# CONGREGATION

ברוד אתה יהו"ה אַל הֵינוּ מֵלֶדְ הַעוּלָם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וְצְוַנוּ לַעֲסוק בַּדְבָרִי תורַה.

Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei Torah.

# Soul Spa 38 – P. Shlakh-Lekha June 29, 2024 23 Sivan 5784

Blessed are You, YHVH. our God, eternal sovereign, who sanctifies us in God's connecting command to busy ourselves in words of Torah.

#### Numbers 13:1-2, 23-33, 14:20

וַיִדַבֶּר יהו"ה אֵל-משה לֵאמר: שְׁלַח-לְדָּ אנשים ויתרו את-ארץ כנען אשר-אני נתן לבני ישראל איש אחד איש אחד למטה אַבתַיוֹ תִשְׁלַחוּ כֹּל נַשִּיא בַהֶּם: ... וַיַּבֹאוּ עד-נַחַל אָשָׁכֹל וַיִּכְרַתוֹ מִשַּׁם זְמוֹרַה ואשכול ענבים אחד וישאהו במוט בשנים ומן-הרמנים ומן-התאנים: למקום ההוא קרא נחל אשכול על אדות האשכול אַשַׁר-כַּרתוּ מִשַּׁם בַּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵלּ וַיָּשָׁבוּ מִתוּר הַאַרץ מִקָּץ אַרבַעים יום:

וילכו ויבאו אל-משה ואל-אהרן ואל-כל-עדַת בַּנִי-יִשֹרָאֵל אֵל-מִדְבַּר פַּארַן קַדֵשַׁה וַיַּשִּׁיבוּ אתַם דַבַּר וְאֵת-כַּל-הַעֲדַה וַיַּראוָם אֶת-פָּרֵי הַאַרֵץ: וַיִּסְפָּרוּ-לוֹ וַיִּאמִרוֹ בַּאנוּ אל-הארץ אשר שלחתנו וגם זבת חלב ודבש הוא ווה-פּריַה: אפס כִּי-עַז הַעַם הישב בארץ והערים בצרות גדלת מאד וְגַם-יִלְדֵי הָעַנָק רָאִינוֹ שָׁם: עַמַּלֶק יושֵׁב בארץ הנגב והחתי והיבוסי והאמרי יושב בַהַר וָהַכָּנַעַנִיל יושב עַל-הַיַּם וְעַל יַד הַיַּרְדָן:

וַיָּהָס כַּלָב אֶת-הַעָם ... וַיֹּאמֵר עַלֹּה נַעַלָּה ויַרְשָׁנוּ אתה כִּי-יַכְוּל נוּכַל לָה: והָאַנְשִים אַשֶּׂר עַלוּ עָמוֹ אַמִרוּ לאַ נוּכַל לַעַלות אל-העם כי-חזק הוא ממנוי ויציאו דבת הארץ אשר תרו אתה אל-בני ישראל לאמר הַאַרץ אָשֶר עברנו בַה לַתור אתה ארץ אכלת יושביה הוא וכל-העם אַשֶּׁר-רַאִינוּ בָתוֹכַה אַנִשֵּׁי מִדּוֹת: וְשַׁם ראַינוּ אֵת-הַנָּפִילִים בָּנֵי עַנַק מִן- הַנִּפְלִים וַנָּהַי בָעֵינֵינוּ כַּחַגָּבִים וַכֵּן הָיֻינוּ בַּעֵינֵיהֵם:

#### Developmental // trauma response?

וַתְשַא כַּל-הַעֲדָה וַיִּתְנוּ אֶת-קוּלַם וַיִּבַכִּוּ הַעָם בַּלַילַה הַהוא: וַיִּלֹנוֹ עַל-משָה וַעַל-אַהַרוֹ כַל בַנֵי ישראַל וַיאמרוֹ אַלָהֵם כַּל-הַעֲדָה לו-מַתנוֹ בּאָרִץ מִצְרַיִם אוַ בַּמִּדְבַּר הַוָּה לו-מַתְנוּי וְלַמַה יֹהוֹ"ה מֵבִיא אתַנוּ אל-הארץ הזאת לנפל בחרב נשינו וטפנו יהיו לבז הלוא טוב לנו שוב מצרימה: וַיאמרוָ אִישׁ אֵל-אַחִיו נִתְנַה ראָשׁ וְנַשׁוּבַה :מִצְרַיִמָה

