

PARSHAT NASO
NUMBERS 4:21-7:89
HAFTARAH JUDGES 13:2-25
12 SIVAN 5786/28 MAY 2026



Pine Trees
Hasegawa Tōhaku

SECRET CAVITIES

1. “For this, every pious man should pray to You in a time when You may be found” (Psalm 32:6). One sage said that this refers to woman, another said it refers to Torah, and another that it refers to death. (Talmud, Brachot 8a)
2. “Can anyone hide himself in secret places?” (Jeremiah 23:24). This can be compared to an architect who was also the tax collector of the realm. People began to hide their silver and gold in secret places. The architect said to them, “I built the state and I made those secret places. Can you really hide from me? So God said to adulterers, “Can anyone hide himself in secret places?” I created you, and I made you full of secret cavities. What is the God who brought you forth? It is the God who made you full of cavities! (Midrash Tanchuma)
3. Religion has gone from a belief in faith and mystery to certainty. (Brene Brown, “The Power of Vulnerability,” 2010 TED Talk)
4. I am the rest between two notes,
which are somehow always in discord
because death’s note wants to climb over –
but in the dark interval, reconciled,
they stay there trembling,
And the song goes on, beautiful.
(Rainer Maria Rilke, *Book of Hours*)