



ABYSS OF DEPARTURES

texts  
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images  
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i. ioseph (a: dreams)

W hom the dream named, of the

father: object

sand

&

ocean of turbulence

spring of visions

attenuated from the mountain's  
heights

in a eulogy  
of the future

tense

across the dry plains  
unto the eastern rise

[28:14]

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woven  
in & in & in  
the dreams  
the dreams  
bind me  
the dreams

[37:5]

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awakened,

dreamt.  
the

liminal  
flowering, split silver-tipped

&

strove relentless to shore:

*memoria.*

&

its distance  
from the valley  
of what is known;

the father, body of stars unnumbered, ghost of angelic force upon his thigh of perishing—

his voice, ever prophecy:

*apertures of destiny  
upon you, the journey  
into living strife*

*whomsoever a dream folded  
into you—departure, noise  
of herds, the return  
of echo & message.*

sent from the coil of what is known, I, unto plains & their slow pitch.  
the dream, the wakings.

a nomad      foundered over the plateau, erotics  
of address & inquiry elongates, trans-  
-lates into another person:

*quid  
quaereret  
[37:14-15]*



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the eye of all reversals.  
cave & shelf stepped to peaks  
of nothing. voices from vivid  
ashes, future, a father of stars  
& abyss of departures.  
of heaven.

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begun:

a catalog of inversions, of dreams

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the dream is peril.  
empty spring, cloak of blood, of  
dissemblance. cloak  
of my father's making.

the dream is emptiness, the sunken voice in my ear, echoed through the chasm of darkness:

*thither  
to that sleep of darkness what dreams  
will come?*

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coils of mortal light  
encroach.    the peril  
                  of waking—



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diagesis torn from the multi-  
colored dream:                    *emphatic*  
   *likeness, I*  
   *am the moon, the*  
   *sun—all radiation*  
   *from within—I*  
   *am their reverence, its*  
   *bows & gestures of honor*

*before me,*  
*with eleven stars of wonder, kneel*  
   *the dome of heaven*  
   *& all its lights*  
   [37:9]

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I  
am the dream's  
seed

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summation

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of the promise, body

of

territory,

ex-  
-pan-  
-sion:

occident

(the dying  
light)

orient  
(elevations)

constellation  
of seven northern  
stars

&  
of meridian (center  
the arc, its  
vectors of  
ascensions  
&  
declines)

where the fathers marked a trivium  
of movements, of dispersals, I

am the promise & passage through, the way of convergences

&  
its locus of intersections: the fourth  
released into quadrants of nox & lux:

port of angels & attendant wonder  
[28:14]

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the song breaks  
over the genealogy  
of the first person

the dream & lament  
of generations, the  
scattered leaves, the  
gusts over high desert  
scapes, the between  
of all desire, breakings  
of epiphany &  
the forgotten



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echo

is

self

body

of

stars

folds

echoes

&

apertures

ghost

departures

\*  
tapestry of angels

\*  
this self  
woven of foreign scripts  
&  
from the dream, its loom  
shuttled

into speech

(midst narration of the foreign, proper names of forgettings  
& silences, long the traipse on the land of ceaseless violence)

the mysteries of number

(where I am

\*  
suspended  
in the weavings  
of the text: cleft  
of no center)

flocks & kin on the foothills  
are presences from the indeclinable  
genitive of the father's name

turbine of mothers women sons & names

& I, the translator of

ψόγον πονηρὸν

(a cyclics  
of return  
to the garden  
of beginnings, its  
trees of myth  
& wonder, anti-  
-podal to beauty)

[37:5, 1-2]



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dream that is no  
dream:

I have hungered  
among the wretched  
have supped full  
this tale of darkness.

the bleating lamb accuses me—not in the dream— (so

hangs the  
legend, shuttled  
swiftly  
towards the  
violence, held  
back  
by the  
dream)

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again,

the angels weave, I

translated across  
the dream's tapestry

to the cusp of speech, I  
translate  
the seen to the unseen:

