

PARSHAT VAYEILECH
DEUTERONOMY 31:1-31:30
3 TISHREI 5782/9 SEPTEMBER 2021



Redemption Song
Painting by Rene Serrano Rodriguez
“Time and music always persists.”

THESE SONGS OF FREEDOM

1. Moses went and spoke *these words*... (Deuteronomy 31:1)

Moses wrote *this Torah* and gave it to the Kohanim...and to all the elders of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:9)

Moses wrote *this song* on that day and taught it to the Children of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:22)

2. There is a distinction between poetry and prose. In poetry the subject matter is not plainly set forth as in prose. Additional explanations are necessary in order to indicate the allusions condensed into each expression. Such is the nature of Torah. Its story is not elaborated. It requires additional explanations in order to appreciate its allusions. (Netziv, 1817-1893)

3. Reality is not static and does not consist of eternal essences that can be understood by means of fixed concept. It is the constantly unfolding future of life which bursts forth and renews itself. One cannot thus perceive reality unless it is by using a language and images that are constantly in motion. Poetry seeks to restore vibration to words whose life has become motionless. (Rabbi Marc-Alain Ouaknin, *Mysteries of the Kabbalah*)

4. “Now, therefore, write down for yourselves *this song...*” (Deuteronomy 31:19)

This refers to the song of Haazinu, Deuteronomy 32:1-43. (Rashi)

5. “...and teach it to the Children of Israel, place it in their mouth, so that this song may be a witness for Me among the children of Israel.” (Deuteronomy 31:19)

This makes clear that the song is the entire Torah. (Nedarim 38a)

6. The 613th mitzvah of the Torah, based on Deuteronomy 31:19, is the obligation for each one of us to write a Torah scroll. (Maimonides)

7.

We've got to fulfill the book.

Won't you help to sing

These songs of freedom?

'Cause all I ever had

Redemption songs

All I ever had

Redemption songs

These songs of freedom

Songs of freedom.

(Redemption Song, Bob Marley)