

Torah Portion for the Second Day of Rosh HaShanah

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Today's portion is the Bible's beginning, one of the most widely read texts ever. God took six days to create our world and rested on the seventh. The renown Rabbi Tamara Kohn Eskenazi, Editor in Chief of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, had two wonderful insights into these chapters. She encapsulated the answer to "Who are we?" with "A constellation of four relationships:" with the earth, each other as women and men, the animal world, and with God, in whose image we are made. She also describes the early chapters of B'reishit as depicting "human development as a series of transgressions and transformations in which both God and humankind discover and develop their relationship."

Many have expounded on creativity as the connection of God and humans. One answer to the Darwinist dilemmas over the religious impact of evolution is that God is synonymous with evolution. But there is more to the creativity of both God and humans than survival of the fittest. Designers teach that to create, we humans bring together knowledge that has long been held apart. When trying to develop our relationship to God, we might examine the earth, or animals, or the ways that we partner.