

## **B'Khol Dor VaDor**

by Rabbi Jan Uhrbach

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וָדוֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם  
*In every generation, a person is obligated to themselves as if they went out from Egypt*

The thing is

to see yourself as  
if

as if you weren't sure  
as if you didn't already know  
as if what seems so solid is only  
not an illusion, exactly, but  
contingent  
    as if  
        if only  
          if not

as if anything could happen because  
it could  
as if what seems  
so intractable inevitable impossible is only  
an if

one of many  
not an end but an  
and or a  
but or perhaps just  
perhaps

as if you were in the narrow straits  
(as if these weren't?)  
as if you were  
but you emerged from there  
or maybe not  
as if you didn't know  
weren't sure  
which was which or maybe

you chose not to go

as if you are Moses Miriam the-child-who-whines Nachshon-jumping-in

just not Pharaoh

who knows  
who "no"s  
who knows no ifs  
can't bear ifs  
can't see himself, ever

can't seem himself  
as if