

PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA
NUMBERS 8:1-12:16
HAFTARAH ZECHARIAH 2:14-4:7
14 SIVAN 5784/20 JUNE 2024



Yellow Stripe
Oil on canvass by Wolf Kahn (2011)

HIDDEN WHOLENESS

1. בְּהַעֲלֹתְךָ אֶת־הַנֵּרוֹת [lit., when you cause to be brought up] the lamps... (Numbers 8:2)
2. Moses then reentered [תָּאָחַז, “he took himself back into association to the camp”], he and the elders of Israel. (Numbers 11:30)

“Let her be shut out of the camp for seven days, and then let her be readmitted [תָּאָחַז, “let her bring herself back into association with others”].” (Numbers 12:14)
3. When the Ark was to set out, Moses would say: Advance, Adonai! And may Your enemies be scattered... (Numbers 10:35)
4. The people took to complaining bitterly before God. God heard and was incensed... (Numbers 11:1)
5. Afraid that our inner light will be extinguished or our inner darkness exposed, we hide our true identities from each other. In the process, we become separated from our own souls. We end up living divided lives, so far removed from the truth we hold within that we cannot know the integrity that comes from being what you are. Dividedness is a survival instinct

that helps mitigate our excruciating discomfort with uncertainty, shielding our inner lives with those protective but ultimately pernicious outer shells. Not knowing who or what we are dealing with and feeling unsafe, we hunker down in a psychological foxhole and withhold the investment of our energy, commitment, and gifts. (Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life*)

6. We need to see how often we conspire in our own deformation: for every external power bent on twisting us out of shape, there is a potential collaborator within us. (Parker Palmer)
7. There is in all things a hidden wholeness. (Thomas Merton)
8. If you believe that you can destroy, believe that you can repair. (Rebbe Nachman)