

PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA
NUMBERS 8:1-12:16
HAFTARAH ZECHARIAH 2:14-4:7
16 SIVAN 5785/12 JUNE 2025



In Every Chamber of the Heart
Jan Richardson

A HIDDEN WHOLENESS

1. When the Ark was to set out, Moses would say: Arise, Adonai! May Your enemies be scattered, and may those who hate You flee from You. (Numbers 10:35)

The people took to complaining (*mitonehnm*) evil in God's ears... (Numbers 11:1)

מִתְאַנְּנִים – אָנָּן, only hithpoel, complain, murmur

2. The riffraff (רִיבְרָאִים) in their midst felt a gluttonous craving (הִתְאָוֶה)... (Numbers 11:4)

רָאָה – gather; אָרְזָה – harvest; אָרְזָה – storehouse

Let her be shut out of camp for seven days, and then let her be readmitted (תִּקְבָּל)... (Numbers 12:14)

רָאָה - rendered as “gluttonous craving”

רָאָה – to incline, desire; in hithpael form, to lust after, covet, have a reckless longing

A man who strays from the path of prudence will rest in the company of ghosts. He who loves pleasure comes to want...The craving of a lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to work. All day long he is seized with craving (רָאָה רָאָה) while the righteous man gives without stint. (Proverbs 21:17, 25-26)

3. All the protagonists in the book of Numbers – even the rebels who complain and desire and hate – are of heroic stature. (Based on Mei HaShiloach)
4. Yalta said to her husband Rav Nachman: For any thing that the Merciful One prohibits, He permits to us a similar thing. (Talmud, Chullin 109b)
5. We need to see how often we conspire in our own deformation: for every external power bent on twisting us out of shape, there is a potential collaborator within us. (Parker Palmer. *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life*)
6. There is in all things a hidden wholeness. (Thomas Merton)
7. Hallelujah, I shall praise Adonai with all my heart. (Psalm 111:1)