

Of Course, the Akeda

*“...God tested Avraham
And said to him: Avraham!
He said: Here I am
He said: “Pray take your son,
Your only-one, Whom you love, Yitzhak
And go forth to the land of Moriyya-Seeing
And offer him up there as an offering-up
Upon one of the mountains That I will tell you of.”
—Genesis xxii:1-2*

“Your only-one, Whom you love”
Love is making its first appearance
in this old book, the rabbi tells us,
And look what is happening to it.
Why do we read this awful story?

The living flame of Torah casts new light at each turning.
Avraham has walked this trail before us, for us.
We do not need the mountain,
We do not need the donkey, the wood, the fire, the knife.
We are all on this journey all the time.
The ram in the thicket
Does not usually appear.
Over and over, the end is the same.
What we love
is not ours to keep.

Commanded to go forth in love, knowing and not knowing:
*That which you love the most in this world
will be consumed completely.
Therefore,
Offer it up freely.*
And if we did not love,
What kind of offering would that be?

Whatever you love, in this created world, does not last.
Whoever you love, in this created world, is not yours.
Only That which has no beginning has no end.

None of us is here to stay.
Be ready, to make the offering
or to be the offering.
This is the Festival of Mortality.

— Andrew Stone
1 October 2019 - 8 September 2020
2 Tishrei - 19 Elul 5780

