

PARSHAT VAYISHLACH
GENESIS 32:4-36:43
HAFTARAH OBADIAH 1:1-21
11 KISLEV 5785/12 DECEMBER 2024



Embracing Uncertainty #5
Acrylic and glass beads on canvass by Jonas Gerard

WHEN WILL THIS CRISIS BE OVER?

1. He named that place Mahanaim....I have now become two camps (*shnei mahanot*). (Genesis 32:3, 11)
2. And a man wrestled with him. (Genesis 32:25)
3. “If God remains with me and protects me...and gives me bread to eat and clothing to wear and if I return safe to my father’s house then Adonai shall be my God.” (Genesis 28:20-21)
4. Fearing the confrontation with Esau, Jacob wanted to run away. God sent an angel to wrestle with him to stop him doing so. On this reading, God was teaching Jacob how to wrestle with his fears and defeat them. (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)

God answers a person’s prayers if the person prays by searching himself, becoming his own opponent. (Rabbi Benno Jacob)

“I will deal with you in great goodness” (Genesis 32:13) suggests that God promises Jacob that his sense of his own life will share in the experience of God’s goodness. God will not merely be good to Jacob. God will make Jacob accomplice in the benign self-creation of Israel. (Sefat Emet)

5. Uncertainty is a great blessing if you can flow with it. If you're stuck on your determination...on your outcome...then uncertainty doesn't have a chance and miracles can't happen. (Jonas Gerard)

One of my teachers once said to me "your brushes are very smart, why don't you let them do the work?" (Jonas Gerard)

6. *"When will this crisis be over?"* The unpleasant truth is, no one knows. Harder still is that even when we declare this crisis behind us, the life we 'get back to' will not be the one it was....Some of the most profound chapters of our lives won't get a title until much later. So uncertain and uncomfortable as this crisis may be, it holds a powerful catalyst for profound transformation, individually and collectively....Collectively, it invites us to transcend the divisive, ego-dominated paradigms that keep us from rallying together to create a more sustainable, compassionate and courageous world." (Dr. Margie Warrell)

"Please accept my present (בְּרִכָּתִי) which has been brought to you, for God has favored me and I have plenty (כֹּל)." (Genesis 33:11)

"Remember, I am with you....I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (Genesis 28:15)

Moving from the transactional to the transformational:

- ❖ Know that you have all that you need within you.
- ❖ Know that you contain the power of loving creation.
- ❖ Focus on blessing others, rather than seeking to receive anything from others.
- ❖ Trust that fulfillment is realized in and through relationships of mutuality with others.