1-2, 23-25. YHVH spoke to Moshe saying: Send for yourselves men to scout the Land of Canaan that I give to the Children of Israel, one man per ancestral tribe, sending a chieftain from them.... [The scouts] came to Wadi Eshkol. There they cut a cluster of [grapefruit-sized] grapes borne on a frame by two, and pomegranates and figs. The place was called Wadi Eshkol for the cluster (eshkol) that the Children of Israel cut there. They returned from scouting the land after 40 days.

26-29. They went to Moshe, Aharon and all the community of the Children of Israel at Kadeish, in the Paran wilderness, and reported to them and the whole community, showing them the fruit of the land. They recounted saying: "We came to the land to which you sent us: it flows with milk and honey, and this is her fruit! But the nation dwelling [there] is powerful; the cities are fortified and huge. We saw Anakites there. Amalekites dwell in the Negev; Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites inhabit the hills, and Canaanites dwell by the Sea and along the Jordan."

30-33. Caleb hushed the people... saying, "Let's go up to inherit [the land]: we surely can do it!" But others who [scouted] with him said, "We can't overcome [them]: they're stronger than us." They slandered the land they had scouted to the Children of Israel saying, "The land we scouted devours her inhabitants, and all the nation we saw in her are men of stature! We saw Nephilim there – children of Anakites are from Nephilim! –

and in our own eyes we looked like grasshoppers and so we were in their eyes!"

where's the "reality check"

1-4. The whole community broke into loud cries, and the nation wept that night. All the Children of Israel railed against Moshe and Aharon saying to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we might die in this wilderness! Why does YHVH take us to that land to fall by sword? Our [families] will be taken! Best for us to return to Egypt!" They said to each other, "Let's make a [new] leader and return to Egypt."

not "lie"

Pre-Noah?

• feel

project

life/death

וַיּפּל משֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם לֹפְנֵי כָּל-קְהַל עֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וִיהוֹשֻׁעַ בּן-נוּן וְכָלֵב בֶּגְדִיהֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-כָּל-עֲדַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאַל בֹּגְדִיהֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-כָּל-עֲדַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאַל לאמר הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר עָבַרְנוּ בָהּ לָתוּר אֹתָהּ טוֹבָה הָאָרֶץ מְאֹד מְאֹד: אִם-חָפֵץ בָּנוּ יהו"ה וְהַבִּיא אֹתָנוּ אֶל-הָאָרֶץ הַיֹּאֹת וּנְתָנָהּ לֵנוּ אָרֵץ אֲשֶׁר-הָוֹא זָבַת חַלֵב וּדְבַשׁ: 5-8. Moshe and Aharon fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the Children of Israel. And Yehoshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Yefuneh, who scouted the land, tore their clothes. They spoke to the whole community of the Children of Israel saying, "The land we went to scout is an exceedingly good land. If YHVH delights in us, then [God] will bring us into this land and give it to us – a land that flows with milk and honey.

אַד בַּיחו"ה אַל-תִּמְרדּוּ וְאַתֶּם אַל-תִּירְאוּ אֶת-עַם הָאָרֶץ כִּי לַחְמֵנוּ הֵם סָר צִּלָּם מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיחו"ה אִתָּנוּ אֵל-תִּירָאֻם: וַיּאמְרוּ כָּל-הָעַדָּה לִרְגּוֹם אֹתָם בָּאֲבָנִים וּכְבּוֹד יהו"ה נִרְאָה בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד אֶל-כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיּאמֶר יהו"ה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה עַד-אָנָה יְנַצְצֵנִי הָעָם הַיֶּה וְעַד-אָנָה לֹא-יַאֲמִינוּ בִי בְּבֶל הָאֹתוֹת אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי בְּקַרְבּוּי אַכֶּנוּ וַעַצוּם מִמֵּנוּי 9-12. "Only do not rebel against YHVH or fear the people of that land – for they are like bread to us, their defense is departed from them, and YHVH is with us: do not fear them." While the whole congregation said to kill them by stoning, YHVH's glory appeared in the Tent of Meeting before all the Children of Israel. YHVH said to Moshe: "How long will this people provoke Me? How long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs I showed them? I will strike them with pestilence and disinherit them, and make of you a greater and mightier nation than them."

