

PARSHAT MIKETZ  
GENESIS 41:1-44:17  
HAFTARAH ZECHARIAH 2:14-4:7  
28 KISLEV 5786/18 DECEMBER 2025



*Between Then and Becoming*  
Encaustic on wood panel by Anne Stine

## SHATTERING AND HOPE

1. וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיִּכְרָם וַיִּתְנַכֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם  
When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them and he made himself strange to them... (Genesis 41:7)

נָכַר - to recognize

נִכְרַר - to treat as strange, to act as a stranger toward another (hithpael form)

2. ...וַיְדַבֵּר אֲתָם קָשׁוֹת...  
...and he spoke *kashot* to them ... (Genesis 41:7)

קָשָׁה - severe; hard

הַדְּבָר הַקָּשֶׁה יָבִיאוּן אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

...the difficult matters they would bring to Moses... (Exodus 18:26)

3. Recalling the dreams that he had dreamed about them, Joseph said to them, “You are spies, you have come to see the land in its nakedness.” (Genesis 42:9)

“That he dreamed about them.” “About them”...He realized that they had been fulfilled for, see now, they had bowed to him. (Rashi)

“Alas, we are being punished on account of our brother...” Reuben spoke up and said to them, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do no wrong to the boy’?...Now comes the reckoning for his blood.” (Genesis 42:21-22)

4. We are constantly updating our memory —it is what we do our whole life. Memory reconsolidation alters our long-term memory. Our brains do that by recalling the memory into short term memory and then, while that short-term memory is alive, we create a new neural pathway so you build a different experience and quick response to that memory....the process of recalling memories into our short-term memory makes our memories “unstable” and subject to change—until they are once again “consolidated” and placed once back again into our “stable” long term memory. During this stage of recall, at cellular level, certain neurons can literally grow new branch connections to other neurons. So—because our memories are fragile and subject to alterations, memory can be “edited” and rebuilt so that healing happens. (David Ebaugh, LCSW, trauma recovery specialist)
5. Once memories are consolidated, they are not necessarily fixed but can be changed long after storage. In particular, seemingly stable memories may re-enter an unstable state when they are retrieved, from which they must be re-stabilized during a process known as reconsolidation. (“Reconsolidation of human memory: brain mechanisms and clinical relevance,” Lars Schwabe , Karim Nader , Jens C Pruessner)
6. A primal forgetting leads to a process of approximate reconstructions, but only of the seeker is genuinely the loser, if there is no unauthenticity in the search. Such a genuine awareness of loss is the only basis for hope of recovery. (Based on Rabbi Nachman)
7. This series treats memory not as a fixed narrative, but as a living, fluid process constantly reconstructed through acts of layering, erasing, obscuring, and revealing. (Anne Stine)