

## Beha'alotkha - Numbers 8:1 - 12:16

### Chapter 8

א וידבר יי אל-משה לאמר: ב דבר אל-אהרן ואמרת אליו בהעלותך את-הנרות אל-מול פני המנורה יאירו שבעת הנרות: ג ויעש כן אהרן אל-מול פני המנורה העלה נרותיה כאשר צוה יי את-משה: ד וזה מעשה המנורה מקשה זהב עד-ירכה עד-פרחה מקשה הוא כמראה אשר הראה יי את-משה כן עשה את-המנורה: פ

1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 Speak to Aaron and say to him, "When you mount the lamps, let the seven lamps give light at the front of the lampstand." 3 Aaron did so; he mounted the lamps at the front of the lampstand, as the Lord had commanded Moses.--4 Now this is how the lampstand was made: it was hammered work of gold, hammered from base to petal. According to the pattern that the Lord had shown Moses, **so was the lampstand made.**

ה וידבר יי אל-משה לאמר: ו קח את-הלולים מתוך בני ישראל וטהרת אתם:...

5 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 6 Take the Levites from among the Israelites and cleanse them...

### Chapter 9

א וידבר יי אל-משה במדבר-סיני בשנה השנית לצאתם מארץ מצרים בחדש הראשון לאמר: ב ויעשו בני-ישראל את-הפסח במועדו: ג בארבעה עשר-יום בחדש הזה בין הערבים תעשו אתו במעדו ככל-חקתיו וככל-משפטיו תעשו אתו:

1 The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, on the **first month of the second year** following the exodus from the land of Egypt, saying: 2 Let the Israelite people offer the passover sacrifice at its set time: 3 you shall offer it on the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, at its set time; you shall offer it in accordance with all its rules and rites.

ד וידבר משה אל-בני ישראל לעשת הפסח: ה ויעשו את-הפסח בראשון בארבעה עשר יום לחודש בין הערבים במדבר סיני ככל אשר צוה יי את-משה כן עשו בני ישראל: ו ויהי אנשים אשר היו טמאים לנפש אדם ולא-יכלו לעשת-הפסח ביום ההוא ויקרבו לפני משה ולפני אהרן ביום ההוא: ז ויאמרו האנשים ההמה אליו אנחנו טמאים לנפש אדם למה נגרע לבלתי הקריב את-קרבתך יי במעדו בתוך בני ישראל: ח ויאמר אליהם משה עמדו ואשמעה מה-יצוה יי לכם: פ

4 Moses instructed the Israelites to offer the passover sacrifice; 5 and they offered the passover sacrifice in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai. Just as the Lord had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did. 6 But there were some men who were unclean by reason of a corpse and could not offer the passover sacrifice on that day. Appearing that same day before Moses and Aaron, 7 those men said to them, "Unclean though we are by reason of a corpse, why must we be debarred from presenting the Lord's offering at its set time with the rest of the Israelites?" 8 Moses said to them, "Stand by, and let me hear what instructions the Lord gives about you."...

