

# Stollen Moments – Ha’azinu – October 5, 2024

## PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Moses sings his last song, a love poem to God and a chastisement of the people, who are not worthy of Adonai. (32:1–6)
- The poem recounts the blessings that God has bestowed on the Israelites, the wicked deeds they have committed, and the punishments that God then inflicted upon them. (32:7–43)
- God tells Moses to begin his ascent of Mount Nebo, from where he will see the Land of Israel from a distance but will not be allowed to enter it. (32:45–52)

### Deuteronomy 32

1 Give ear, O heavens, let me speak;  
Let the earth hear the words I utter!

הָאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאִדְבְּרָה  
וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי-פִי:

2 May my discourse come down as the rain,  
My speech distill as the dew,  
Like showers on young growth,  
Like droplets on the grass.

יַעֲרַף כַּמָּטָר לִקְחֵי  
תִגַּל כַּטֵּל אִמְרֵתִי  
כַּשֻּׁעִיָּרִים עַל־דְּשָׁא  
וְכַרְבִּיבִים עַל־יַעֲשָׂב:

3 For the name of יהוה I proclaim;  
Give glory to our God!

כִּי יְשֵׁם יְהוָה אֶקְרָא  
הִבּוּ גִדְל לֵאלֹהֵינוּ:

4 The Rock!—whose deeds are perfect,  
Yea, all God’s ways are just;  
A faithful God, never false,  
True and upright indeed.

הַצּוּר תְּמִים פְּעֻלוֹ  
כִּי כָל־דַּרְכָּיו מִשְׁפָּט  
אֵל אֱמוּנָה וְאֵין עָוֹל  
צַדִּיק וְיָשָׁר הוּא:

5 Unworthy children—  
That crooked, perverse generation—  
Their baseness has played God false.

שָׁחַת לוֹ לֹא בָנָיו מוֹמִים  
דּוֹר עָקָשׁ וּפְתִלְתָּל:

6 Do you thus requite יהוה,  
O dull and witless people?  
Is not this the Father who created you—  
Fashioned you and made you endure!

הַ לְיְהוָה תִּגְמְלוּ-זֹאת  
עִם נֶבֶל וְלֹא חָכָם  
הֲלוֹא־הוּא אָבִיךָ קִנְיֶךָ  
הוּא עָשָׂךָ וַיְכַנְנֶךָ:

## Question for Discussion

- What do you make of the insults to the Children of Israel with heaven and earth as witness?

## Commentaries

### Rashi on Deuteronomy 32:1:1

...And why did He call heaven and earth as witnesses against them? Moses thought: “I am a being of flesh and blood (mortal); tomorrow I shall be dead. If the Israelites will once say, ‘We have never accepted the covenant’, who can come and refute them?” Therefore he called heaven and earth as witnesses against them — witnesses that endure forever (Sifrei Devarim 306:15).

### Deuteronomy 4:4-8

See, I have imparted to you laws and rules, as my God יהוה has commanded me, for you to abide by in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. Observe them faithfully, for that will be proof of your wisdom and discernment to other peoples, who on hearing of all these laws will say, “Surely, that great nation is a wise and discerning people.” For what great nation is there that has a god so close at hand as is our God יהוה whenever we call? Or what great nation has laws and rules as perfect as all this Teaching that I set before you this day?