

Inside the Outside, Outside the Inside

אָנִי זוכֵר אֶזְהָרָה חֲמוּרָה שֶׁהִזְהַרְתִּי אוֹתָם
לֹא לְהוֹצֵא יָד מִחִלּוֹן אוֹטוֹבוּס נוֹסֵעַ
וּפְעַם נִסְעֵנוּ וּבְתִי הִקְטַנָּה צָעֲקָה, "אַבָּא
הוּא הִכְנִיס אֶת יָדוֹ הַחוּצָה!"

כִּד לְהֵיוֹת: לְהִכְנִיס יָד לְתוֹךְ הַחוּץ הָאֵין-סוֹפִי
שֶׁל הָעוֹלָם וְלְהַפְּוֹד אֶת הַחוּץ לְפָנִים וְאֶת
הָעוֹלָם לְחֹדֶר וְאֶת הָאֱלֹהִים לְנִשְׁמָה קְטַנָּה
בְּתוֹךְ הַגּוּף הָאֵין-סוֹפִי.

....

I remember a stern warning that I gave [my children]
not to stick a hand out of the window of a moving bus
and once while we were traveling my little daughter yelled, "Abba
he stuck his hand into the outside!"

This is how it should be: To stick a hand into the unending outside
of the world and to turn the outside inside out,
the world into a room and God into a tiny soul
within the unending body.

Yehuda Amichai from, Patuah, Sagur, Patuah
Translated by Rabbi Steven Sager