

PARSHAT TERUMAH
6 ADAR 5781/18 FEBRUARY 2021



The Cherubim

Painting by Yoram Raanan

“This work came into being after a lot of searching and scraping through many layers of thick paint. All the cutting away and carving created a sense of motion in the wings and introduced a new kind of light to the work. Wings are coverings that both cover and conceal, but it is in the space between them where the greatest light is revealed.”

TO BE AT HOME

1. “Let them make Me a sanctuary...” (Exodus 25:8)
Let them make Me a house for holiness. (Rashi)
2. So that I may dwell *betocham* (in their midst).” (Siftei Chachmim)
3. Why are we here? “To make a home for God in the material world.” (Hasidic)
4. The Holy Blessed One does not behave tyrannically to God’s creatures. (Avodah Zarah 3a)
5. “Make two *cherubim*...There will I meet with you.” (Exodus 25:18, 22)
6. Friendship does not abolish the distance between human beings. It brings that distance to life. (Walter Benjamin, *Understanding Brecht*)

7. The defining feature of a Jewish public space is that it must be a safe one; safe not merely from harm, safe not merely from a Hobbesian definition of the state of nature as being a state of war of all against all, but safe in the sense that individuals who enter it know that their well-being is a concern of all who share in that space. A space is a safe one when all who inhabit it are “fellow keepers,” a space wherein the individuals recognize their responsibility to override their personal interests and not merely refrain from harming others but actually care for and respond to their needs. (Rabbi Donniel Hartman, LA Jewish Journal 02/07/13)