

PARSHAT KI TISA  
EXODUS 30:11-34:55  
HAFTARAH I KINGS 18:1-39  
20 ADAR I 5784/29 FEBRUARY 2024



*Bal du moulin de la Galette*  
Oil on canvass by Pierre-Auguste Renoir

### AN AWAKENING FROM BELOW

1. “When you elevate the heads of the children of Israel...” (Exodus 30:12)
2. Instruction to Elevate – Collapse – Shattering – Reconstruction
3. “...make us a god who shall go before us...” (Exodus 32:1)
4. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was God’s writing. (Exodus 32:16)
5. “Carve two tablets of stone like the first, and I will inscribe upon the tablets”....And he [Moses] wrote down on the tablets... (Exodus 34:1, 28)
6. The redemption of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt required supernatural intervention, a Divine rescue from above (*itaruta del’eylah*, an awakening from above). But the future redemption will take place within the laws of nature. It will emanate from the stirring of the human heart (*itaruta deletata*, an awakening from below). The Jewish people will rise from their exilic slumber....Step by step, without overriding the laws of nature, so that even the beneficiary of the miracle is unaware of the great miracle that is unfolding....Then our future redemption will not be in haste, but will advance steadily, like the ever-spreading light of daybreak. (Rav Kook)

7. Unlike the dramatic exodus from Egypt, the future redemption is not an escape from the world... (Rav Kook)

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body

love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain

are moving across the landscapes,

over the prairies and the deep trees,

the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,

are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,

the world offers itself to your imagination,

calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —

over and over announcing your place

in the family of things.

( Mary Oliver, “Wild Geese”)