

PARSHAT TOLDOT
GENESIS 25:19-28:9
29 CHESHVAN 5782/4 NOVEMBER 2021



Sergeant Daniel Casara
Painting by George W. Bush

TO LIVE WITHIN A RIDDLE

1. לָמָּה זֶה אָנֹכִי “Why do I exist/Why is there an ‘I’?” (Genesis 25:22)
“Lameh, zeh ani”
2. We do not need an answer to our question. To be present in the middle of the question is itself complete. (Taigen Dan Leighton)
3. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer. (Rainer Maria Rilke)
4. קרבה רבקה
רבק - stall (where a calve is fed, fattened)
קרב - to approach; קרבה - an approach; קרב - inward part, midst

5. וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צָעִיר (Genesis 25:23)

6. הַיָּדָה - riddle, perplexing question, enigma; חוּד - turn aside, avoid

7. “Why did you deceive me (רַמֵּיתָנִי)? (Genesis 29:25)

“Your brother came with deceit (מְרִמָּה)... (Genesis 27:35)

רָמָה - to beguile, to deceive

8. In the weed of summer comes this green sprout why...

Peter the voyant says, “Mother, what is that” –

The object that rises with so much rhetoric,

But not for him...

His question is complete because it contains

His utmost statement. It is his own array,

His own pageant and procession and display...

~ Wallace Stevens, “Questions Are Remarks”