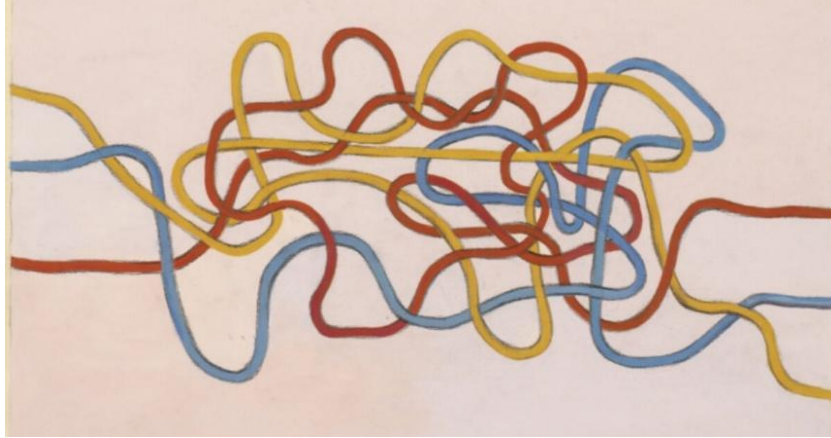


PARSHAT KI TISA
EXODUS 30:11-34:35
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 36:16-38
16 ADAR 5786/5 MARCH 2026



Knot, 1947
Anni Albers

A KNOT OF MYSTERY

1. Moses said, “Oh, let me behold Your Presence!” ...[God said] “as My Presence passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and shield you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you will see My back; but My face may not be seen.” (Exodus 33:18, 22-23)
2. “And you will see My back.” God showed him the knot (קִשְׁרָה) of tefillin. (Rashi)

Rav Hana bar Bizna said in the name of Rabbi Shimon Hasida, the expression: “And you will see My back,” should be understood as follows: This teaches that the Holy One, Blessed be He, Who, as mentioned above, wears phylacteries, showed him the knot of the tefillin of His head, which is worn on the back of the head. (Berachot 7a)
3. What Moses is to see is that part of the tefillin that signifies that one is not seeing the tefillin itself. The midrash conveys the experience of not seeing the heart of the mystery. (Avivah Zornberg)
4. “I learned to listen to threads and to speak their language.” (Anni Albers)
5. קִשְׁרָה - to bind, create a connection, create a relationship

6. The magic knot is used to join two separate strings or pieces of yarn. You may do this when you want to change the color of your yarn or when you come to the end of one string and need to add more. It's ridiculously strong, small, and virtually indiscernible in the middle of most projects. As you can see, once it's tied, it's no bigger around than the yarn, and there are no ends to weave in! (Tana Glenn, CreateLaughGrow.com)



A mystery knot is used to join together two threads invisibly and securely by creating small, interlocking overhand knots.

7. Moses hastened to bow low to the ground in homage and said...“Pardon our iniquity and our sin...” (Exodus 34:8)