

PARSHAT LECH LECHA
8 CHESHVAN 5782/14 OCTOBER 2021



ACTS/OSIRIS-REx
Sculpture by Sterling Ruby
(ACTS = Absolute Contempt for Total Serenity)
“...this scattered routine belongs within a coherent trajectory.”

CEASELESS EXPLORATION:
THE JOURNEY BACK HOME

1. “That I will show you” (Genesis 12:1): He did not reveal the land to him immediately, in order to make it dear in his eyes and to give him reward for each and every word [for every step]. Similarly (Genesis 22: 2): your son, your only one, whom you love, Isaac. Similarly: on one of the mountains that I will say to you. Similarly (Jonah 3:2): and proclaim upon it the proclamation that I will speak to you. (Rashi, based on Genesis Rabbah 39:9)
2. Where there is total revelation, there is no room for language. Where meaning is uncertain, communications proliferate. (Avivah Zornberg, *The Beginning of Desire*)
3. Religion, the end of isolation, begins with a consciousness that something is asked of us....Wonder is not a state of esthetic enjoyment. Endless wonder unlocks an innate sense of indebtedness. (Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*)
4. “*Lech lecha* from your land...” (Genesis 12:1).
“*Lech lecha* to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering...” (Genesis 22:2)
5. לך־לך
“Go forth from...” (Genesis 12:1)
“And he built an altar there....From there he moved on to the hill country...” (Genesis 12:7-8)

6. We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
~ T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets

7. Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true...
(Yip Harburg, born Isidore Hochberg, and
Harold Arlen, born Hyman Arluck)