

PARSHAT KORACH
NUMBERS 16:1-18:32
HAFTARAH I SAMUEL 11:14-12:22
3 TAMUZ 5786/18 JUNE 2026



Seven Types of Ambiguity
Helen Frankenthaler

THE VISION OF A GREAT AND NOBLE LIFE

1. Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, “We will not come!” (Numbers 16:12)

לא נעלה

...the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah's people...They went down alive into Sheol... (Numbers 16:32-33)

The sons of Korah did not die. (Number 26:11)

Such is the fate of those who are self-confident/the end of those pleased with their own talk... (Psalm 49:14)

2. *Machloket* – term for argument in Talmud

חלק - to divide, to share

3. Rabbi Yehudah Loewe, the Maharal characterizes the “*ba’alei machloket*”—the masters of dissension, as the ones who are unyielding and unwilling to go beyond the “strict level of the law.” Those who build and seek peace, by contrast, accept the inevitability of distance between two positions or perspectives. The Kabbalists see creation as occurring in a space from which G-d retracts his light to create a vacuum; in that emptiness, the world can be created. Likewise, the separations and differences between the ways scholars characterize Torah is the “space” that allows for the creative development of new insight. It is the gaps and insufficiencies in language that ultimately allow room for creative connection. (Dr. Chana Silberstein)
4. Korach repudiated the creation of the world. (Zohar)
5. Know that dispute is an aspect of the creation of the world....For had all the Torah scholars been in agreement, there would have been no room for the creation of the world...It was only by way of the dispute between them that there was formed between them an aspect of the empty space.... (Rabbi Nachman)
6. This is the vision of a great and noble life: to endure ambiguity and to make light shine through it; to stand fast in uncertainty; to prove capable of unlimited love and hope. (Karl Jaspers)