

PARSHAT VAERA
EXODUS 6:2-9:35
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 28:25-29:21
23 TEVET 5785/23 JANUARY 2025



Apotheosis

Grattage on canvass by Giovanni Guida

REMOVING THE VEIL

1. God (*Elohim*) spoke to Moses and said, “I am Yud Hei Vav Hei. I appeared (*vaera*) to Abraham, Ishaac and Jacob as *El Shaddai*, but I was not known (נודעתי) to them by My name Yud Hei Vav Hei....I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites... (Exodus 6:2-5)
2. נודעתי “I did not inform them” is not written here but rather “I was not known to them.” I was not recognized (לא נכרתתי) by them in My aspect of trustworthiness, because of which I am named Yud Hei Vav Hei, that I am faithful that I may be relied upon to fulfill My words – for I made them promises but have not yet fulfilled them. (Rashi Exodus 6:3)

נודעתי is in the niph'al verb stem: reflexive voice (subject both performs and receives the action) or passive voice (subject is acted upon)

3. Language was in exile, as long as they refused to receive the word of God, were not prepared to hear it. In the midrash we find, “They did not hear, because it was hard for them to separate from idolatry, as it is written, “They did not cast away the detestable things they were drawn to” (Ezekiel 20:8)....In order to hear one must be clear of all obstructions. This is the essence of exile, even now, that one cannot clear oneself of distractions and forget the vanities of the world. (Sefat Emet)

4. The joy in every successful metamorphosis conforms...with the intellect's age-old energetic need to liberate itself from the deceptive and boring paradise of fixed memories and to investigate a new, incomparably expansive area of experience, in which the boundaries between the so-called inner world and the outer world become increasingly blurred and will probably one day disappear entirely. (Max Ernst, "What is Surrealism")
5. My art becomes hierophanic [revealing the sacred] at the moment in which the veil of the skin of the painting is torn in order to make visible the genesis of things. This action is revealing because there is a sudden irruption of the absolute reality of the sacred which manifests itself and makes it real... (Giovanni Guida,