טו וּבַיּוֹם הַקִּיּוֹם אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן כִּסָּה הָעֲנָן  
 אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן לְאַהֲלֵי הָעֵדוּת וּבַעֲרֵב יְהִי  
 עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן כְּמֵרְאֵה־אֵשׁ עַד־בֹּקֶר׃ טז בֵּן יִהְיֶה  
 תָּמִיד הָעֲנָן יִכְסֶּנוּ וּמֵרְאֵה־אֵשׁ לַיְלָה׃ יז וּלְפִי  
 הָעֲלוֹת הָעֲנָן מֵעַל הָאֹהֶל וְאַחֲרָיִךְ כֵּן יִסְעוּ בְנֵי  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכֵּן־שָׁם הָעֲנָן שָׁם  
 יַחֲנוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃ יח עַל־פִּי יְיָ יִסְעוּ בְנֵי  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל־פִּי יְיָ יַחֲנוּ כָּל־יְמֵי אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכֵּן  
 הָעֲנָן עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן יַחֲנוּ׃ יט וּבַהֲאֲרִיךְ הָעֲנָן  
 עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן יָמִים רַבִּים וְשָׁמְרוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל  
 אֶת־מִשְׁמַרְתּוֹ יְיָ וְלֹא יִסְעוּ׃ כ וַיֵּשׁ אֲשֶׁר יְהִי  
 הָעֲנָן יָמִים מְסֻפָּר עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן עַל־פִּי יְיָ יַחֲנוּ  
 וְעַל־פִּי יְיָ יִסְעוּ׃ כא וַיֵּשׁ אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה הָעֲנָן  
 מֵעֶרֶב עַד־בֹּקֶר וְנִעְלָה הָעֲנָן בַּבֹּקֶר וְנִסְעוּ אוֹ  
 יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה וְנִעְלָה הָעֲנָן וְנִסְעוּ׃ כב אוֹ־יָמִים  
 אוֹ־חֳדָשׁ אוֹ־יָמִים בְּהֲאֲרִיךְ הָעֲנָן עַל־הַמִּשְׁכָּן  
 לִשְׁכֹּן עֲלָיו יַחֲנוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא יִסְעוּ  
 וּבַהֲעֲלֹתוֹ יִסְעוּ׃ כג עַל־פִּי יְיָ יַחֲנוּ וְעַל־פִּי יְיָ  
 יִסְעוּ אֶת־מִשְׁמַרְתּוֹ יְיָ שְׁמְרוּ עַל־פִּי יְיָ  
 בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה׃ פ

15 On the day that the Tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the Tabernacle, the Tent of the Pact; and in the evening it rested over the Tabernacle in the likeness of fire until morning. 16 It was always so: the cloud covered it, appearing as fire by night. 17 And whenever the cloud lifted from the Tent, the Israelites would set out accordingly; and at the spot where the cloud settled, there the Israelites would make camp. 18 At a command of the Lord the Israelites broke camp, and at a command of the Lord they made camp: they remained encamped as long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle. 19 When the cloud lingered over the Tabernacle many days, the Israelites observed the Lord's mandate and did not journey on. 20 At such times as the cloud rested over the Tabernacle for but a few days, they remained encamped at a command of the Lord, and broke camp at a command of the Lord. 21 And at such times as the cloud stayed from evening until morning, they broke camp as soon as the cloud lifted in the morning. Day or night, whenever the cloud lifted, they would break camp. 22 Whether it was two days or a month or a year--however long the cloud lingered over the Tabernacle--the Israelites remained encamped and did not set out; only when it lifted did they break camp. 23 On a sign from the Lord they made camp and on a sign from the Lord they broke camp; they observed the Lord's mandate at the Lord's bidding through Moses.

Chapter 10

א וידבר יי אל-משה לאמר: ב עשה לך שתי  
 חצוצרות כסף מקשה תעשה אתם והיו לך  
 למקרא העדה ולמסע את-המחנות: ג ותקעו  
 בהן ונועדו אליך כל-העדה אל-פתח אהל  
 מועד: ד ואם-באחת יתקעו ונועדו אליך  
 הנשיאים ראשי אלפי ישראל: ה ותקעתם  
 תרועה ונסעו המחנות החנים קדמה:  
 ו ותקעתם תרועה שנית ונסעו המחנות  
 החנים תימנה תרועה יתקעו למסעיהם:  
 ז ובהקהיל את-הקהל תתקעו ולא תריעו:  
 ח ובני אהרן הכהנים יתקעו בחצוצרות והיו  
 לכם לחקת עולם לדורתכם:

1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 Have two silver trumpets made; make them of hammered work. They shall serve you to summon the community and to set the divisions in motion. 3 When both are blown in long blasts, the whole community shall assemble before you at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting; 4 and if only one is blown, the chieftains, heads of Israel's contingents, shall assemble before you. 5 But when you sound short blasts, the divisions encamped on the east shall move forward; 6 and when you sound short blasts a second time, those encamped on the south shall move forward. Thus short blasts shall be blown for setting them in motion, 7 while to convoke the congregation you shall blow long blasts, not short ones. 8 The trumpets shall be blown by Aaron's sons, the priests; they shall be for you an institution for all time throughout the ages.