*in the middle of the field  
our ligatures & manipulations  
& consurge & stand*

*a peristrophy of my uprisings*

[37:5-7]



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the father dreamed

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caverns  
edges  
borders

&

transitions

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dreamed the possibility of trans-  
-lation, its  
necessities

dreamed a ladder of shadows, dark  
ascendings & descendings  
within the lower darkness

ladder of darkness, the g-d's  
makings & ecstasies

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angels climbeth ladder of weavings, the textile of heaven & earth

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And to me spake Israël:

*Not the relations  
star to seed, constellated  
elements of dispersal, of you, maketh not  
poetries on foothills above the plain?*

& I to the father of sand  
& stars sayeth:

*The form of gaze  
upon the first person, gesture  
of imperium;*

*I.*

spake again Israël to my self:

*Forth as passive wanderings, spread  
gaze imperious  
unto the emphatic  
nihil  
of oracle  
womb  
triune figure—*

*the modality  
in all futures, all  
questings—*

*unto the genitive of a second self*

&

*what grazes quick as light as quick quick  
bright, as wine dark as likeness—look  
unto the soundness of those other selves*

&

*then renounce as angel of speech  
all discoveries.*

and as envoy from the valley of Hebron (its coiled hollows) I to the foreign place, its name. and astray on the plain another foundeth me—homage to the trove of presence.

frags a question out from the other's voice, an interrogation & erotics upon the plain:

*what quest makest thou?*

the end of my self speaketh the plural others I quest, angelic tracings to my quest & returnings of the imperium:

*where?*  
[37:13-16]

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followed the rift, the open silence where pass all times untold, the frayed temps of neither soleil nor nuages, the a-cyclics marked, dashed—so

I, Ioseph, he  
 who saw the hypnotic weavings  
 as other and who works  
 into a past tense, *same*, to  
 the father  
*same, its dominion*—and  
 to the privation  
 of foretellings, most  
 prophetic of trebled

mysteries—

of same, of source, &  
who spoke the past:

*gaze*  
*I weave I*  
*dream the body*  
*somnium electrics & person*  
*(masked sound) wove*  
*the dream, dreamed*  
*the self, the other*  
*just like solem*  
*rays of spilling heat*  
*lunam*  
*spilling light saline un-*  
*-decimated stars*  
 &  
*magic sternum rave, rave*  
*the revelations of fire*  
*soaked in worship—*

& the father, legacy of fear & trembling in censure, strove the reproach—

*what tapestry raved  
in trauma this, this  
into which thou  
hast been woven?  
joint future  
tensed, motions  
unto thou, I, other  
selves—urge  
for nihil, urge  
the fray at selvage ends, urge  
undoings by the root  
& spring of want—selves, a  
matron, fratres & I as  
spurnéd curs forced  
down & down to face the curséd earth?  
[37:9-10]*

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dream & lament  
scatters, breaks  
the song, the  
abyss of wanderings

I woven I unwoven I

the nights of wandering

the dreams of forgetting  
of fords & beings strife  
relentless strife  
& thighs of perishing

the grappled fray  
the self unselved  
along the river's edge  
its swift current  
swift in the night  
of many crossings

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caverns, edges, borders—translations selvage to fringe unto others, unto the shine & florid constellation just there & there as night-kissed waters, the tipped silver of lights & angels clambered a single ladder of weavings, the textile of heaven & earth its great tree hung darkly, shadowed ornaments hooked, the down-turned limbs, the promise of return, at last, to dust

