



WHERE IS HOME? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE?

Genesis 2:7

God formed the Human from the dust of the earth, blowing into his nostrils the breath of life: the Human became a living being.

בראשית ב:ז

וַיִּצְרֵךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עֹפָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפְחֵךְ בְּאַפָּיו נְשֵׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה:



Questions for discussion in havruta/pairs:

- What do you notice about the Hebrew words for human and earth/soil? Why is this important?
- Once you explore the connection between the words “adam’ and ‘adamah’ how could you translate “Ha Adam”?

Now let's read the commentary of Rashi (11th Century French scholar) on this pasuk/verse.

Rashi is commenting on where the dust that created Adam was from. He offers two possibilities:

Read Rashi on Genesis 2:7:

God gathered the dust [from which human was fashioned] from the entire earth - from its four corners. Another explanation: God took the dust [from which human was made] from that spot which was designated by the Almighty, at the very dawn of creation, as the future site of the [Temple's] altar.'



Questions for discussion in havruta/pairs:

- Let's look more carefully and divide Rashi's comment into two parts.
 - What is the first answer he gives to where the dust was from?
 - What is the second answer that he gives?
- How do these relate to the concepts of being a “wanderer” v. being a “homesteader?”
- Does being “aware” of your origins help you feel more connected to the places where you live?



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WHERE YOU AT?

1. Trace the water you drink from precipitation to tap. How might your water availability or quality be affected by global climate change?
2. Where does your garbage go? Is it burned? Landfilled?
3. How many days until the moon is full?
4. What indigenous nations live(d) in the place that is now your home?
5. What are the climate change predictions for your area?
6. What species in your area are currently in danger or extinction? Why?
7. Who are the most recent immigrants to your area?
8. Name 5 edible plants in your region and their season(s) of availability.
9. Name five resident and five migratory birds in your area.
10. Where does your electricity come from?
11. What watershed(s) are you in?
12. From where you're reading this, point north.
13. What spring wildflower is consistently among the first to bloom where you live?
14. What is your elevation (above sea level)? Why does this matter?