וַיּאמֶר משֶׁה אֶל-יהו"ה וְשָׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם כִּי-הָעֶלִיתָ בְּכֹחֲךּ אֶת-הָעָם הַיֶּה מִקּרְבּוּ: וְאָמְרוּ בְּלֶרָב הָעָם הַיֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עַיִן בְּעֵין נִרְאָה אַתָּה יהו"ה וַעֲנָנְךּ עמֵד עֲלֵהֶם וּבְעַמִּוּד אֵשׁ לָיִלָה הֹלֵךְ לִפְנֵיהֶם יוֹמֶם וּבְעַמּוּד אֵשׁ לָיִלָה הַבּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר-הָעָם הַיֶּה כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד וְאִמְרוּ הַבּּלְתִּי יְכֹלֶת יהו"ה לְהָבִיא אֶת-הָעָם הַיֶּה מָבּלְתִּי יְכֹלֶת יהו"ה לְהָבִיא אֶת-הָעָם הַיֶּה אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׁבַּע לָהֶם וַיִּשְׁחָטֵם 13-16. Moses said to YHVH: "But Egypt will hear. By Your might, You brought this people up from [there]. (The Egyptians] will tell the inhabitants of this land that they heard You, YHVH, are with this people, that You, YHVH, are seen eye to eye, that You go before them in pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. But if You kill this people together as one, then the nations that had heard of Your Name will say: 'YHVH was unable to bring this people into the land that [God] swore to them, so [God] slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

ְעַתָּה יִגְדֵּל-נָא כֹּחַ אֲדֹנִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ לֵאמֹר: יהו"ה אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְרַב-חֶסֶד נשֵׁא עָזוֹ וָפָשָׁע וְנַקֵּה...: סְלַח-נָא לַעֲוֹן הָעָם הַיֶּּה כְּגֹדֶל חַסְדֶּךְ וְכַאֲשֶׁר נָשָׂאתָה לָעָם הַיֶּה מִמִּצְרַיִם וְעַד-הֵנָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יהו"ה סָלַחְתִּי כִּדְבַרְךִּ:

17-20. "So now, please let the power of my Lord be great, as You said: 'YHVH is patient and merciful, forgiving iniquity and transgression....' Please pardon this people's iniquity, as great is Your mercy, as You forgave th[em] from Egypt until now." YHVH said, "I pardoned, as you said.

ים-סוּף.

ים-סוּף.

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ים-סוּף.

ים-סוּף.

ים-סוּף.

21-25. "Yet even as I live and as YHVH's glory fills all the world, none of those people who saw My glory – the signs I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, who tried Me these [many] times and disobeyed Me – will see the land I swore to their ancestors; none who spurn Me will see it. But My servant Caleb was imbued with a different spirit and stayed loyal to Me – him I will bring into the land he came for, and his offspring will hold it as a possession. Amalekites and Canaanites dwell in the valleys, so tomorrow turn back into the desert and journey by way of the Sea of Reeds."

PARDES		<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
<u>P</u>	Pshat (פשט)	<ul><li>Divine anger – annoyance</li><li>God "pardons" per Moshe</li><li>Grasshoppers</li></ul>	<ul> <li>What is pardon if can't enter land?</li> <li>Implications for peoples then of the lar</li> </ul>
<u>R</u>	Remez (רמז)	<ul> <li>Scouts "lied" or something else?</li> <li>God sets up possibility of better future</li> <li>Fear</li> <li>Covenantalism / relational —&gt; trust</li> <li>Projection (grasshoppers) —&gt; plague</li> </ul>	• Netzach – perseverence, time delay?
D	Drash (דרש)	<ul> <li>Land of promise as way of thinking</li> <li>Slave mentality - loss of agency</li> <li>Lots of 40s as time metric</li> <li>Nefilim - half divine, half human?!</li> <li>Derivation of tzitzit - trust v fear</li> <li>Ritual / symbols for different archetyp</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Is exaggeration a lack of faith?</li> <li>Spirituality of conquest? possession?</li> <li>How to evolve if we never knew differes</li> <li>es / readiness / predilections</li> </ul>
<u>s</u>	Sod (טוד)	<ul> <li>Divine unfolding all sefirot (attribute</li> <li>Divinity of forgiveness</li> <li>God of dialogue and encounter</li> <li>God indwelling with us, in us, in Lan</li> </ul>	