ט וכי-תבאו מלחמה בארצכם על-הצר הצר  
 אתכם והרעתם בחצוצרות ונזכרתם לפני יי  
 אלהיכם ונושעתם מאיביכם: י וביום  
 שמחתכם ובמועדיכם ובראשי חדשכם  
 ותקעתם בחצוצרות על עלתיכם ועל זבחי  
 שלמיכם והיו לכם לזכרון לפני אלהיכם אני  
 יי אלהיכם:

9 When you are at war in your land against an aggressor who attacks you, you shall sound short blasts on the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the Lord your God and be delivered from your enemies. 10 And on your joyous occasions--your fixed festivals and new moon days--you shall sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your sacrifices of well-being. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I, the Lord, am your God.

יא ויהי בשנה השנית בחודש השני בעשרים  
 בחודש נעלה הענן מעל משכן העדת:  
 יב ויסעו בני-ישראל למסעיהם ממדבר סיני  
 וישכן הענן במדבר פארן:

11 In the second year, on the twentieth day of the second month, the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle of the Pact 12 and the Israelites set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. The cloud came to rest in the wilderness of Paran.

יג ויסעו בראשנה על-פי יי ביד-משה:  
 יד ויסע דגל מחנה בני-יהודה בראשנה  
 לצבאתם ועל-צבאו נחשון בן-עמינדב:  
 טו ועל-צבא מטה בני יששכר נתנאל  
 בן-צוער: טז ועל-צבא מטה בני זבולן  
 אליאב בן-חלן:

13 When the march was to begin, at the Lord's command through Moses, 14 the first standard to set out, troop by troop, was the division of Judah. In command of its troops was Nahshon son of Amminadab; 15 in command of the tribal troop of Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar; 16 and in command of the tribal troop of Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon.

יז והורד המשכן ונסעו בני-גרשון ובני מררי  
 נשאי המשכן: ... כח אלה מסעי בני-ישראל  
 לצבאתם ויסעו:

17 Then the Tabernacle would be taken apart; and the Gershonites and the Merarites, who carried the Tabernacle, would set out...28 Such was the order of march of the Israelites, marching troop by troop.

כט וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה לְחֹבָב בֶּן-רְעוּאֵל הַמִּדְיָנִי  
 חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה נְסָעִים | אֲנַחְנוּ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר  
 אָמַר יְיָ אֵתְּךָ לָכֶם לָכֶה אֲתָנוּ וְהִטַּבְנוּ לָךְ  
 כִּי-יִי דְבַר-טוֹב עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל: ל וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לֹא  
 אֵלָיְךָ כִּי אִם-אֶל-אֶרֶצִי וְאֶל-מִוְלַדְתִּי אֵלָיְךָ:  
 לֹא וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא תַעֲזֹב אֲתָנוּ כִּי | עַל-כֵּן  
 יִדְעַתְּ חֲנַתְנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְעֵינָיִם:  
 לב וְהָיָה כִּי-תֵלֵךְ עִמָּנוּ וְהָיָה | הַטוֹב הַהוּא  
 אֲשֶׁר יִיטִיב יְיָ עִמָּנוּ וְהִטַּבְנוּ לָךְ:

29 Moses said to Hobab son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the Lord has said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us and we will be generous with you; for the Lord has promised to be generous to Israel." 30 "I will not go," he replied to him, "but will return to my native land." 31 He said, "Please do not leave us, inasmuch as you know where we should camp in the wilderness and can be our guide. 32 So if you come with us, we will extend to you the same bounty that the Lord grants us."

לג וַיִּסְעוּ מֵהָר יְיָ דֶרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים וְאָרוֹן  
 בְּרִית-יְיָ נָסַע לִפְנֵיהֶם דֶּרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים לְתוֹר  
 לָהֶם מְנוּחָה: לד וַעֲנַן יְיָ עָלֵיהֶם יוֹמָם בְּנִסְעָם  
 מִן-הַמַּחֲנֶה: ס

33 They marched from the mountain of the Lord a distance of three days. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord traveled in front of them on that three days' journey to seek out a resting place for them; 34and the Lord's cloud kept above them by day, as they moved on from camp.

