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VERSES: *Gn11x28a*

TABLE: *Or = light, OoR = Big-Fire*

Verse	Translation	Rashi Comment
General, many verses	<i>Or = light</i>	
Gn11x28s	<i>Terach and family left the <u>Casdim Furnace</u></i>	<p><i>Casdim Furnace</i> is the name of a place. The Hebrew <i>oor</i> refers to a big fire such as a bonfire a furnace fire or the fires used for smelting metals like iron and steel.</p> <p>Apparently <i>Casdim Furnace</i> was a manufacturing town for metals. Thus it was known for its furnaces. Terach, with his family, including Abraham, left this manufacturing town.</p> <p>Apparently also, when someone disagreed with the local king they simply through him in the fires to kill him.</p> <p>Rashi isn't actually so explicit. Rather (i) he cites the Midrash that when Abraham refused to bow down to idols the king threw him in the furnace and he was miraculously saved. (ii) Rashi states that Haran then said "I agree with Abraham." He was thrown in and died. (iii) Finally Rashi cites other interpretations of the Hebrew word <i>oor</i>.</p> <p>I would respond: That <i>oor</i> in other places means <i>big fire</i> so in this context it would mean a <i>furnace town</i> used for manufacturing. It then seems reasonable that dissidents were simply thrown in the fire. (After all how could Abraham disagree with the town religion and not get punished). Since Haran is never mentioned again (e.g. in genealogies) it seems reasonable he died and then it seems reasonable he took Abraham's side (against idolatry).</p> <p>RE: Other grammarians other explanations of <i>oor</i>: These grammarians confuse <i>place of activity</i> with the <i>activity</i> itself. For example, <i>valleys</i> are typically very dark at</p>

		night and need huge fires to illuminate them. Hence, it <i>appears</i> that <i>oor</i> can mean <i>valley</i> but in reality it simply means big Fire.
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