

PARSHAT DEVARIM  
DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22  
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 1:1-27  
12 AV 5785/AUGUST 6 2025



*Erased de Kooning Drawing*  
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## THE POWER OF VACATION

1. וְזֹאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׂם מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
This is the Torah (teaching) that Moses set before the Israelites.
2. Ten Vacations  
The Mountain of God: Deuteronomy 1:5, Exodus 19:11  
The Court System: Deuteronomy 1:9-13, Exodus 18:17-22  
The Scouts: Deuteronomy 1:22, Numbers 13:1-2  
The Panic: Deuteronomy 1:25-26; Numbers 13:26-14:3  
The Loyal Scout: Deuteronomy 1:36, Numbers 14:30  
The Punishment of Moses: Deuteronomy 1:37, Numbers 20:9-13  
Edomites: Deuteronomy 2:4-6, Numbers 20:17-21  
Sihon: Deuteronomy 2:24-25, Numbers 21:23  
Moab: Deuteronomy 2:29, Numbers 21  
Reuven and Gad: Deuteronomy 3:18-22, Numbers 32:16-19

3. Yohaku no bi  
The space left empty/the beauty of the remaining white
  
4. Thirty spokes unite around one hub to make a wheel.  
It is the presence of the empty space that gives the function of a vehicle.  
Clay is molded into a vessel. It is the empty space that gives function of a vessel.  
Doors and windows are chiseled out to make a room. It is the empty space in the room that gives its function.  
Something substantial can be beneficial,  
While the emptiness of void is what can be utilized.  
(Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*)
  
5. The people have to learn to fight their own battles. They must discover God is a force within rather than a force outside that fights their battles for them. They must discern the God who is close – within the camp – and not one who is distant, who performs miracles, liberates the Israelites, brings plagues against the Egyptians, sends the people water from a rock and food from heaven, and divides the sea for them....[Deuteronomy] marks the move from divine initiative to human responsibility. (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)
  
6. Scripture says: “Drink from your own cistern, running water from your own well.” (Proverbs 5:15). God placed a holy point into the very nature of each creature: a holy soul. It is called “our cistern” for it is attached to the body. The more you take this soul-light upon yourself, drawing your deeds to follow this light, the more the spirit and higher soul is added to you. This opens the wellspring that flows without end; this is “flowing from your well.” (Sefat Emet)
  
7. Deuteronomy (“second law” or “repetition of the law”)  
  
Devarim (“words”)  
These are the words (*devarim*) that Moses spoke (*deeber*) to all Israel... (Devarim 1:1)
  
8. The world was created with ten utterances. (Pirkei Avot 5:1)