

A person wearing a green long-sleeved shirt is seen from behind, with their hands clasped behind their head. They are standing on a white, torn-edge surface that looks like a piece of paper. In the background, there is a vast landscape of rolling green hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The person is wearing a watch on their left wrist and a bracelet on their right wrist.

Clasping the Heel

A DESIRE FOR MORE

A Certain Place

Genesis 28:10-22



Are you **awake?**



Are you **awake**?
Are your **eyes open**?



Spirituality is **religion**
experienced intimately.

Genesis 28:10-11

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached **a certain place**, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.



Genesis 28:12-15

¹² He had a dream in which he saw **a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven**, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said:

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”





Hebrew thought and narrative
speaks to an experience of life
where the world is **simultaneously**
material and spiritual.

Genesis 28:16-19

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “**Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.**” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place **Bethel**, though the city used to be called Luz.





A certain place becomes
a **house of God.**



Are there “certain places” you
have **dismissed** because
deep down you think:

“God can’t possibly live *there*.”



RABBI RASHI

**Pay close attention
to the obvious.**

*“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”
(Genesis 28:16)*

Genesis 28:20-22

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “**If** God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, **then** the Lord will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”





Are you **awake**?
Are your **eyes open**?