

PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH  
GENESIS 23:1-25:18  
HAFTARAH I KINGS 1:1-31  
22 CHESHVAN 5786/13 NOVEMBER 2025



*Birch*

Watercolor on paper by Hilma af Klint

A SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY

1. תָּגִי שָׂרָה...תָּגִי שָׂרָה (Genesis 25:1)
2. For he who is *reckoned among the living* has *something to look forward to*...since the living know they will die. But the dead know nothing; they have no more reward, for even the memory of them has been forgotten. (Ecclesiastes 9:4-5)

The “living,” these are the righteous, who even in their death are called living. “The dead know nothing,” these are the wicked, who even during their lives are called dead. (Talmud, B’rachot 18b)

“reckoned among the living” (lit., “joined to all”)  
“something to look forward to” (lit., “has trust/security”)

3. Death speaks of absence. The dead themselves harbor no more hope of being alive. Because they feel hopeless and utterly despairing – in that subjective sense they are dead. (Rabbi Ya’akov Leiner)

4. I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.  
(from “Song of Myself” by Walt Whitman)
  
5. In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality. (Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” April 16, 1963)
  
6. Abraham breathed his last, dying at a good ripe age, old and satisfied (שָׂבַע)... (Genesis 25:8)  
שָׂבַע – n., abundance