

11/19/15

An original poem for Parshat Vayetze

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# The Only Tattoo

Nat Sufrin '06 | BronfmanTorah | Parshat Vayetze 2015

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*Jacob's Dream, Marc Chagall*

וַיִּקְוֹץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנֵתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכַן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בְּמִקְוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי:

And Jacob awoke from sleep, and he said: 'Surely the LORD is in this place;  
and I knew it not.'

Genesis 28:16

## The Only Tattoo

I want will vanish by tomorrow casting  
Our lips in pallid design so we kiss  
For the first time all the time. But only the  
Debutante will be arriving. After all, this is a  
Ball & everything is ordered  
& paid for. My boss says I need to get  
My head out of the clouds. Au contraire,  
My head is where it belongs. I shall drive it

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Farther & farther into the furthest reaches of my  
Favorite clouds. Consider the multitudes with their  
Feet glued to the ground, boss, please, consider  
What the dreamer dreamed last night: unusually  
Muscular angels. They refuse to say hi but do their job  
Diligently, ascending & descending as instructed.  
I never want to get involved—only occupy  
The same space, remain in the dark bath of the  
First scene for as long as sanitary. Eventually the  
Angels hop off the ladder—breaking with  
Tradition—& saunter over to the porch.  
It's just them, smoking the Nat Sherman  
Fantasias they find there. Those are so  
Special I only smoke those on New Year's,  
I never tell them. The present no exception  
My id says let your superego slip off. Actually,  
Slice it off with a scalpel. My superego says stop  
Dividing yourself into parts you stupid  
Cokehead. Naturally he refused, whereupon  
She flew into a violent rage.

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Read Nat Sufrin's recent work in the *Antioch Review*, *interLrupture*, and *Imperial Matters*."

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