

SOURCE SHEET FOR HAVIVA NER-DAVID'S LIMMUD SESSION ON
DREAMING AGAINST THE CURRENT: A RABBI'S SOUL JOURNEY

"The dream is a little hidden door in the innermost and most secret recesses of the soul, opening into that cosmic night which was psyche long before there was any ego consciousness... All consciousness separates; but in dreams we put on the likeness of that more universal... dwelling in the darkness of primordial night. There the soul is whole... it is from these all-uniting depths that the dream arises."

– Carl Jung

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Genesis 28:10

"I, Adonai, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams."

—Numbers 12:6

Dreams speak lies.

–Zachariah 10:2

Do not heed the words of that [false] prophet or dream diviner. For the Lord God is testing you.

–Deuteronomy 13:2-4

How long will there be in the minds of the prophets who prophesy falsehood... who plan to make my people forget my name, by means of dreams which they tell each other.

–Jeremiah 23: 25-27

“Pharaoh said to Joseph: ‘I have had a dream but no one can interpret it. But I have heard it that you need only hear a dream to tell its meaning’: Joseph answered Pharaoh: ‘It is God who will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.’”

—Genesis 41: 15-16

Dreams are full of unexpressed fears and hopes, things we never even think of consciously. We think of them unconsciously deep down inside ourselves, and they come out in dreams. They don't always come out straight, though. Sometimes they come out in symbols. You have to learn to interpret the symbols.

–Chaim Potok, from *The Chosen*

And said Rabbi Hisda: A dream uninterpreted is like a letter not read.
And said Rabbi Hisda: A bad dream is preferable to a good dream.
And said Rabbi Hisda: A bad dream – it is enough that it unnerves you.
A good dream – it is enough that it brings you pleasure/healing.

–Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 55a

To be a religious Jew is to walk the tightrope between knowing the invisibility of God and seeing the face of God everywhere.

–Rabbi Arthur Green, from *Seek My Face, Speak My Name*

We think with images, but we seek God exclusively in words. Have we lost something vital? ... In dreams I feel I've rediscovered the roots of a natural religion. That door has been closed for a long time... But it can be reopened. This dream practice has no fixed ceremonies, no creeds or beliefs—just dreaming and waking, and learning what is in the heart. I'd rather have the simplest experience of the soul than all the words surrounding it. To my thinking now, religious beliefs without experiences of soul are like a house without a foundation.

–Rodger Kamenetz, from *The History of Last Night's Dream*