

Torah Past Midnight
by Amy Gottlieb

Abraham was now old, advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things (bakol).

- Genesis 24:1

There are three kinds of *bakol*, says the rabbi
at three in the morning. First *bakol* is legacy,
second is wisdom, third is listening to the duet
that God harmonizes with you, even in dreams:
the time-lapse of the morphing chrysalis,
the cells of the honeycomb, the gray salt
in the mollusk shell, the creamy wax on the Q-tip
when you whorl your baby's tiny ear after a bath.
Jazzed with sugar, my fingers trace the letters on
the source sheet where *bakol* spells the desert stars
so far away. Beneath the fluorescent lights
of the JCC I summon a celestial palace where
the route of the dream connects the two worlds:
the stars and the honeycomb, the duet and the whorl.