

PARSHAT MIKETZ
GENESIS 41:1-44:17
HAFTARAH ZECHARIAH 2:14-4:7
25 KISLEV 5785/26 DECEMBER 2024



Shattered
Acrylic on canvass by Heather Ernst

A MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

1. מִקֵּץ
קָצַץ – v., cut off; cut in two; cut into pieces
קֵץ – n., end (of a period of time)
2. Jacob saw that there was שֶׁבֶר in Egypt. (Genesis 42:1)
שָׁבַר - n., corn grain; שָׁבַר - v., to break, break into pieces; שֶׁבֶר - n., a breaking, fracture
שֶׁבֶר - n., hope; שָׁבַר - v., to inspect, examine; wait, hope

Jacob saw that there was produce in Egypt. How did he see? Surely he did not see but heard, as it says: “Look, I have heard....” What, then, is meant by: “Jacob saw”? He saw in a holy vision that he still had hope (שֶׁבֶר) in Egypt, but it was not an actual prophecy that would disclose to him outright that this referred to Joseph.

3. נִרְאָ יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו נִיבְרָם וַיִּתְנַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם

When Joseph saw his brothers, he **recognized them** and he **made himself strange** to them...
(Genesis 42:7)

נָכַר - v., to recognize, distinguish; מֵכָר - n., acquaintance, friend

נָכַר - v., to treat as foreign or strange, to disguise; נִכְרִי - adj., foreign, alien

4. The shattering of the vessels (*Shevirat haKeilim*) does not signify a flaw in the creative process. On the contrary, it serves a very specific and important purpose, which is to bring about a state of separation or partition of light into distinct qualities and attributes, and thereby introduce diversity and multiplicity into creation. (Moshe Miller)
5. The synapses in our minds carry the sparks of imagination....That's where it all comes from. If your desire propels you to dance, to produce, to love, we create that which carries the earth through time. The sparks that appear to scatter and shatter from a sparkler are as much like the spirit each one of us has, as is the force of the sun's heat sustaining the world...My imagination is way more vivid than the world I love in, and that's what sets my mind on fire. (Heather Ernst)