

PARSHAT CHUKAT  
07 TAMUZ 5781/17 JUNE 2021



*San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk*  
Oil on canvas by Claude Monet

*"It is so beautiful that we do not have any time to think of it."* (Alice Hoschede-Monet)

### TO PAINT IS TO HAVE FAITH

1. "...and *before their very eyes* order the rock to yield its water." (Numbers 20:8)  
"...Listen, you rebels..." (Numbers 20:10)  
"Because you did not trust (לֹא־הֵאֱמַנְתֶּם) Me enough to affirm My sanctity *before the eyes* of the Israelite people..." (Numbers 20:12)
2. אָמַן - confirm, support, nourish  
אִמּוּנָה - firmness, steadfastness, fidelity  
אֲמָנָה - river flowing through Damascus (2 Kings 5:12)  
אֲמָן - master-worker, artist
3. "Every artist discovers that drawing – when it is an urgent activity – is a two-way process. To draw is not only to measure and put down, it is also to receive. When the intensity of looking reaches a certain degree, one becomes aware of an equally intense energy coming towards one, through the appearance of whatever it is one is scrutinizing....The encounter...is a ferocious and articulated dialogue. To sustain it requires *faith*." (John Berger, *Keeping A Rendezvous*, emphasis added)
4. "Paintings are prophecies received from the past, prophecies about *what the spectator is seeing in front of the painting at that moment*....A visual image...is always a comment on an *absence*....Visual images, based on appearances, always speak of *disappearance*." (John Berger, *The Sense of Sight*, emphasis added)

5. “To see is to forget the name of the thing one sees.” (Paul Valery)

“Paint not the thing but the effect it produces.” (Stephane Mallarme)

“Paint what you observe and you feel.” (Camille Pissarro)

6. Impression in general and Monet’s work in particular is driven by the notion that sensory information registers on the retina prior to any recognition of the object.

Monet: Try to forget as an object what is before you. Absorb the color and the light impacts and paint it just as you experience it.

7. “Assemble the people that I may give them water.” Then Israel sang this song: “Spring up, O well – sing to it. The well which the chieftains dug, which the nobles of the people started with maces, with their own staffs.” (Numbers 21:17-18)

Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites... (Numbers 21:21)