

Torah: *Exodus 34:29-35*

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai.

As he came down from the mountain
with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand,
Moses did not know
that the skin of his face shone
because he had been talking with God.

³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses,
the skin of his face was shining,
and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹But Moses called to them;
and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation
returned to him,
and Moses spoke with them.

³²Afterwards all the Israelites came near,
and he gave them in commandment
all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³When Moses had finished speaking with them,
he put a veil on his face;

³⁴but whenever Moses went in
before the LORD
to speak with him,
he would take the veil off,
until he came out;
and when he came out,
and told the Israelites
what he had been commanded,

³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses,
that the skin of his face was shining;
and Moses would put the veil on his face again,
until he went in to speak with him.

Gospel: *Luke 9:28-36*

28 Now about eight days after these sayings
Jesus took with him Peter and John and James,
and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face changed,
and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰Suddenly they saw two men,
Moses and Elijah,
talking to him.

³¹They appeared in glory
and were speaking of his departure,
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³²Now Peter and his companions
were weighed down with sleep;
but since they had stayed awake,
they saw his glory
and the two men who stood with him.

³³Just as they were leaving him,
Peter said to Jesus,
'Master, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three dwellings,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'
—not knowing what he said.

³⁴While he was saying this,
a cloud came and overshadowed them;
and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'

³⁶When the voice had spoken,
Jesus was found alone.

And they kept silent
and in those days told no one
any of the things they had seen.

Reading Torah This Week

This is the second descent from the mountain,
And the replacement pair of tablets
Do you remember the first trip up and down,
Ending badly, with the Golden Calf?

It may help to imagine 4 voices or traditions in Torah:
JEDP: Jahwist, Elohist, Deuteronomist, Priestly
Some imagine 4 source documents, edited into Torah
I prefer more broadly 4 voices, like SATB in choral singing

Jahwist – southern, Judah, Abraham saga – 2nd creation
Elohist – northern, Israel, Jacob saga – egalitarian -angels
Deuteronomist – after Assyria, near Babylon – rationalizing loss
Priestly – Temple pov – purity sacrifice - 1st creation

Generally, this bit is identified with 'P' concerns:
The role or a veiled priesthood with direct access to God
Some see 'E' notes of angels, dreams, religious experience

Your movie needs at least 3 scenes:
Moses emerges, shining, before Aaron and leaders
Moses teaches all the people, and veils at the end
Moses goes in and out of the tent of presence,
Donning and doffing the mask – PPE?

What vision of *quran* glow do you imagine?
The word is used only here – 'horns' in Vulgate Latin!
Is seeing the divine unmediated like staring at the sun,
And does Moses' face participate in that?

What and whom does the veil serve
How is it paralleled in the temple cults later
What are parallels in our religious practices
Who has direct experience of God
How does 'priesthood of all believers' fit?

Reading the Gospel This Week

Compare Luke's Transfiguration
To Mark 9 and Matthew 17
Or just revisit the dominant themes:
Revelation and recognition

The biggest addition is v31-33a
What do you make of the 'drowsy disciples'
Who resist sleep successfully,
as they will not in Gethsemane, esp in Matt/Mk?

3 disciples witness this transfiguration:
Peter, John, James
First among equals in the movement?

The experience of the event
Is construed in terms of the Moses traditions:
In Exodus, 2 trips up and down Sinai,
With Aaron and elders the first time,
Returning to them the second time

Was this an unrepeatable event?
Did Jesus 'glow in the dark' other times?
Did some see what others did not?

The voice speaks – who hears?
The cloud descends – who is in it?
The message is the same as at Jesus' baptism

Luke adds that they kept silent
Not that Jesus told them to keep silent,
Nor the discussion comparing Elijah, as in other gospels

Why keep such a secret in Jesus' lifetime,
Or why decades later, in writing the 3rd gospel, say so?
Are some audiences 'not ready' for such revelations?