

PARSHAT B'REISHIT
GENESIS 1:1-6:8
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 42:5-43:10
22 TISHREI 5785/24 OCTOBER 2024



Branch of the Seine near Giverny (Mist)
Oil on canvass by Claude Monet (1897)

TO BE IN THE FLOW

1. Other painters paint a bridge, a house, a boat. I want to paint the air in which the bridge, the house and the boat are to be found. (Claude Monet)
2. A river issues from Eden to water the garden..." (Genesis 2:10)
3. All streams flow into the sea,
Yet the sea is never full;
To the place from which they flow
The streams flow back again. (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
4. "And now, teller of tales, turn the page. Speak to us of other things." (Elie Wiesel, *One Generation After*)
5. My first teacher, the Batizer Rebbe, said "Here, children are the beginning and the end of all things. Thousands upon thousands of works have been written and will be written with

these letters. Look at them and study them with love, for they will be your links to life. And to eternity.”

When I read the first word aloud – *B’reshit* – I felt transported into an enchanted universe. An intense joy gripped me when I came to understand the first verse. “It was with the twenty-two letters of the *aleph-beth* that God created the world,” said the teacher. “Take care of them and they will take care of you. They will go with you everywhere. They will make you laugh and cry. Or rather, they will cry when you cry and laugh when you laugh, and if you are worthy of it, they will allow you into hidden sanctuaries where all becomes...” All becomes what? Dust? Truth? Life? It was a sentence he never finished. (Elie Wiesel, *All Rivers Run to the Sea*)

6. “Where shall I begin, please your majesty? he asked. “Begin at the beginning,” the king said gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”

....

She saw an ancient city, and a quiet river winding near it along the plain, and up the stream went slowly gliding a boat with a merry party of children on board – she could hear their voices and laughter like music over the water – and among them was another little Alice... (Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*)

7. ...and that is nothing less than the impossible. (Claude Monet)