

Nosh & Learn with Mindy, Parshat Shelach-L'cha, TBH-BE, 6/18/2020

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
laasok b'divrei Torah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage with words of Torah.

Numbers 13:2

שְׁלַח-לְךָ אַנְשִׁים וַיְתַרְוּ אֶת-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ אֶחָד אִישׁ לְמִטֵּה אָבֹתָיו
תְּשַׁלְּחוּ כָל נָשִׂיא בְהֵם:

Send men to scout the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelite people;
send one man from each of their ancestral tribes, each one a chieftain among them.

Numbers 15:38

דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם צִיצִית עַל-כַּנְּפֵי בְגָדֵיהֶם לְדֹרֹתָם וְנָתַנּוּ עַל-צִיצִית הַכַּנָּף
פָּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת:

Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on
the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to
the fringe at each corner.

Numbers 15:39

וְהָיָה לָכֶם לְצִיצִית וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וּזְכַרְתֶּם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְלֹא-תִתְּרוּ אַחֲרַי לְבַבְכֶם
וְאַחֲרַי עֵינֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם זֹנִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם:

That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of the LORD
and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful
urge.

Rashi on Numbers 15:39

ולא תתורו אחרי לבבכם. — The verb has the same meaning as in ([Numbers 13:25](#)), “and they returned from searching (מתור) the land”. (The translation therefore is: AND YE SHALL NOT SEARCH AFTER YOUR OWN HEART). The heart and the eyes are the “spies” of the body — they act as its agents for sinning: the eye sees, the heart covets and the body commits the sin ([Midrash Tanchuma, Sh'lach 15](#); cf. [Talmud Yerushalmi Berakhot 1:8](#)).

Berakhot 12b:22

In response, the Gemara cites a *baraita* where these elements were derived from allusions in the verse, “You shall stray neither after your hearts nor after your eyes, after which you would lust” ([Numbers 15:39](#)). **As it was taught: “After your hearts” refers to following opinions of heresy that may arise in one’s heart.** The Gemara offers a proof, **as it is stated: “The fool said in his heart: ‘There is no God’; they have been corrupt, they have acted abominably; there is none who does good”** ([Psalms 14:1](#)). The phrase: “**After your eyes,**” in **this** verse refers to following **thoughts of transgressions** of licentiousness, that a person might see and desire, **as it is stated: “And Samson said to his father, ‘That one take for me, for she is upright in my eyes’”** ([Judges 14:3](#)). The passage: “**You shall stray after**” refers to promiscuity, which in the parlance of the prophets is a metaphor for **idol worship, as it is stated: “The children of Israel again went astray after the Be’alim”** ([Judges 8:33](#)).

Fringes in My Heart by Nancy Abraham

from The Torah: A Women's Commentary

There are fringes in my heart
knotted with love for You
They hang from the four chambers
sway gently as tides within
rise recede rise recede
Sometimes when still
I can even hear You
Brushing against them
these fringes composed of all
You ask us to be
woven of your essence
they are bound in me
I in them
a sign of sacred servitude

With this knotting
swaying
brushing
weaving,
Your presence hangs
pulling me, like water,
to the surety of freedom exacted
for such blessed binding
between my heart and Yours.