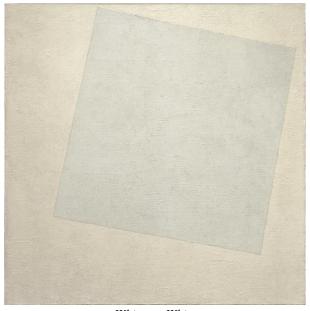
PARSHAT VAYIKRA LEVITICUS 1:1-5:26 HAFTARAH I SAMUEL 15:2-34 11 ADAR II 5784/21 MARCH 2024



White on White
Oil on canvass by Kazimir Malevich

TIMELESS PRESENCE

1. וַיָּקרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הָאָדָם וַיּאֹמֶר לוֹ אַיֶּכָּה And God called out to the human and said, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)



And God called out to Moses... (Leviticus 1:1)

- 3. Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish said, "The Torah given to Moses was written with black fire on white fire." (Jerusalem Talmud)
- 4. When we think about a Torah scroll, we usually only consider the letters themselves, written in black ink. Yet, the Talmud rules that every letter in a Torah scroll must be completely surrounded by parchment. The white parchment around the letters is an integral part of the Torah; without it, the Torah scroll is disqualified....In fact, the white space is a higher form of Torah. It is analogous to the white fire of Sinai a sublime, hidden Torah that cannot be read in the usual manner. The white fire corresponds to the loftier realm of thought and contemplation. The black fire of the letters, on the other hand, is the revelation

of intellect in the realm of language – a contraction and limitation of abstract thought into the more concrete level of speech. (Rav Kook)

- 5. The sanctity of white fire is greater than the sanctity of black fire. (Zohar)
- 6. Every one of us is a letter in God's scroll. Together we comprise a single, interdependent entity. But equally important is the inviolable space which distinguishes each and every ome of us as a unique individual. To detract from the individuality and uniqueness of one is to detract from the integrity of the collective whole. (Based on the teachings of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson)
- 7. [Malevich's] art doesn't tell you a pre-defined story. Instead, it hands you a book of blank pages and a pen, urging you to draft your own narrative. It's an invitation to let go of reality for a bit and wander into the maze of your imagination. (kazimirmalevich.org)