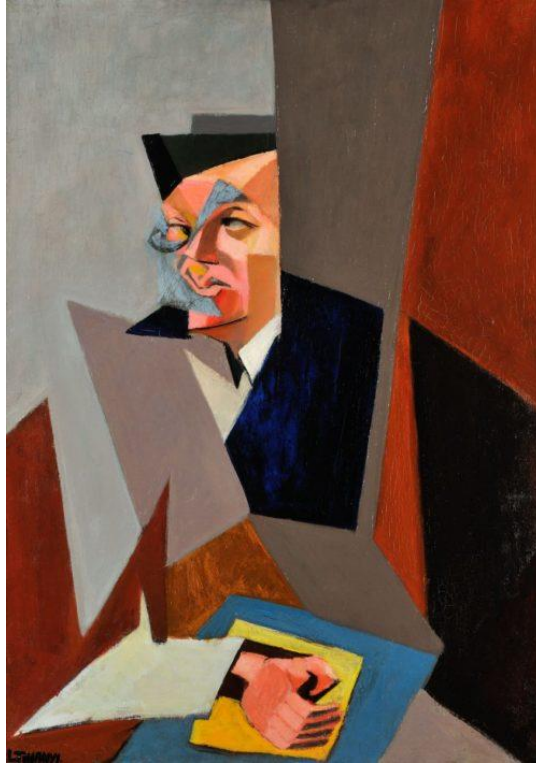


PARSHAT VAYIGASH
GENESIS 44:18-47:27
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 37:15-28
2 TEVET 5785/2 JANUARY 2025



Tristan Tzara
Oil on canvass by Lajos Tihanyi

ESTRANGEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION

1. “Know well that your offspring shall be strangers (*ger*) in a land not theirs...” (Genesis 15:13)

“I am a stranger (*ger*) and an inhabitant among you...” (Genesis 23:4)

Joseph named his first-born Manasseh, meaning “God made me forget my parental home.” (Genesis 41:51)

And the second he named Ephraim, meaning “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.” (Genesis 41:52)

Joseph made himself strange to them... (Genesis 42:8)

He (Moses) named him Gershom, “I have been a stranger in a strange land.” (Exodus 2:22)

2. Then Judah approached him (וַיִּגַּשׁ *vayigash*)... (Genesis 44:18)

וַיִּגַּשׁ - to draw near

3. Joseph could no longer control himself (לֹא יָדָאָה לְיֹסֵף)... (Genesis 45:1)

לֹא יָדָאָה - to hold, be strong; reflexive form, to restrain oneself

אֶפְיֹקָא - n., channel, streambed

4. Lajos Tihanyi. Tristan Tzara. Paul Celan.

Mute Autumn aromas

The marguerite, unbroken, passed

between home and chasm

through your memory.

A strange lostness was

palpably present, almost

you would

have lived.

(Paul Celan)

5. Mortal, take a stick and write on it, *For Judah and Israelites associated with it*; and take another stick and write on it, *For Joseph – Ephraim's stick – and all the House of Israel associated with it*. Bring them together, every one of them, as one stick, that they may be as one in your hand. (Ezekiel 37:16-17, haftarah for Parshat Vayigash)