#### LARGER THAN LIFE

## **Numbers 13:23**

ואַשִּׁכּוָל עַנָבִים אֶחָד וַיִּשְּאָחוּ בַמּוְט בשנים ומן-הַרמנים ומן-הַתאֵנים:

אַשָּבּל וַיִּכְרְתוֹ מִשָּׁם וְמוֹרָה They came to wadi Eshkol. There they cut a cluster of [grapefruit-sized] grapes borne on a frame by two, and pomegranates and figs.





## Midrash Aggadah, Num. 13:23

הוא עץ הגפן אשר האשכול תלוי בה, A vine tree on which grapefruits hung: grapes ענבים, הם הגרעינים שהם תלויין בגפן: were kernels hanging from their vines.

## Numbers 13:33

הַנָּפָלִים וַנָּהִי בָעֵינֵינוּ כַּחַגַבִים וְכֵן הַיִינוּ

רושם ראינו את-הַנְפִילִים בּנֵי עֵנָק מִן- And there we saw Nefilim [=fallen ones], sons of Anak; and in our own sight we were like grasshoppers, and so were we in their sight.

#### Genesis 6-1:8

ויהי כי-החל האדם לרב על-פני האדמה ובַנות ילָדו לַהָּם: וַיִּרְאוֹ בְנֵי-הַאֱלֹהִים אֶת-בָּנות הַאַדַם כִּי טבת הֶנַה וַיִּקְחוּ לַהֶם נָשִׁים מִכּל אֲשֵׁר בָּחָרוּ וַיִּאמֵר יהו"ה לא-ידון רוחי באדם לעלם בשגם הוא בשר והיו ימיו מאה ועשרים שנה: הנפלים הַיוּ בַאַרץ בַּיַמִים הָהָם וְגַם אַחֵרי-כֵן אַשֵּׁר יַבאו בַנֵי הַאֱלֹהִים אֱל-בַנות הַאַדַם וְיַלְדוֹ לַהָם הַמָּה הַגָּברִים אַשֶּׁר מֵעוּלַם אַנְשֵׁי הַשַּׁם: וַיַּרָא יהו"ה כִּי רַבַּה רַעַת הַאַדַם בָּאָרץ וִכָּל-יֵצֵר מַחִשָּׁבֹת לְבּוֹ רַק רַע כָּל-היום: וינחם יהו"ה כי-עשה את-האדם בַאַרץ וַיִּתְעַצֵב אֵל-לְבוּ: וַיִּאמֵר יהו"ה אָמָחֶה אֶת-הַאַדַם אֲשֶׁר-בַּרַאתִי מֵעַל פָּנֵי ָהָאַדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד-בִּהֵמָה עַד-רֵמֵשׂ ועד-עוף השמים כי נחמתי כי עשיתם: ונח מַצַא חֱן בָּעֵינֵי יהו"ה. When humanity began increasing on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were pretty, and took as wives all whom they chose. YHVH said, My spirit will not always stay with humanity, who also are flesh, so their days will be 120 years. There were Nefilim in the earth in those days. Afterwards, when the sons of God came to the daughters of men, who bore children of them, the same became eternally mighty, people of renown. YHVH saw human wickedness proliferated on the earth, and that every impulse of thought was only evil every day. YHVH regretted and grieved in the heart for making humanity on the earth. YHVH said, "I will destroy humanity that I created from the face of the earth – man and beast, and every creeping thing, and the birds of the air, for I regret having made them. But Noah found grace in YHVH's eyes.

## Or HaHayyim, Num. 13:33

(Hayyim ben Moshe ibn Attar, 1696-1743 [Morocco])

By their comment, the scouts revealed that they felt vastly inferior even to the people in that land that did not fit the description of being people of renown. They knew it by comparing themselves to an average person they observed.

