

PARSHAT RE'EH
DEUTERONOMY 11:26-16:17
27 AV 5781/05 AUGUST 2021



Re'eh

Painting by Yoram Raanan

“It is taught that when we are aligned with goodness, goodness flows down on the mount of blessing, while the other mountain, the mount of curses, absorbs the murky blight of our misdeeds.” (Yoram Raanan)

NO LONGER BEING LED, BUT LEADING

1. “See, this day I set before you blessing and curse.” (Deuteronomy 11:26)
2. “From the mouth of the Most High there does not emerge both evil and good” (Lamentations 3:38).
3. “See, I give you today the blessing and the curse (*kelalah*)” (Deuteronomy 11:26).
 - a. “See, I give you today blessing and *lotin* (curse)” (Onkelos, late first century CE Aramaic translation).
 - b. “See, I give you today blessing and *chilufa* (transmutation)” (Translation of Yonatan ben Uziel, early first century CE Aramaic translation).
4. “When Adonai your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and possess, you shall pronounce the blessing at Mount Gerizim and the *lotin* at Mount Ebal” (Rabbi Yonatan, Deuteronomy 11:29).
5. In the way that a person wants to go, he will be led. (Talmud, Makkot 10b)

6. If [one goes] to the cynics, he will be cynical; but [if he goes] to the humble, he evokes grace. (Proverbs 3:34)

7. חֲנֹךְ לְנֶעֶר עַל־פִּי דַרְכּוֹ גַם כִּי־יִזְקֵן לֹא־יִסוּר מִמֶּנָּה

Teach a child according to His ways, and he will not swerve from it even in old age.
(Proverbs 22:6)

“Educate the child according to his way”....This, then, is the command of King Solomon...penetrate to his inner being and reveal the holiness that is hidden there....Someone who is trying to educate through command and habituation need not pay any attention to his child or student – to his nature, to the way he thinks, or to his other distinguishing characteristics. The command itself – do this or do that – is all that is needed....A single command can suffice for an entire group, for it is not the student or the child that is important, but the person giving the commands: he has commanded, and that is everything....An educator, however, who wishes to uncover the soul of the child that lies hidden and concealed within him, who wants to help it grow and to ignite it so it will burn with a heavenly fire, upwards, to the holy...such an educator must adapt himself attentively to the student....Then he can help it emerge, blossom, and grow.

(Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, A Student's Obligation)