PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT
LEVITICUS 16:1-18:30
HAFTARAH AMOS 9:7-15
24 NISAN 5784/02 MAY 2024
27 NISAN – YOM HASHOAH VE-HAGEVURAH

Bohemia Lies by the Sea
Oil, emulsion, shellac, charcoal and paint on burlap by Anselm Kiefer

THE HOLINESS OF BEING UNDERWAY

1. God spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron….Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come at any time into the Holy… (Leviticus 16:1-2)

2. If Bohemia still lies by the sea, I'll believe in the sea again.
   And believing in the sea, thus I can hope for land.
   ….
   I still border on a word and on another land,
   I border, like little else, on everything and more,

   a Bohemian, a wandering minstrel, who has nothing, who
   is held by nothing, gifted only at seeing, by a doubtful sea,
   the land of my choice.
                        (Excerpts from "Bohemia Lies by the Sea" by Ingeborg Bachmann)

3. But perhaps God needs the longing, wherever else
   should it dwell,
   Which with kisses and tears and sighs fills
   mysterious spaces of air –
   And perhaps is invisible soil from which roots of
   stars grow and swell –
   And the radiant voice across fields of parting
   which calls to reunion there?

O my beloved, perhaps in the sky of longing
worlds have been born of our love –
Just as our breathing, in and out, builds a cradle for
life and death?
We are grains of sand, dark with farewell, lost in
births' secret treasure trove
Around us already perhaps future moons, suns and
stars blaze in a fiery wreath.

                            ("But Perhaps God Needs the Longing" by Nelly Sachs)

4. Longing is an expression of being-under-way. (Johannes Anderegg, "Nelly Sachs: The Poem and Transformation")

5. "Underway" - A ship moving freely through the water as opposed to being anchored, moored, or aground (Oxford English Dictionary)

6. Art is longing. You never arrive, but you keep going in the hope that you will. (Anselm Kiefer)

7. Against your will you live. (Pirkei Avot 4:22)

8. Rabbi Yehoshua says: The Holy Blessed One said to Moses, "All that Israel has to do is to go forward." (Midrash Mechilta)