#### HaEmek HaDavar, Num. 13:33.2

אות לנו שלא נכבשם כדכתיב בשאול (שמואל א' כ"ח) וירא שאול את מחנה פלשתים וירא ויחרד לבו מאד. פי' ע"י שנפל מורא בלבבו. חרד לבו שאות הוא כי לא יצליח.

ונהי בעינינו כחגבים. שנפל לבבנו. וזה In our own sight we were like grasshoppers – They were fallen in their hearts. This is a sign for us that we will not succeed, as with Saul (1 Sam. 28), "Saul saw the Philistine camp and was terrified into trembling" – because he fell into terror in his heart. Saul's anxiety was a cause that he will not succeed.

#### Rashbam, Num. 13:33

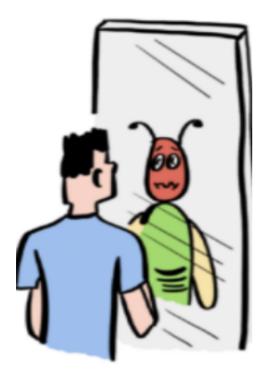
שהם נמוכים מאד. וזה מוכיח: היושב על חוג הארץ ויושביה כחגבים.

Anything low considers itself like a grasshopper הנמוך נראה לגבוה ממנו הרבה כחגבים, versus something taller. "Compared to the One enthroned above, the earth and its inhabitants [views itself] are like grasshoppers" (Is. 40:22)

#### Proverbs 27:19

בַּמַיִם הַפַּנִים לַפַּנִים כֵּן לֶב-הַאַדַם לַאַדַם:

As water is face to face, so is the heart person to person.



Psychological projection is a theory in which humans defend themselves against their own unconscious impulses or qualities (both positive and negative) by denying their existence in themselves while attributing them to others. Projection is just what it sounds like. Imagine an old-design movie projector in which the film was passed over a beam of light, sending the image from the film through a lens that projects that image onto a screen. That's also how it works psychologically. Some issue has been pushed into the unconscious, but that issue has energy and is constantly looking for release from its prison of the unconscious. So it projects itself through the lenses of our psychological eye, a convex eye that can only look outward at the external world rather than inward at our internal world – so that issue is suddenly seen in someone else.

## **Moves and Times of Forgiveness**

## Numbers Rabbah 16:11

בְּשֶׁרָאוּ אוֹתָן מְרַגְּלִים, נִתְּיֶרְאוּ, לְפִיכָּךְ אָמְרוּ כִּי חָזָק הוּא מִמֶנוּ. אָמַר רֵישׁ לָקִישׁ הַטִיחוּ דְבָרִים כְּלַפֵּי מֵעְלָה, וּבְאוֹתוֹ עָוֹן נִגְיַר עֲלֵיהֶם גְּזֵרוֹת קָשׁוֹת, מָה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא אָמַר לְיִרְמְיָה לֵךְ אֱמר לָהֶן אֵין אַתֶּם יוֹדְעִים מָה הוֹצֵאתֶם מִפִּיכֶם: לְקוֹל הֲמוּלָה גְדֹלָה, שֶׁאֲמַרְתֶּם מַה גְּרַמְתֶּם לְעַצְמְכֶם הִצִּיתֶם אֵשׁ עֲלֵיכֶם: יוֹם לַשְּׁנָה יוֹם לַשְּׁנָה תִּשְׂאוּ אֶת עֲוֹנֹתֵיכֵם.

