

The Best is Yet to Come

Leah Carnow

Parashat Bereshit

[Genesis 1:1-6:8](#)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

In a beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth

ב

*Bet*

Begins our beginning

*Bereshit bara*

The sounds lift off the page

b-

b-

Bubbling

Bouncing

Babbling

Bedazzling

Beautiful *bet*

*Bet* – a letter closed on three sides

Basking in openness to all that comes next

Beseeking us to remember

What's behind is behind

What's below is below (and what's above is above)

And that's the foundation

Belting out:

*The best is yet to come and babe, won't that be fine?*<sup>1</sup>

The light and the darkness

The sky and the water

The land and the sea

Trees and plants

Sun and moon and stars

Swimming things and flying things

Creatures that creep and crawl and creatures that walk and run

And not only is everything good,

But the best awaits

*Bet* is two

*Bet* is two versions of stories, of laws

Creation

Liberation

Keep and Remember Shabbat

*Bet* is second chances

Hagar who looks up and sees the water

Isaac who isn't slaughtered

Jacob forgiven by Esau

Two tablets shattered, two rewritten

The Israelites who err and who are forgiven (over and over again)

Jonah who runs away and eventually answers the call

Ruth who forges a new path after grief

*Bet* is two sides (at least!) to every story

Ben Bag Bag beckons us to see double,

*Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it*

*Bet* is *Beit*

*Bayit*

Home

Our home

The bodies and the world In which we live

Where there will be hard work—and also

Bread!

Where there will be pain—and also

Babies!

Where there will be grief—and also

Blessing!

It is not just the Torah that begins

Or God who begins

Or the world

But rather

We

Begin

We begin with

*Bereshit*

In a beginning...

We know it is just **a** beginning

One of many beginnings

We know because we have already begun before

And we will begin again

To soak up

That river of Torah that flows from Eden,

That pleasure that will water our thirsty souls each and every week,

Those words which become new, no matter how old or how familiar,

Those stories that compel us to move forward

Because forward is the only way to go

We

Begin again

Because we

Believe

We believe

*It's a real good bet*

*The best is yet to come*

*and babe, won't that be fine?*

*It's a real good...*

*Bet*

ב

<sup>1</sup> From the song, "The Best is Yet to Come," music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Carolyn Leigh