

## ESPRIT DE L'ESCALIER

*Belated response to friends who asked me to give,  
in one sentence, the message of my forthcoming book,*

Reading the Dream

*This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying,  
Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord  
of hosts.*

Zechariah 4:6

- why didn't I simply say

people like us here  
at this Chanukah table  
should not just talk about politics

which let's face it  
we can do nothing about  
we should talk about culture

preparing people's minds  
for tomorrow's revolution  
and if pain like Blake's

in the left foot forces us  
to be poets who mind  
we can turn to the black windshield

in front of our eyes  
smeared by journalists academics  
and worst of all our friends

with the grime of facts  
and clean it a bit with hope  
hope powerful because

it has always been there  
in the minds of those most healthy  
while we wait for the great poet

on whose shoulder  
that eagle flying  
above and ahead of us

in the darkness  
will come down briefly to rest

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