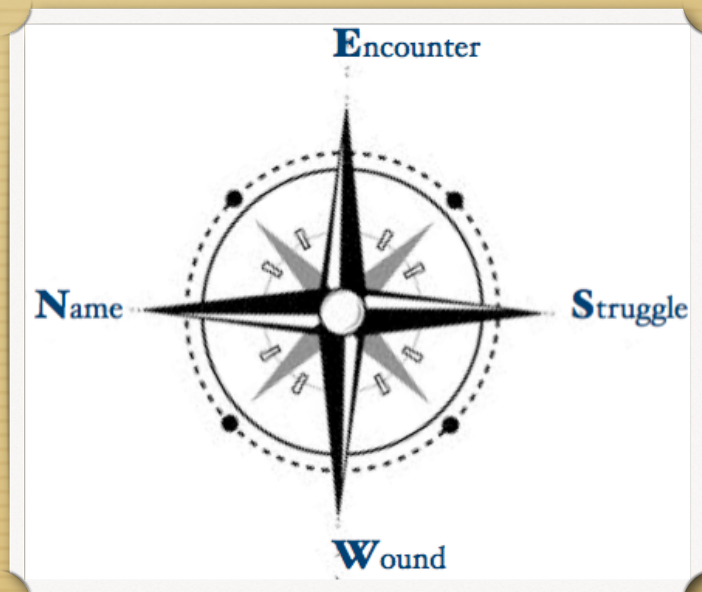


The Pilgrim's Compass



From Encounter
to New Name

The Perils of

Denial

&

Despair



“A Wandering Aramean
was my ancestor . . .” Deuteronomy 26

*Biblical Connections for
the Journey of Faith*

Scripture

- ~ Deut. 26:3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, 5 you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous . . .”

Biblical Ancestors who wandered

~ Abram and
Sarai

~ Jacob and Leah/
Rachel

~ Joseph

~ Moses & Israel

~ Mary & Joseph

~ Jesus

~ Peter

~ Paul

Encounter

atop Mount Sinai where
Moses encountered the God of
the burning bush . . .



Encounter

- ~ We meet God *in this world*
- ~ We meet God in Turmoil & Peace
- ~ *Sometimes* we get burning bush . . .
- ~ *Usually* we are invited to *look* for God
- ~ It is common to find God in strangers

Rune of Hospitality

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.

And in the sacred name of the triune God
he blessed us and our house,
our cattle and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often goes the Christ
in the stranger's guise.

pp. 366-367 in Celtic Daily Prayer
From Kenneth MacLeod's *The Road to the Isles* 1927.

Struggle

The Jabbok river in Jordan . . .
where Jacob encounters God
and wrestles through the night.
[Genesis Chapter 32]



Struggle

- ~ Our relationship to God is struggle-worthy!
- ~ We struggle to let God be God.
- ~ What God desires for us is often first experienced as loss.
- ~ We struggle to understand.