

How the Baal Shem Tov Taught Teshuvah

This way,
said Rabbi R,
who shuffled into our meeting
introduced us to the teaching
brought down from the Baal Shem Tov.
Exodus 3:3, Rabbi R said, God speaks to Moses
the bush burning but unconsumed.
Moses turns away,
I will turn away now
and see about this bush
how it remains unconsumed.
Turn away?
Check the Rashi.
Rabbi R became Rashi
I will turn away from here
and approach There.
Now the Rav became the Baal Shem Tov
that's teshuvah, he said.
Now I know teshuvah
the Rav said becoming me
process not performance
journey not destination
not goal-taking
movement.

Unstuck.

james stone goodman