(ג) וַיְהִי בְּנִסְעַת הָאָרוֹן וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה  
 קוֹמָה | לֵי וַיִּפְצֹוּ אִיבֵיךָ וַיִּגְסוּ מִשְׁנֵאֵיךָ מִפְּנֵיךָ:  
 וּבְנַחֲזָה יֹאמֶר  
 שׁוּבָה יְיָ רַבְבוֹת אֱלֹפֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ג) פ

**(ג) 35 When the Ark was to set out, Moses would say: Advance, O Lord! May Your enemies be scattered, And may Your foes flee before You! 36 And when it halted, he would say: Return, O Lord, You who are Israel's myriads of thousands! (ג)**



Chapter 11

א וַיְהִי הָעָם כְּמִתְאַנְנִים רַע בְּאָזְנֵי יְיָ וַיִּשְׁמַע יְיָ  
 וַיַּחַר אַפּוֹ וַתִּבְעַר-בָּם אֵשׁ יְיָ וַתֹּאכַל בְּקִצֵּה  
 הַמַּחֲנֶה: ב וַיִּצְעַק הָעָם אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל  
 מֹשֶׁה אֶל-יְיָ וַתִּשְׁקַע הָאֵשׁ: ג וַיִּקְרָא  
 שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא תַבְעֵרָה כִּי-בַעֲרָה בָּם אֵשׁ  
 יְיָ:

1 The people took to complaining bitterly before the Lord. The Lord heard and was incensed: a fire of the Lord broke out against them, ravaging the outskirts of the camp. 2 The people cried out to Moses. Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. 3 That place was named Taberah, because a fire of the Lord had broken out against them.

ד וְהָאִסְפָּסְפָּא אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבּוֹ הִתְאוּוּ תְאוּוֹה וַיִּשְׁבוּ  
 וַיִּבְכּוּ גַם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִי יֹאכְלֵנוּ בְּשָׂר:  
 ה זָכְרָנוּ אֶת-הַדָּגָה אֲשֶׁר-נֹאכַל בְּמִצְרַיִם חֲנָם  
 אֶת הַקִּשְׁאִים וְאֶת הָאֲבִטְחִים וְאֶת-הַחֲצִיר  
 וְאֶת-הַבְּצָלִים וְאֶת-הַשּׁוּמִים: ו וְעַתָּה נִפְשָׁנוּ  
 יִבְשָׁה אֵין כֹּל בְּלִתִּי אֶל-הַמָּן עֵינָינוּ:

4 The riffraff in their midst felt a gluttonous craving; and then the Israelites wept and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish that we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. 6 Now our gullets are shriveled. There is nothing at all! Nothing but this manna to look to!" ...

## V'ahavta

-- Aurora Levins Morales

Say these words when you lie down and when you rise up,  
when you go out and when you return. In times of mourning  
and in times of joy. Inscribe them on your doorposts,  
embroider them on your garments, tattoo them on your shoulders,  
teach them to your children, your neighbors, your enemies,  
recite them in your sleep, here in the cruel shadow of empire: Another world is possible.  
Don't waver. Don't let despair sink its sharp teeth  
Into the throat with which you sing. Escalate your dreams.  
Make them burn so fiercely that you can follow them down  
any dark alleyway of history and not lose your way.  
Make them burn clear as a starry drinking gourd  
Over the grim fog of exhaustion, and keep walking...  
... imagine winning. This is your sacred task.  
This is your power. Imagine  
every detail of winning, the exact smell of the summer streets  
nest under a flock of roofs that keep multiplying their shelter.  
Lean with all your being towards that day  
when the poor of the world shake down a rain of good fortune  
out of the heavy clouds, and justice rolls down like waters.  
Defend the world in which we win as if it were your child.  
It is your child.  
Defend it as if it were your lover.  
It is your lover.  
When you inhale and when you exhale  
breathe the possibility of another world  
into the 37.2 trillion cells of your body  
until it shines with hope.  
Then imagine more.  
...Imagine war is a scarcely credible rumor  
That the crimes of our age, the grotesque inhumanities of greed,  
in which no one has been shot, the muscles you have never  
unclenched from worry, gone soft as newborn skin,  
the sparkling taste of food when we know  
that no one on earth is hungry, that the beggars are fed,  
that the old man under the bridge and the woman  
wrapping herself in thin sheets in the back seat of a car,  
and the children who suck on stones,  
the sheer and astounding shamelessness of it, the vast fortunes  
made by stealing lives, the horrible normalcy it came to have,  
is unimaginable to our heirs, the generations of the free.  
Hold hands. Share water. Keep imagining.  
So that we, and the children of our children's children  
may live.