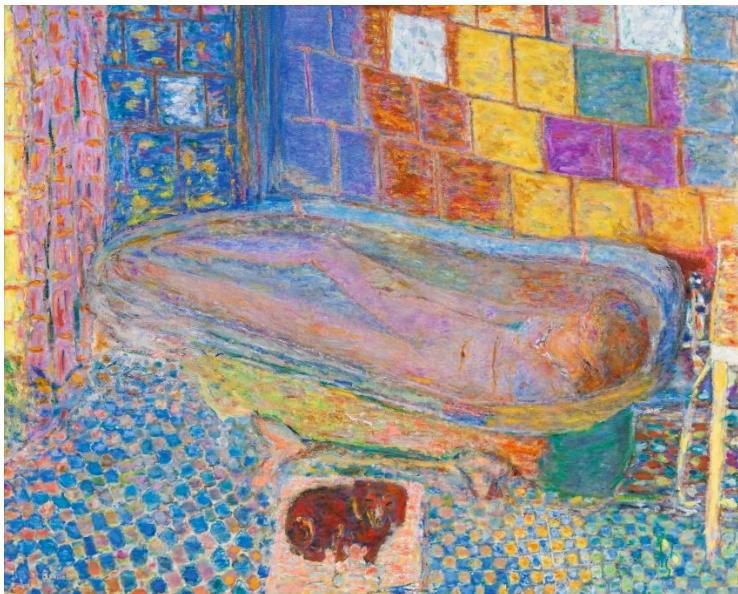


PARSHAT SHEMINI
LEVITICUS 9:1-11:47
HAFTARAH II SAMUEL 6:1-7:17
22 NISAN 5786/9 APRIL 2026



Nude in the Bath
Pierre Bonnard

THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

1. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קֵרֵב אֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
Moses said to Aaron, “Come close to the altar.” (Leviticus 9:7)
 2. For Aaron was embarrassed and afraid to approach. Mose said to him, “Why are you embarrassed? This is what you were selected for.” (Rashi)
- The commentators say that it was because of this shame he had that he was chosen. But it could also be read otherwise: that the goal of being chosen was to reach this state of shame. Both interpretations are correct. (Sefat Emet)
3. “Take for yourself a young calf as a sin offering” (Leviticus 9:2). This teaches that Moses said to Aaron: Aaron, my brother, even though God has been appeased to atone for you sins, you need to put something into the mouth of satan! Send a gift ahead of you before you enter the Sanctuary, lest he block your path into the Sanctuary. (Sifra)

4. Aaron's fear and shame perhaps represent the anxiety that the future will inevitably be like the past; that there will, in fact, be no future. (Avivah Zornberg)
5. קרב מגע (Krav Maga)
6. Prayer substitutes for ritual sacrifice.
Prayer is an act of war against the forces that petrify one's being. (based on Ha'emek Davar).
"Prayer is not a state of intimacy with God but a process of coming close, of overcoming impediments to intimacy." (Avivah Zornberg on Ha'emek Davar)
7. Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them; and he stepped down after offering the sin offering, the burnt offering and the offering of well-being. Moses and Aaron then went inside the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people. And the Presence of God appeared to all the people. (Leviticus 9:22-23)

When Aaron's sons saw that all the sacrifices had been offered and all the deeds had been done and the Shechinah had not yet come down, Nadav said to Avihu, Does anyone cook a meal without fire? Immediately, they took strange fire. (Sifra)

8. Art recalls the memory
of his true existence
to whoever has forgotten
that Being is the one thing
all the universe shouts

Only return of thought to
Its source will complete thought.

Only return of activity
To its source will complete
Activity. Listen to that.

(Allen Ginsberg, "This Is About Death")