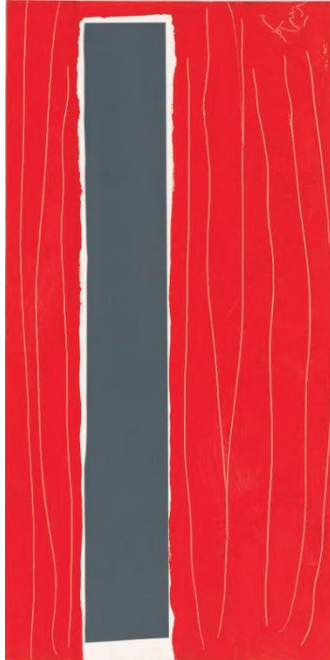


PARSHAT SHEMINI  
LEVITICUS 9:1-11:47  
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 45:16-46:18  
25 ADAR II 5784/04 APRIL 2024



*Untitled (Red, Grey)*  
Acrylic and pasted paper on canvass board  
by Robert Motherwell

LISTEN TO THAT

1. Nadav and Abihu offered strange fire before Adonai...and fire came forth from Adonai and consumed them. (Leviticus 10:1-2)
2. ...and Aaron was silent. (Leviticus 10:3)
3. Jewish ways of reading yield fragments. The God of this tradition leaves traces....This is a text and a God and a people and a reading habit that give their due to fissure....The rich textual witness to that dislocation [exile] is sufficient evidence that Israel did not know what to say, any more than we do in our moment of fissure. As a consequence of not knowing, Israel said many things. (Walter Brueggemann, "A Fissure Always Uncontained")

4. I will sing of Adonai's steadfast love forever;  
to all generations I will proclaim Your faithfulness with my mouth.  
I declare, "Your steadfast love is confirmed forever;  
there in the heavens You establish Your faithfulness."

....

Yet You have rejected, spurned, and become enraged at Your anointed.  
You have repudiated the covenant with Your servant;  
You have dragged his dignity in the dust....

O Adonai, where is Your steadfast love of old  
which You swore to David in Your faithfulness?

(Psalm 89:2-3, 39-40, 50)

5. You have opted for security, tranquility: for the answer.  
I have chosen insecurity and worry: the question.  
I mark time at the edge of life whereas you have already  
Reached death's shore.  
To die on the threshold. (Edmond Jabes, *The Book of Shares*)

6. *Ma nishtana halaila hazeh...*

7. Art recalls the memory  
of his true existence  
to whoever has forgotten  
that Being is the one thing  
all the universe shouts

Only return of thought to  
Its source will complete thought.

Only return of activity  
To its source will complete  
Activity. Listen to that.

(Allen Ginsberg, "This Is About Death")