אָמְרוּ וַנְהִי בְעֵינֵינוּ כַּחֲגָבִים, אָמֵר הַקּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא וִתַּרְתִּי עֲלֵיהֶם, אֶלָּא וְכֵן הָיִינוּ בְּעִינֵיהֶם. יוֹדְעִים הֱיִיתֶם מֶה עָשִׁיתִּי אֶתְכֶם לְעִינֵיהֶם, מִי יאמֵר שֶׁלֹא הֱיִיתֶם בְּעֵינֵיהֶם כְּמַלְאָכִים. מַה גְּרְמְתָּם לְעַצְמְכֶם בְּמַסְפַּר הַיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר תַּרְתֶּם אֶת הָאָרֶץ, הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בָּעוֹלָם הַיָּיָה עַל יְדֵי שֶׁהִיוּ שְׁלוּחֵי בָּשֶׂר וָדָם נְגְזַר עֲלֵיהֶם שַׁלֹא יִכְּנְסוּ לָאָכִי פִּתְאוֹם וִיפַנֶּה אֶתִּ מְשַׁלֵּחַ לָכֶם מַלְאָכִי פִּתְאוֹם וִיפַנֶּה אֶת הַדֶּרֶךְ, שֶׁנְּאַכִי וּפִּתָאם יְבוֹא אֵל הַיִּכַלוֹ. דְרַךְ לְפַנֵי וּפְתָאם יָבוֹא אֵל הַיִּכַלוֹ. When the scouts saw them, they were afraid. The scouts returned and said (Num. 13:31), "for they are stronger than us." Reish Lakish said, "They compared them to the Above. For this iniquity, harsh decrees were issued on them." What did the Holy Blessed One say to Jeremiah? "Go and say to them, 'You do not know what you brought out of your mouth," as in (Jer. 11:16), "with the sound of great tumult you lit it on fire, and you broke it." What did you cause yourself "with the sound of great tumult" that by your words "you lit it on fire"? This (Num. 14:34): "You will carry your iniquity [back into the desert] one day for each year" that you scouted the land. They said (Num. 13:33): "In our own eyes we looked like grasshoppers." The Holy Blessed One said, "I forgave them for that but not [when they said]. 'And so we were in their eyes.'" [God] said to them: "Did you know what I made you in their eyes? Who's to say that you were not like angels in their eyes?" That is why they did not enter the land. But in the world to come, suddenly I will send My angel to clear the way," as in (Mal. 3:1), "Behold, I am sending My messenger (angel) to clear a way before Me, and [YHVH] shall suddenly come to God's Temple."

#### B.T. Ta'anit 29a

בְּתִשְׁעָה בְּאָב נִגְזַר עַל אֲבוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁלֹא יִכָּנְסוּ לָאָרֶץ:

On the ninth day of Av, it was decreed that our ancestors would not enter the land.

#### Numbers 14:17-20

ועתה יגדל-נא כח אדני כאשר דברת לאמר: יהו"ה אַרד אַפַּים וָרַב-חֶסֶד נשָא עון וַפַּשַע וַנַקָּה...: סְלַח-נַא לַעֲון הַעַם הַזֶּה כְּגדֵל חַסְדֵּךְ וְכַאֲשֵׁר נָשָּׁאתָה לָעָם הַזֵּה מִמִּצְרַיִם ועד-הַנַה: וַיאמֵר יהו"ה סַלַחִתִּי כִּדְבַרְדְּ: So now, please let the power of my Lord be great, as You said: 'YHVH is patient, merciful, forgiving iniquity and transgression'... Please pardon this people's iniquity, as great is Your mercy, as You forgave th[em] from Egypt until now." YHVH said, "I pardoned, as you said.

## Ibn Ezra, Num. 14:19

ועד זה היום כי יש הנה שם המקום כמו

עד המקום הזה או מיום שיצאו ממצרים Even to this Makom, from the day that we came out of Egypt to this very day, for this *Makom* is where we came to on this night, a sign that .... ראיתיו עד הנה there has been no time like this one.

## Hizkuni, Num. 14:19

עכשיו לא אסלח להם אבל אפרע מהם.

I have forgiven, as you yourself asked about the matter of the Golden Calf. But now forgiveness entails that I <u>will exact</u> [something] from them.

## Mahzor for Kol Nidre

ונסלח לכל עדת בני ישראל ולגר הגר ותוכם כי לכל העם בשגגה: סְלַח-נָא לַעַוֹן הַעָם הַוֶּה כָּגֹדֵל חַסְדֶךְ וְכַאֲשֶׁר נַשָּאתַה לַעַם הַזֶּה מִמְצְרַיִם וְעַד-הֵנָה: ושם נאמר וַיֹּאמֵר יהו"ה סַלַחִתִּי כִּדְבַרָך: ברוך אתה יהו"ה אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו וקיימו הגיענו לזמו הזה.

