

PARSHAT EKEV  
DEUTERONOMY 7:12-11:25  
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 49:14-51:3  
18 AV 5784/22 AUGUST 2024



*Flag*

Encaustic and collage on canvass by Jasper Johns

### WHAT IS IT?

1. When the fall of dew lifted, there, over the surface of the wilderness, lay a fine and flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “*man hoo* [what is it]?” for they did not know what it was [*mah hoo*]. (Exodus 16:14-15)

Moses said to them, “That is the bread which God has given to you to eat.” (Exodus 16:15)

The house of Israel named it manna [*man*]. (Exodus 16:31)

2. God gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, in order that you might know that a person does not live on bread alone but on whatever comes forth from God’s mouth. (Deuteronomy 8:3)
3. Manna is both bread and not-bread...A substance that tells of the unknown leads the consumer to *see through* its flimsy appearance...the unknowable leads the traveler to an imaginative knowledge, which refigures, transfigures the world. (Avivah Zornberg, *Bewilderments*)
4. It all began with my painting a picture of an American flag...I went on to similar things like targets, things the mind already knows. I made the flags and targets to open people's eyes...they were both things which are seen and not looked at, examined. (Jasper Johns)

5. The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions which have been hidden by the answers.  
(James Baldwin)