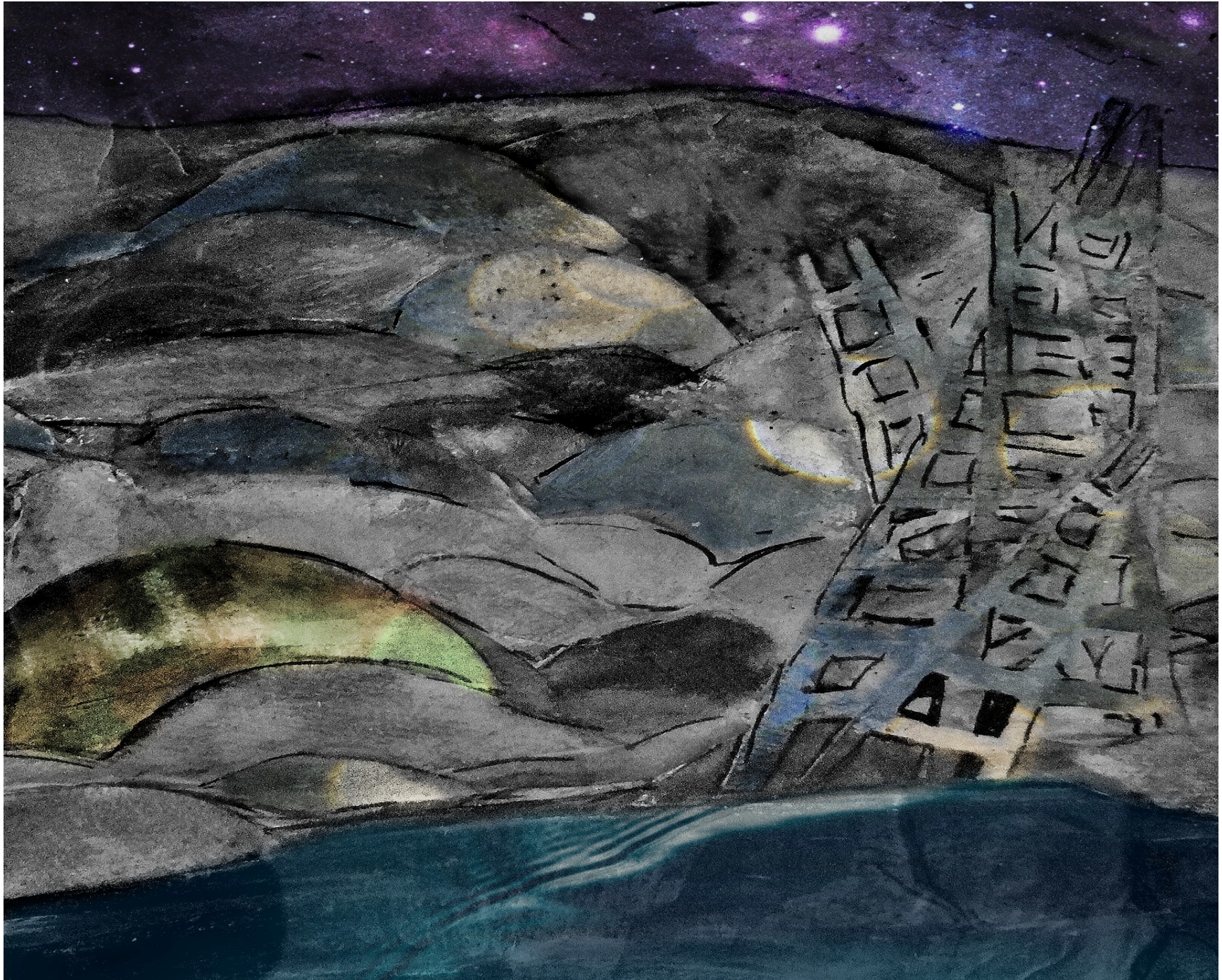
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**note** Numbers given in brackets after certain passages in the above text refer to chapters & verses of Genesis. Throughout, a poetry of weavings has worked in|through|across|between six translations of Genesis:

Septuagint—3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE translation of a Hebrew text into ancient Greek

Vulgate—late 4<sup>th</sup> - early 5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE translation into Latin

Luther—Martin Luther's 16<sup>th</sup> century translation into German

King James Version—17<sup>h</sup> century translation into English

Louis Segond—19<sup>th</sup> century translation into French

André Chouraqui—20<sup>th</sup> century translation into French