

If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?
And if I am only for myself, then what am I?
And if not now, when?

-Hillel

Eternity is just this: that time no longer has a right to a place between the present moment and perfection and that the whole future is to be grasped today.

-Franz Rosenzweig

Our life is impossibility and absurdity. Everything that we want is in contradiction with the conditions or consequences which are attached to it. It is because we ourselves are a contradiction, being creatures, being God and infinitely other than God.

-Simone Weil

"How can we escape from that which corresponds to gravity in ourselves?" By grace alone. In order to come to us God passes through the infinite thickness of time and space; God's grace changes nothing in the play of those blind forces of necessity and chance which guide the world; it penetrates into our souls as a drop of water makes its way through geological strata without affecting their structures; and there it waits in silence until we consent to become God again. Whereas gravity is the work of creation, the work of grace consists in "decorating" us. God consented through love to be everything so that we might be something; we must consent through love to cease to be anything so that God may become everything again.

-Gustave Thibon on S. Weil

IX (From Walter Benjamin's *Theses on the Philosophy of History*)

My wing is ready for flight
I would like to turn back.
If I stayed timeless time,
I would have little luck.

- Gershom Scholem

A Paul Klee painting named "Angelus Novus" shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.

Walter Benjamin had a passion for small, even minute things. Gershom Scholem tells about his ambition to get one hundred lines onto the ordinary page of a notebook and about his admiration of two grains of wheat in the Jewish section of the Musee Cluny on which "a kindred soul had inscribed the complete Israel." For him the size of the object was in an inverse ratio to its significance. And this passion...derived directly...from conviction of the factual existence of an, an archetypal phenomenon, a concrete thing to be discovered in the world of appearance in which "significance"...and appearance, word and thing, idea and experience would coincide.

-Hannah Arendt on
Walter Benjamin

Life is the greatest bargain; we get it for nothing.

Life is a dream--but don't wake me.

One does not live on joy, nor die of sorrow.

-Yiddish Proverbs

I am Jewish. And I am an artist and an American and a woman. I am a Post-Holocaust, Pre-Messianic, Diaspora Jew(se) in America, a young person in the Vietnam war era, and a woman cultivated during the rise and development of Feminism; I am a wife with equal rights and a mother, a mommy.

The philosophy of Judaism - the spirit and impulse of Judaism - guides my art making. I like to think through my hands and eyes; the kind of thinker I am is very Jewish in my own estimation. There are so many delimiting factors. I love God, and I am also afraid. Sometimes I think it is the voice of God that I hear. What if it really is?! I love God as a leap of faith. I also fight; I think because of the facts of history - because of the broken chain, of loss.

I am compelled by systems and structures and I also defy them. I am attached to structures - inheritance and continuity - and yet, I am compelled to reach outside, to break some of the rules, the laws. But after all, I am a Post-Holocaust, American, Jewish woman. What can I say?! I am free, free, free. And I still love God and motherhood.

As I continue living life everyday, I am enjoying more and more the way I inherited Judaism; I am mourning less the aspects that keep eluding me. I am more and more comfortable with the Judaism I am made of; and I have received just a very few signs - now and then - gifts I believe - that are like hands holding my face and eyes meeting mine with unconditional and unending love - this is God. This my parents' love. This is the love between me and my husband and my child. And this is the love which reveals all distance between all things as nothing.

It is the voice of God that I hear sometimes.
How wonderful it is!
Thank you God for loving me and all of us.

In the beginning there was zimzum; God contracted a little bit to make room for God's creation - human being. And in that creation, God allowed for imperfection as a gift if we can see as such, and yes a burden too. And God gave us the Sefirot, ten aspects which describe the scope of human being: Keter (Crown), Hokhmah (Wisdom), Binah (Understanding), Gevurah (Strength), Chesed (Love), Tiferet (Beauty), Hod (Splendor), Netzach (Victory), Yesod (Foundation) and Malkhut (Kingdom). This existence that God made - the process of zimzum - requires the practice of tikkun which is the restoration of the holiness to things.

The Tikkun Glossaries are efforts at tikkun. The images are chosen to identify, describe, affirm, confirm, amplify, reveal and respect God and human being. The relationship that inheres and ensues between God and human being is awesome and marvelous!

And so a rock meets the earth with the grace of a landing angel,

Omen,