Leaping Up

(Translated with the author’s permission)

Not infrequently, I run into people who leap up as if trying to grasp at something located in a realm above their heads. Again and again, they leap--but unsuccessfully, it would seem: whatever they are aiming for remains beyond their reach. A few of them leap higher than the rest, hover in the air and thus run the risk that another human being might take their spot on the ground. When that happens, they obviously face a problem: the laws of gravity demand that they return to earth right away, whereas the rules of civility forbid them from landing on the head of a fellow human. At the moment of truth, they must weigh the odds carefully: if they cede to the laws of gravity and trample the body and dignity of whosoever naively took their place, they will be accused of demonstrating antisocial behavior and a general disdain for humanity; if they delay their landing until a more convenient moment, they will completely undermine the laws that enable life on earth, the laws which, simply put, secure our very existence. They must consider all of this while hanging between heaven and earth. And in the process, they may well regret having abandoned the earth for such a long time.