

Cinema PaRDeS for Beha-latkha בְּהַעֲלֵתָךְ

This week relates to **Hod of Hod, Empowerment of Empowerment**

A refresher: in our most recent book of Hanukah, we discussed how Hanukah was related to **Hod/Glory**. We applied our weekly Torah analysis and were oh so pleased to see that Hod of Hod—the epitome of Hanukah’s attributes, was found in this week’s Torah portion, which begins with “*when you light up the Menorah*”.

We have finally after 6 months come here, which gives us pause to “rededicate” ourselves to our project. We also wrote about **Hod of Hod** in our book on Lag Baomer, which fell on the **Hod of Hod** in the Sefirah. See Sefer Hillulah Rabbah.

This week has perhaps the most rich content in this Book, for it includes the Menorah, historical pieces, laws, and short exciting narratives. The inauguration ceremonies of the Temple are completed [**Hod** related to Aesthetics]. The Menorah [Hanukah = **Hod**] was lit. The Levites [from the left of which Hod is at the bottom] were installed. Passover was celebrated. The second Passover was initiated. Clouds and fire were carefully examined for messages. Then came Gd’s signal to start moving. Wagons Ho! “*Kuma Hashem—Rise up Gd!*”

The portion too details 3 acts of opposition to Mosheh:

- an uprising where people demanded meat [**red** like the left side of which **Hod** is at the bottom]
- the breaking away of two men who began to prophecy [whose source is **Netzah** and **Hod**]
- the criticism of Mosheh by his sister and brother, which caused the former to get leprosy [related to the left]

R. David Wolfe-Blank (z’l) associates this week as **Hod of Hod**, for the Menorah is the beginning issue. the theme which the Haftarah follows up. The flames of the Menorah pointed toward the center, showing the inner nature of **Hod**. The streaks of light in the clouds too show the innerness of **Hod**, on the restraining side of the tree of life.

R. Simon Jacobsen notes: **Hod of Hod: Humility in Humility**

Everyone has humility and modesty in their hearts, the question is the measure and manner in which one consciously feels it. Am I afraid to be too humble? Do I mask and protect my modesty with aggressive behavior? Humility must also be examined for its genuineness. Is my humility humble? Or is it yet another expression of arrogance? Do I take too much pride in my humility? Do I flaunt it? Is it self-serving? Is my humility part of a crusade or is it genuine?

Exercise for the day: Be humble just for its own sake.

Moshe in this week’s portion is called the humblest of all men. And this week is Hod of Hod, humility squared! What does being humble mean to you? Rahmana Liba Baey– Gd desires the heart, your humble heart. A heart that is full of itself has not room for the Eternal’s Presence. How to carve a beautiful space for Hashem to dwell is the hard part. Or perhaps the hardest part is that initial opening. Will you open for me my beloved? Will you open, open for me?