

PARSHAT VA'ETCHANAN
9 AV 5780/30 JULY 2020
SHABBAT NACHAMU



Ein Od Milvado ~ Avraham Lowenthal
“There is nothing but God.” (Deuteronomy 4:35)

CREATING HARMONY IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

1. “Know today and take it into your heart that Adonai is God in the heavens above and the earth below; there is none else (*ein od*).” (Deuteronomy 4:39)
2. Where can I escape Your spirit?
 Where can I flee from Your presence?
 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
 If I descend to Sheol, You are there too.
 If I take wing with the dawn
 to come to rest on the western horizon,
 even there Your hand will be guiding me,
 Your right hand will be holding me fast.
 If I say, “Surely darkness will conceal me,
 night will provide me with cover,”
 darkness is not dark for You;
 night is as light as day;
 darkness and light are the same.
 ~ Psalm 139:7-11
3. The nature of the influence that flows from God to the world will be a reflection of the nature of our activities. (Based on the Baal Shem Tov)
 “Know what is above you – an eye that sees and an ear that hears and all your deeds recorded in a book.” (Mishnah, Avot 2.1)
 “Know what is above you” is from you. (Dov Baer, Maggid of Mezeritch)

4. From א to ב to א
5. “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28)
6. Creation, as described in the teachings of Kabbalah, is an evolution from the utterly singular to the plural and dichotomous....Thus, the singular desire for creation gives birth to our plural world, a world whose immense detail and complexity bespeak the infinite potential of its Creator. ((Yiscah Smith)
7. שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד
8. גולה - exile, from גלה, to remove, go forth, emigrate
9. גאולה - redemption, from גאל, to redeem, to act as a kinsman