

PARSHAT NASO  
NUMBERS 4:21-7:89  
HAFTARAH JUDGES 13:2-25  
07 SIVAN 5784/13 JUNE 2024



*Sunlight on the Road, Pontoise*  
Camille Pissarro, 1874

*Small Houses in Pontoise*  
Paul Cezanne, 1874

“AND ALL THE PEOPLE SAW...”

1. “שָׁאוּ (*seh’ou*) *et rosh* of the whole Israelite community...” (Numbers 1:2)  
  
“נָסוּ (*naso*) *et rosh* of the Gershonites...” (Numbers 4:22)
2. The chieftains brought the dedication offering for the altar....The one who presented his offering on the first day was Nahshon son of Amminadab of the tribe of Judah. His offering: one silver bowl weighing 139 shekels and one silver basin... (Numbers 7:10-13)
3. Our rabbis says that although they all presented similar offerings, they meant by them to symbolize great events, which each one selected in accordance with their own judgment. (Midrash Bamidbar Rabbah 13:14)
4. “And all the people saw...” (Exodus 20:15) the sounds of sounds and the flames of flames. How many sounds were there and how many flames were there? Each heard according to their own level of understanding what they were experiencing. And this is what it means when it says (Psalm 29:4) “The voices of Adonai in power, the voice of Adonai in majesty. (Mechilta d’Rabbi Yishmael)
5. The receiving of Torah, however, is not just a capacity to grasp a certain body of knowledge; it is an act of breaking the limits of time and of contacting the infinite. Adin Steinsaltz, *The Strife of the Spirit*)

6. Often we tend to see a tension between conformity and creativity, between tradition and innovation. On the one hand, we recognize the bedrock of principles upon which a meaningful existence must rest, the time-tested truths which transcend cultures and generations; on the other, we are faced with the powerful drive to create, to personalize, to grow and soar with our individualized talents and tools....Even as they relate to the ultimate common denominator of their bond with God, they each bring to the experience the richness of their own creative souls. (Menachem Mendel Schneerson)
  
7. “He became influenced by me at Pontoise and I by him...We were always together, but each of us unquestionably retained the only thing that counts, our own sensation. (Camille Pissarro)