

PARSHAT TETZAVEH
EXODUS 27:20-30:10
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 43:10-27
13 ADAR 5784/22 FEBRUARY 2024



Les Voyages Extraordinaire (d'après Jules Verne)
Triptych by Joseph Zrihen

FROM REALITY TO IMAGINATION AND BACK

1. It is my intention to complete, before my working days are done, a series which shall conclude in story form my whole survey of the world's surface and the heavens. (Jules Verne) [*Extraordinary Voyages* is a series of novels written by Jules Verne between 1863 and 1905. There are a total of 54 novels in the series.]

In *Extraordinary Voyages*, the passage from reality to imagination and back is encouraged by the emergence of a “marvelous” that we can call “geographical.” (Lionel Dupuy)

2. ...make it exactly as it was shown to you on the mountain. (Exodus, 25:9; 25:40; 26:30)

When God told Moses, “Make Me a mishkan...” should he not have erected four pegs and stretched the mishkan-tent over them? Rather, it teaches you that God showed Moses up above a red fire, a green fire, a black fire, a white fire; and told him “Make it according to the pattern that you are being shown on the mountain.”

Moses said to God, “My God, can I make anything like these fires?!” God replied, “Blue, purple and crimson yarns, fine linen...If you make what is above below, I shall leave My palace above and descend and condense My Presence among them below.” (Midrash Rabba)

3. *Kavod* – appears elsewhere as referring to the Glory of God; only twice is it used as applying to human beings, both are in Parshat Tetzaveh.

Tiferet – appears only three times: twice in Parshat Tetzaveh and once at Deuteronomy 26:19. It introduces the aesthetic dimension. All three describe how human are engarbed.

4. I am the necessary angel of earth
Since, in my sight, you see the earth again
Cleared of its stiff and stubborn, man-locked set...
(Wallace Stevens, “Angel Surrounded by Paysans”)
5. The imagination loses vitality as it ceases to adhere to what is real. (Wallace Stevens, *The Necessary Angel: Essays on Reality and the Imagination*)
6. For there is a way back from imagination to reality and that is – art. (Sigmund Freud)
7. Now you, O mortal, expound/tell (תַּזְכֵּיר) a story of the house... (Ezekiel 43:10, haftarah for Parshat Tetzaveh)