Psychoanalysis has taught us dreams usually with Projection... Interesting to note the progression Jacob's dreams this sidra.

First dream - Richardson, but reaching Abel, and p.25 in etc.
Second dream - a shrewd business deal in which he outwits the shrewd Laban, wins large herd of cattle.

Is not this progression of dreams, if attitudes change, characteristic of most of us?
Youth: idealistic - heaven, angels etc.
Young lawyer - will make law conform Justice
MD wants a "lot of medicine - properly" (hero of "not as a stranger")
Housewife - blissful, unblemished, selfless love
Then: materialistic - cattle - like Jacob, after having family, "experience"...
Sort of adjust, become "practical", dampen idealism

But is that the way it should be? Is Idealism merely an attractive fantasy of youth - pretty but passing?

No! 9-d tell Jacob right after that 1-d dream when cattle replace angels and the goal is outwitting Laban instead of reaching out for 9-d, he tells him: El-rv. Esh. Lev. 12, 13, 14, 15
Ps. 50: 6; 65: 12; 112: 5, 6, 12: 3, 18
Pip. 3: 17, 18: 1, 15, 19; 23: 1, 2

To college boys: Take it from me - now you dream in terms of ideals, before long you will be tempted to turn "practical"; don't do it. Never give up dreams changing the real to conform to ideal.
I know - not much older than you... tempted often to abandon the angels, take to the cattle... "can't change people" - afraid! At heart of Judaism is reverence... also 11: 21 in 15: 9, Pip. 1: 19; Out of RV...

America - This Pious Descendancy: lost early dream - pilgrims - religious liberty - despite faults and variety of personalities, were idealized. Now - the Idealist is a suspect, the Egg-Head is dangerous.

America said (1/2) Pip.... 21: 12 (1/2 11: 21),

RETURN TO DREAMS AND VISIONS WHICH MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT.
Zionism - from dreams of 1103 to Feuchtwanger only

American Jewish community has all but abandoned the love for idealism, for theory, even for controversy in matters of principle so dear to the Jew. Have enjoyed new dreams of cattle, money, social status and "harmony" which - if it were not a matter of decent relationship alight, but a belief that any insistence on principle is unpopular, hence wrong.

Marshall Sklare, writing on "Reconstructed Judaism" writes - and agrees - "No approaches to a philosophical nature are apparent... Rathe adherence generally stress the agreeableness of Conservative services." Lay leaders are either too apathetic to care about ideological clarity or afraid it because any sharpening of principles might promote dissension. Listen to what one reviewer has to say about this state of affairs (quote review by Bernard Rosenberg in "Midstream", vol.1, no.1 (fall, 1955), p.105):

But let us be fair - while this pernicious evolution of accepting the 2nd not the 1st dream, Jacob is most pronounced in the Conservative movement. Other are not free from it - introd. included. We must learn, re-learn & teach that the heavenly vision of Torah is supreme & fundamental with us; it nothing takes precedence over it. We must remember that social status, financial success and popularity rating are all good & well - but they must never become the stuff from which most cherished dreams & most sacred visions we must raise the process whereby religious idealism has been transformed into cattle-like gregariousness, "joineritis".
we must keep the first dream uppermost & never reduce it to the second. you can’t make &nbs
by putting 9 tables on them & giving them membership cards. we must beware of reducing ethics to esthetic
sacredity to smoothness. the bible to literature. i. observance to good manners & the talmud to
early post. 1113 iv must always be for us ways 2
focus God, instrument of Holiness, attempts to construct
a bridge from the real to the ideal is not merely
"customs & ceremonies" just quaint antiquities,
pretty & enchanting plate things, just lyceum
"symbols", like a Masonic ceremony or an academic
procession at a commencement exercise.

k.

in all these things as americans, as 21st, as
Jews, as human beings - we all experience the progression
of dreams as did Jacob. the question whether we
are to degenerate into cattle-breeders in a recapitula
the spirit of ascending ladders into Heaven depends
upon whether we want to hear the adoration?
9-th as it reaches from the Halls of Time to
our own day - "in God we live & work" (48:91).