All the community of the Children of Israel, and for the stranger dwelling among [us], are forgiven, though whole nation transgressed. "Please pardon this people's iniquity, as great is Your mercy, as You forgave th[em] from Egypt until now." And thus it is said: "YHVH said, 'I pardoned, as you said." Blessed are You, YHVH, sovereign in all time and space, who gave us life, and sustained us, and caused us to reach this season.

#### Questions

How do we understand, then, the flow of the season to come through the lens of this week's Torah portion?

What does this understanding mean for this time before the runway begins? for when the runway begins? For the time before Yom Kippur? For Yom Kippur?

#### Numbers 15:37-41

וַיִאמר יהו"ה אֵל-משה לֵאמר: דַבֵּרׁ אל-בני ישראל ואמרת אלהם ועשו להם ציצת על-כַּנפֵי בגדיהם לדרתם ונתנו עַל-צִיצֵת הַכַּנַף פָּתֵיל תִּכֵלֶת: וְהַיַה לַכֶּם` לציצת וראיתם אתו וזכרתם את-כַל-מצו ת יהו"ה ועשיתם אתם ולא-תתורו אַחַרי לְבַבָּכֶם ואַחַרי עִינֵיכֵם אַשַׁר-אַתַּם ונים אַ<u>חַרִיה</u>ָם: <u>לִמַען תִּזְכָרוֹ וַעֲשִׁיתֵם אֵת-</u> כַל-מצותי והייתם קדשים לאל היכם: אַני יהו"ה אַל הַיכָם אַשַּר הוצאתי אַתְכֶם מארץ מצרים להיות לכם לאל הים אני יהו"ה אל היכם:

YHVH spoke to Moses saying: "Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them to make *tzitzit* (fringes) on the corners of their garments for their generations, and give to the corner of the tzitzit a thread of blue. It will be your tzitzit: look at it and remember all the *mitzvot* of YHVH and do them, and you will not search out after your heart and after your eyes to prostitute after them. So you will remember and do all My *mitzvot* and to holy to your God – I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. I am YHVH your God.

#### Rashi, Num. 15:39

ולא תתורו אחרי לבבכם. כמו מתור ָהָאַרֵץ: הַלֶּב וְהַעֵינַיִם הֶם מְרַגַּלִים לַגוּף, מַסַרְסָרִים לוֹ אֵת הַעֲבֶרוֹת, הַעַין רוֹאַה וָהַלֶּב חומָד וְהַגּוּף עושה אֶת הַעֲבֵרָה:

And you will not search out after your heart -Like "searching out" the land. The heart and the eyes are the scouts of the body, pimping it for sins. The eye sees, the heart covets and the body does the sin.

## Ibn Ezra, Num. 15:39

אחרי לבבכם. המתאוה והעין רואה After your heart – Lusting. The eye sees and the heart covets. So, here are the tzitzit as a sign and אדם אחר הרהור symbol, so that one should not chase after the לבו וכל אשר שאלו עיניו: cogitation of the heart and all that the eyes seek.

## Exodus 31:16-17

וְשָׁמְרוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת לַעֲשׂוָת אֶת-הַשַּבַת לִדרתַם בַּרִית עולַם: בֵּינִי וּבֵין בני ישראל אות הוא לעלם ...

The Children of Israel will keep Shabbat, to make Shabbat for their generations as an eternal covenant. She will be between Me and the Children of Israel a sign forever.

## Rashi, Num. 15:38

צבַע יַרק של חלַזון:

*Blue* – It is the blue dye of (obtained from) the blood of the hilazon (a kind of shell-fish).

## Ramban, Num. 15:38

ובמדרשו של רבי נחוניא בן הקנה בפסוק ויתרון ארץ בכל הוא (קהלת ה:ח) ומאי ניהו ארץ דנחצבה ממנו שמים והוא כסאו של הקב"ה והיא אבן יקרה והיא ים החכמה וכנגדה תכלת בטלית ציצית...

In the Midrash of R. Nehunya b. Hakanah (Sefer HaBahir 96 on Ecclesiastes 5:8), it is written, "The profit [=scouting] of the land is in everything": What's the *land*? It's what the heavens were hewn from, the Holy Blessed One's throne, the precious stone and sea of wisdom. It corresponds to the blue thread of tzitzit of the tallit.