The priest shall burn wood upon it each morning." Everyone who worships God may be called a priest, and this arousal of love is the Service of the Heart, that which takes the place of sacrificial offerings. (Sefat Emet)

5. Let me be a seal upon your heart,
Like the seal upon your hand.
For love is fierce as death,
Passion is mighty as Sheol.
Its darts are darts of fire,
A blazing flame.
Mighty waters cannot quench love,
Nor rivers drown it.
(Song of Songs 8:6-7)
6. There is a candle in your heart
ready to be kindled.
There is a void in your soul
ready to be filled.
You feel it, don't you?
You feel the separation
from the Beloved.
Invite Him to fill you up,
embrace the fire.
(Rumi)
7. Corresponding to the two altars of the Sanctuary, the outer and the inner, are the outer and inner levels of the heart, its surface personality and its essential core. The altar on which the continual fire was to be set was the outer one. This means that the fire of love for God must be outward, open and revealed. It is not a private possession, to be cherished subconsciously. It must show in the face one sets towards the world. (Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi)
8. Behold You have driven me today off the face of the earth, and I shall be hidden from (אָפֶטֶר) before You, and I will be a wanderer and an exile in the land... (Genesis 4:14)
9. If you remain silent at this time, relief and rescue will come for the Jews from elsewhere, while you and your father's household will perish. And who knows, it may be for this very moment that you have arrived at sovereignty (*malchut*). (Esther 4:14)
10. When everyone finds their place in the world, there will be great singing and rejoicing.
(Rebbe Nachman)