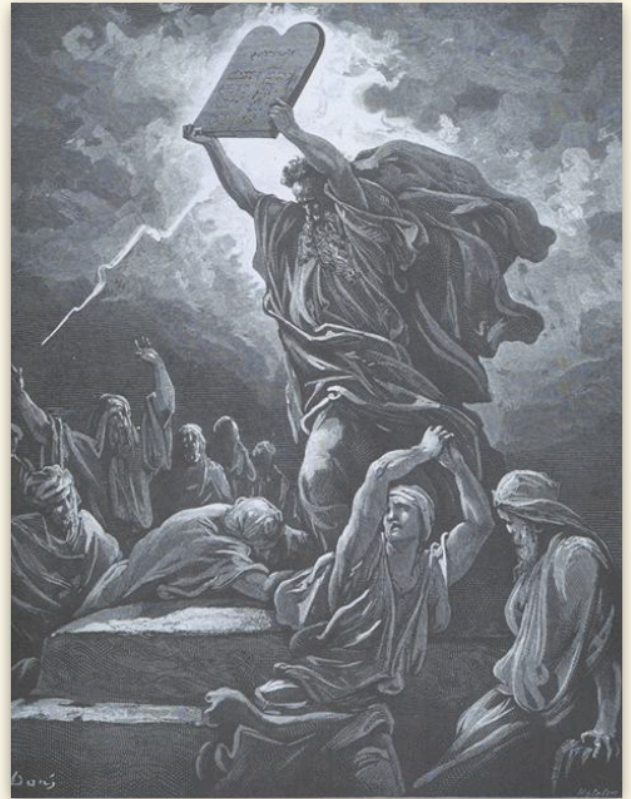


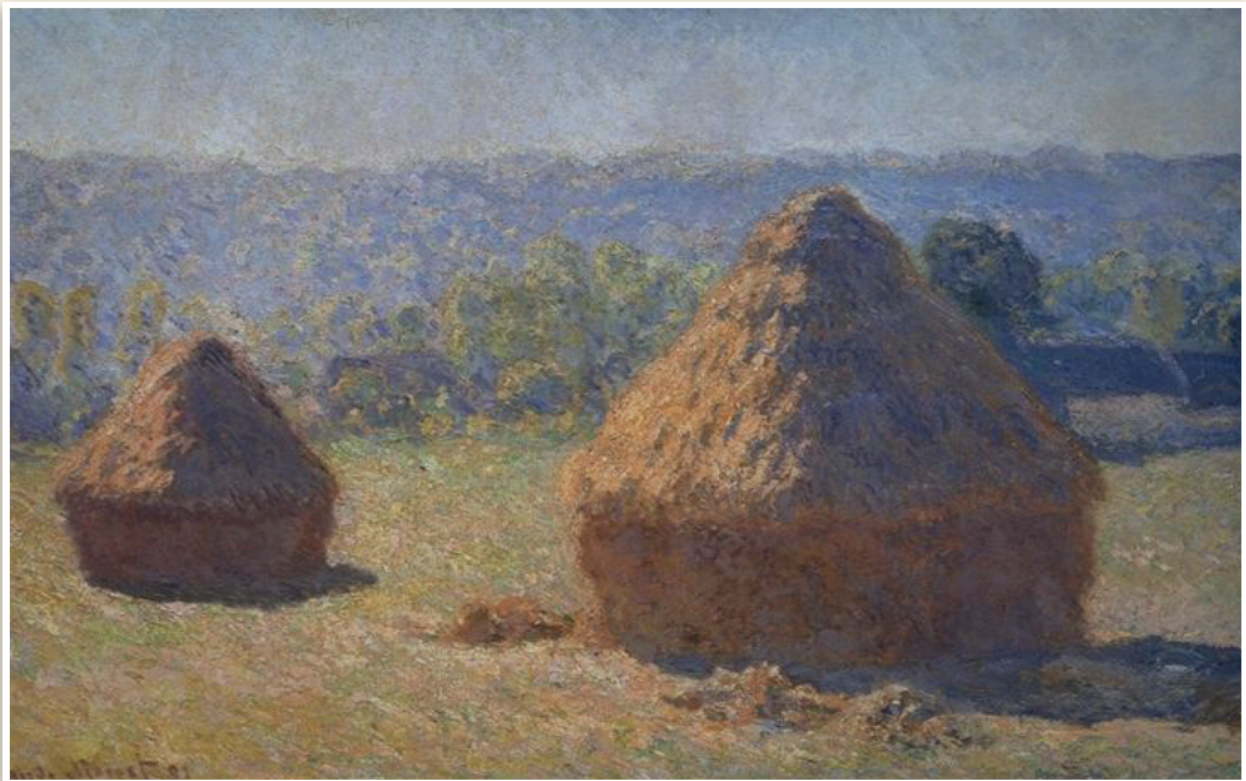
From what we have just learned about balance, can we identify if or how balance was achieved in the compositions shown here?

If we look at the Doré, we see the prominent figure of Moses just off center to the right. The strong light surrounding the tablet emphasizes the focal point, and the figure of Moses draws the eye diagonally down toward the two figures at the bottom right, thereby balancing the tablet. Notice the heavy element (tablet) is placed near the centre while the lighter figures at the bottom right are placed toward the outer edge. The platform pulls us across to the left, and there, our attention is drawn back up to the tablet. In this way, the artist has not only created balance, but he has also used movement to draw our eyes through the painting.

In the Monet that we are familiar with, below, the larger haystack is occupying most of the center of the canvas, and the smaller haystack is placed near the edge. Remembering the teeter-totter, when a heavier weight is placed nearer the center (fulcrum), it balances a smaller weight sitting near the end of the teeter-totter.



Gustave Doré, *Moses Breaking the Tablets of the Law*, 1866.



Monet, *Haystacks, End of Summer*, 1891. Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France.