

Comparison of Translations Involving the Key Word “Face”

1) JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

Genesis 32:21-22 (before Jacob meets Esau):

For he reasoned, “If I propitiate him with presents in advance, and then face him, perhaps he will show me favor.” And so the gift went on ahead....

Genesis 32:31 (after Jacob fights with the angel): So Jacob named the place Peniel, meaning, “I have seen a divine being face to face, yet my life has been preserved.”

Genesis 33:10 (when Jacob meets Esau):

[F]or to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably.

2) EVERETT FOX (italics his)

Genesis 32:21–22:

For he said to himself:

I will wipe (the anger from) his *face* (*fanav*)
with the gift that goes ahead of my *face*; (*le-fanay*)
afterward, when I see his *face*, *fanav*)
perhaps he will lift up my *face*! (*fanay*)
The gift crossed over ahead of his *face*, ... (*al panav*)

Genesis 32:31:

Yaakov called the name of the place: Peniel/*Face of God*,
for: I have seen God,
face to face,
and my life has been saved.

Genesis 33:10:

For I have, after all, seen your *face*, as one sees the *face* of God,
and you have been gracious to me.

3) NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

Genesis 32:21-22: [F]or he thought, “I will appease him with the present that I have sent on ahead, and afterwards, when I come into his presence, he will perhaps receive me kindly.” So Jacob’s present went on ahead of him....

Genesis 32:31: Jacob called the place Peniel, “because,” he said, “I have seen God face to face and my life is spared.”

Genesis 33:10: [F]or, you see, I come into your presence as into that of a god, and you receive me favorably.