



HOW DO WE TELL THE STORY OF THE WORLD THAT WE WANT?

Pirkei Avot/Ethics of the Fathers 5:6

עֲשָׂרָה דְּבָרִים נִבְרְאוּ בְעֶרְבַּ שַׁבָּת בֵּין הַשְּׁמֶשׁוֹת, וְאֵלוֹ הֵן, פִּי הָאָרֶץ, וּפִי הַבְּאֵר, וּפִי הָאֵתוֹן, וְהַקֶּשֶׁת, וְהַמָּן, וְהַמַּטָּה,
וְהַשְּׁמִיר, וְהַפְּתָב, וְהַמַּכְתֵּב, וְהַלּוּחֹת. וַיֵּשׂ אֲמָרִים, אֶף הַמְזִיקִין, וְקַבְרָתוֹ שֶׁל מֹשֶׁה, וְאֵילוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם אַבְיֵנוּ. וַיֵּשׂ
אֲמָרִים, אֶף צֶבֶת בְּצֶבֶת עֲשׂוּיָהּ:

Ten things were created at twilight on the eve of Shabbat, and they were:

The mouth of the earth [to resolve community fracture in Korah's time],

The mouth of [Miriam's] well [a water source during our time in the desert],

The mouth of [Bilam's] donkey [to help us communicate across species in high stakes moments],

The rainbow [after the great flood, as a sign of God's covenant with all life]

The manna, [for food while we wandered in the desert]

The staff of Moses [to work miracles when we need them most]

The shamir [a magical worm that cut giant stones to build the ancient temple in Jerusalem, avoiding metals of war]

Letters [of the Hebrew alphabet]

Writing [likely: of the Tanakh / Hebrew bible – a blueprint for ethics and daily life]

The tablets [of the ten commandments, the foundation of Torah]

And some say: also the demons, the grave of Moses, and the ram of Abraham our father [that appeared during the binding of Isaac].

And some say: also tongs, formed with tongs.