

PARSHAT BEHAR
LEVITICUS 25:1-26:2
HAFTARAH JEREMIAH 32:6-27
15 IYYAR 5784/23 MAY 2024



The Ten Largest, No. 1
Egg tempera on canvass by Hilma af Klint (1907)

THE FLOW OF FREEDOM

1. You shall sound the shofar.... You shall consecrate (שקדש) the fiftieth year. You shall proclaim liberty/release (קדור) throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. It shall be a jubilee/yovel (יובל) for you, and each of you shall return to your own holding and each of you shall return to your family. (Leviticus 25:9-10)
2. דרר - flow abundantly
קרור - a flowing
דרום - south
3. יבל - conduct, bear along, carry away
יבל - watercourse, stream
יבול - produce of soil
יובל - ram's horn
תבל - world
4. Ibn Ezra - yovel means “sending away,” as in sending away of slaves
Nachmanides - yovel means “freedom,” as in freeing of the slaves
Ramban – yovel means “movement”
Rabenu Bechaya - yovel means “rivulet,” as in during Yovel everything flows back to its original source.

5. Everything you see has its roots
in the unseen world.
The forms may change,
yet the essence remains the same.

Every wondrous sight will vanish,
every sweet word will fade.
But do not be disheartened,
The Source they come from is eternal—
growing, branching out,
giving new life and new joy.

Why do you weep?
That Source is within you,
and this whole world
is springing up from it.

The Source is full,
its waters are ever-flowing;
Do not grieve,
drink your fill!
Don't think it will ever run dry—
This is the endless Ocean!
(Rumi)

6. They are My servants, and not servants of servants. (Talmud and Rashi to Exodus 21:6)