

PARSHAT CHUKAT-BALAK  
10 TAMUZ 5780/02 JULY 2020



*Water from the Rock*  
~ Yoram Raanan



*San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk*  
~ Claude Monet

“A FEROCIOUS AND ARTICULATED DIALOGUE”  
THE ARTIST AS FAITH MAKER

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. “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)
3. אָמַן - confirm, support, nourish  
אֱמוּנָה - firmness, steadfastness, fidelity  
אֲמָנָה - river flowing through Damascus (2 Kings 5:12)  
אָמֵן - master-worker, artist
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*)
5. “To see is to forget the name of the thing one sees.” (Paul Valery)

6. "Paint not the thing but the effect it produces." (Stephane Mallarme)

7. "Paint what you observe and you feel." (Camille Pissarro)

8. "All language is vehicular and transitive, and is good, as ferries and horses are, for conveyance, not as farms and houses are for homestead." (Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Poet")

9. God watched over them even in hidden ways. Hashem did not create clothing and shoes the way He created the manna and the well in a miraculous manner. But it was with hidden providence that the clothing and the shoes did not wear out. That is how the people will understand and comprehend that in a time of deep distress there will be strong Divine Providence upon them. (Ha'amek Davar)

10. "Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom..." (Numbers 20:14)

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

"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 21:16-18)