



These are the names

– Ex. 1:1 (emending Torah's "sons of Israel," now equally rising with the daughters of Israel into leadership: "May the light of the moon be as the light of the sun").

The womb of narrow unknowing – Ex. 1:1 (narrow "Egypt") and Reb Nachman's *Torah of the Void* (birth canal for liberating renewal).

Called by name – Is. 40:26 and Rashi on Ex. 1:1 (Torah repeats the tribal names to glorify who our ancestors were and who they'd become); Ps. 147:4 (only God knows the true names of stars and calls them to shine). **Vigorous in living** – Ex. 1:19 (the potency of birth defying Pharaoh). **From that single point of light** – Ibn Ezra on Ex. 1:19

(Torah's midwives called the fast-birthing Hebrew women *ivriyot*, a pun on "pregnancy," bearing a grammatical mark for a supernal point of light that gives life). **Light before light** – The light of pure soul is the light of the Burning Bush and the supernal light of Creation itself (Tikkunei Zohar 19).

These are the names of the daughters of Israel
Who came into the womb of narrow unknowing
Each with her household, to be rebirthed anew,

Called by name at the moment of becoming
No less than the stars that shine in their time
By which to count a promised people of light.

Birthing took time, but they're vigorous in living
And giving life-giving life from essence of soul,
The single point of light that is light before light.

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It did not merely appear in your wild and waste:
You saw, daring to turn toward flame of heart,
Standing open to touch and tend the holy,

Hearing your name as never before called from the
Name as never before spoken, becoming in all ways
Within you What is Becoming always within you,

Now ready to shine as never before, for you as the very
Top of the mountain that glowed with the radiance of
Birth herself in truth and love and pain and hope.

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These are the names of the daughters of Israel
Come to lead from narrow unknowing to rebirth anew
With eyes wide open – daring to turn aside and see

The flame of heart, to help all of us stand open to
Touch and tend the holy, to hear and become –
Next links in the unbroken chain of always becoming

Now given to their care, placed on their shoulders,
Hearing their names as never before, leaning back into
History's hands: from where we stand, go forward.

You saw – Sforno on Ex. 3:1 (Moses "saw" as active co-creator of divine relationship, not passive receiver). **Flame of heart** – Ibn Ezra on Ex. 3:1 (inverting the Burning Bush "heart of flame"). **Standing open** – Ex. 3:4 (bare feet with sandals off, no separation from holy ground). **The Name / What is Becoming** – Ex. 3:13 ("I will be what I will be," a holy constancy of divine ever-becoming). **Top of the mountain** – Ramban on Ex. 3:4 (*Shechinah* glowed at the Burning Bush like Sinai at the moment of revelation). **Radiance** – Zohar 1:15a (the first light of creation that contains all names). **Unbroken chain** – Avot 1:1 (the lineage of wisdom and ancestral empowerment tracing to Moses and Joshua, Miriam and Tzela'fchad's daughters). **Leaning back into history's hands** – A traditional posture for receiving the *smichah* (ordination) of one's teachers, who received *smichah* from theirs, in the forward-facing flow of divine transmission.

*Dedicated with love and blessing to the
ALEPH Class of 2017*

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