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NEWS & VIEWS

January 4, 2019 | 27 Tevet 5779



Thank you for being part
of the Hebrew College community
in 2018.

Throughout greater Boston, across North America, in Israel and around the world,
our faculty, students, and alumni are helping to build

a vibrant, pluralistic, and purposeful Jewish community,
and a world of dignity and compassion for all.

We are grateful to share this sacred work with you
and look forward to continuing the journey in 2019!

70 FACES OF TORAH

Posts from this [Hebrew College-hosted blog](#) are published weekly in [Patheos](#).

Shekhina: Earth Mother

Parashat Va'eira (Exodus 6:2-9:35)

By Rabbi Elisha Herb, Rab`16
Temple Beth Shalom, Salem, OR



“Dad - that’s *Gaia*,” Noah insisted.

My oldest child and I had taken to demonology and monsters in Judaism and came across a passage in Tishby’s *Wisdom of the Zohar* in which the Shekhina is depicted as a raging, Godzilla like figure, unimaginably powerful, destroying demonic forces and avenging the evil done to her children. For Noah, immersed in Rick Riordan books, the image was the same as those of Gaia, the Earth Mother, from Greek and Roman mythology. His insight was added to a stack of others that allowed me to understand that the female *Indwelling* of classical Judaism is not *only* the bit of God we can touch and feel and speak to here on earth; She IS the Earth.

In the Zohar, Shekhina is imbued with a cluster of meanings: sovereignty and rulership, Elohim (God), the people of Israel, the moon, the mouth and lips, the Oral Torah, Shabbat ...

And she is the Earth.

[Read more](#)



Remembering Amos Oz z"l

We mourn the loss of Amos Oz, one of Israel's most significant literary and cultural voices for decades. Through his fiction, as well as his poignant political and social commentary, he probed the depths of the human condition and the complexities of contemporary Israeli life.

At the start of the new semester, we will dedicate our first day of learning in the Beit Midrash to his memory, and to what he taught us about the way literature can touch—and open—our hearts and minds.

"The gift of literature is that, in some lucky cases,
reading a novel or a story makes the reader more curious, more open-minded."
Amos Oz

May 4, 1939 - December 28, 2018

Yehi zichro baruch. May his memory be for a blessing.



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