



Kane Street Walkers

Song of Songs 2/שיר השירים

11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; 12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land; 13 The fig-tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines in blossom give forth their fragrance...

יא כִּי-הֵינָה הַסֶּתֶו, עָבַר; הַגֶּשֶׁם, חָלַף הַלֶּקֶד לֹ. יב הַנְּצַנִּים נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ, עַת הַזְּמִיר הַגִּיעַ; וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר, נִשְׁמַע בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ. יג הַתְּאֵנָה חֲנֻטָּה כַּגִּיהָ, וְהַגִּפְנִים סִמְדָר נִתְּנוּ רִיחַ...

The time of singing has come. When the birds emit song, and pleasant sounds for travelers. **And the voice of the turtledove.** According to its apparent meaning, turtledoves and young pigeons. It is the nature for birds to sing and chirp in the days of Nissan. *Rashi*

The Oneness of God: Torah and Nature

Pirkei Avot 3:7

One who is walking along while studying [words of Torah] and *interrupts* his study and says ‘how beautiful is this tree, how beautiful is this field’—the Torah considers him as though he is guilty of death.

רַבִּי שְׁמַעוֹן אוֹמֵר, הַמְּהַלֵּךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְשׁוֹנֵה, וּמְפַסֵּיק מִמְּשַׁנְתּוֹ וְאוֹמֵר, מַה נְּאִיָּה אֵילָן זֶה וּמַה נְּאִיָּה גֵיר זֶה, מַעֲלָה עָלָיו הַכֶּתוּב כְּאֵלוֹ: מִתְחַיֵּב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ

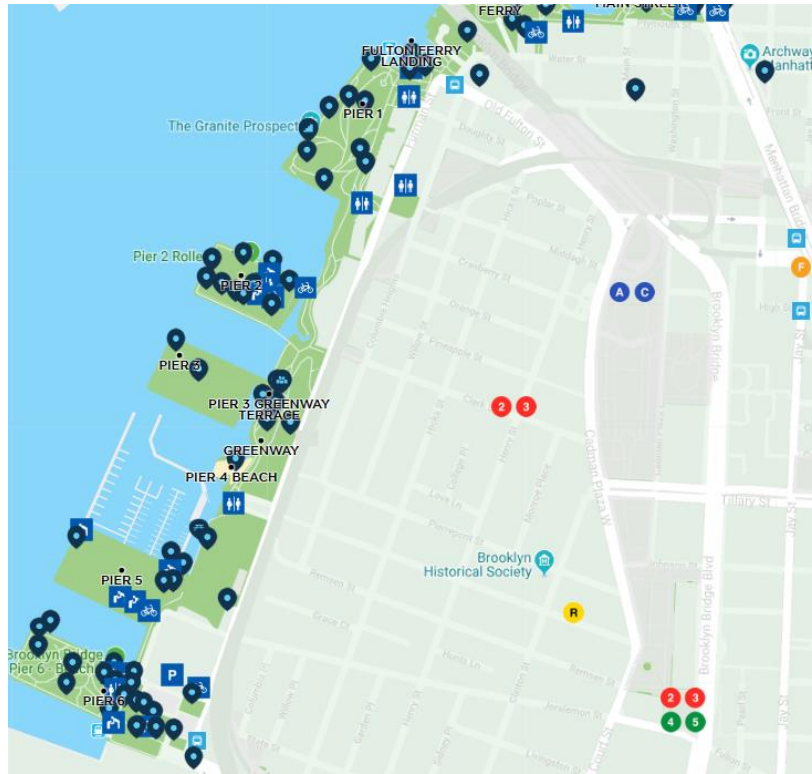
Question: can you interpret this teaching in a way that harmonizes Torah and nature as opposed to setting them apart from one another?









There are two basic paths to the Almighty: Torah and Nature. These are not mutually exclusive paths, but are complementary. When we study Torah, we study the word of God. When we experience the beauties of nature, we confront the awesome creations of God. A proper religious worldview entails proper appreciation of both Torah and Nature, and sees the ultimate harmony and unity of both.

If one seeks God only through Torah, one’s religious outlook lacks the sense of wonder and aesthetics that Nature provides. If one seeks God only through Nature, one’s religious outlook lacks the direct contact with God’s words. *Rabbi Marc D. Angel, Torah and Nature:*

Thoughts for Parashat Va-et-hanan





Pier One	Pier Three	Pier Six
 <p data-bbox="329 1220 402 1255">Vireo</p>	 <p data-bbox="711 1220 906 1255">Barn Swallows</p>	 <p data-bbox="1154 1220 1360 1255">Yellow Warbler</p>
 <p data-bbox="326 1535 407 1570">Oriole</p>	 <p data-bbox="781 1535 841 1570">Lark</p>	 <p data-bbox="1133 1549 1382 1585">Blue Headed Vireo</p>
 <p data-bbox="261 1829 467 1864">Cedar Waxwing</p>		 <p data-bbox="1166 1829 1344 1864">Grey Catbirds</p>