

The Rashi Database Project

GOALS: * Show that all Rashid comments are spontaneous, instant, effortless reactions of a native speaker to the biblical text.

*This is accomplished by skillful English translations instantly suggesting the Rashid comment to the reader

* Additionally, each Rashid comment is examined using the 10 organs of the Rashid anatomy.

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(MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY): DT = Doctoral Thesis (www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook.htm,

MG=Modern Grammar with Applications to Rashid (www.Rashiyom.com/Rashibook2.htm))

OTHER COMMENTATORS (ABBREVIATIONS): R=Ramban, T=Baal Turim, K=Kli Yakar, I=Ibn Ezra, H=Hendel

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PESHAT, SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

RASHI vs. MIDRASH: We will continue with the *routine* Rashid comments begun recently. Although there are already encyclopedic works documenting Rashi's rich approach to dictionary meaning such as Avineri's *Rashi's Palace*, my emphasis will be on the half dozen principles and figures of speech used to explain meaning. Additionally, as done in my doctoral thesis, I will emphasize that *peshat* the straightforward meaning of the text coincides with what reading literacy examinations test.

The techniques covered in this *routine Rashid* series are: *Metonymy, hypernymy, synecdoche, meronymy, root meaning, grammar, parallelism, the paragraph, and reading literacy*. By repeatedly emphasizing these principles and reinforcing them with English examples it is hoped that the reader will acquire a natural skill for these approaches thereby leading to greater Rashid appreciation.

The table with this week's examples begin on the next page.

<i>Verse</i>	<i>Translation of Verse with Rashi</i>	Rule	<i>Brief Explanation of Rule</i>
<i>Lv06-02</i>	Command Aaron and his sons	Hypernymy	<p><i>Rashi explains the difference between the synonyms (co-hyponyms): Tell and Command. Both refer to telling someone what to do but Command has a sense of emphasis. Rashi provides two possible means of emphasis a) immediacy (do it right away) and b) when the command may involve monetary loss. In my doctoral thesis I call such Rashis reasonable speculations: Rashi cites Rabbis who reasonably speculate what the emphasis in Command might be. In such a case the two opinions are not contradicting each other (controversy) but complementing each other (each would agree that any of the explanations would work.) The ideas are cited in certain Rabbi names to give attribution.</i></p>
<i>Lv06-03</i>	<p><i>The priest will dress in tailored [lit. his measurement] linen</i></p>	Synecdoche	<p><i>The word middo means his measurement. His measurement is a good example (synecdoche) of something tailored to fit. Hence middo acquires the meaning of tailored.</i></p>

Lv06-14a,b:07-12c	On an oiled griddle it will be made scalded (with water) a bakee	Etymologies	<p><i>I have combined these two Rashi comments into one since they are both addressing how the priest flour offerings were prepared. Rashi first explains that the Hebrew word Mur-Be-CeTh means scalded in boiling water. I often give etymologies based on roots even though they are not explicit in Rashi. In this case the 3-letter root Resh-Beth-Caph would mean like (Caph) it was rain-stormed (Resh-Beth, ReVaVaH) an apt name for scalding in boiling water. I coined the word bakee in analogy with the word cookie from the word cook. A cookie is something that has been cook-ed; hence it is an example of syntactical metonymy. Similarly a bakee is something baked. However as a noun, bakee, differs from the participle verb, baked, in that it denotes something more permanent, thoroughly baked. The law is that the priest flour offerings were i) water scalded, ii) baked, iii) griddle fried, and then iv) baked again.</i></p>
Lv07-12a	If on a thank-you he offers it	Metonymy	<p><i>The verb to thank gives rise to the noun thank you referring to a miraculous occasion on which you thank. (The Talmud based on the thank-you examples in the Psalms lists several particular cases but the main idea of the verse is simply a sacrifice on a thank-you occasion.) I reserve the figure of speech technique metonymy to instances where the words are related syntactically. Here, you thank because of a thank-you occasion and hence this is a metonymy.</i></p>
Lv07-34a	The waived thigh and raised breast	Hypernymy	<p><i>Rashi explains synonyms or co-hyponyms. In the peace offering the thigh of the animal was raised while the breast was waived. Rashi simply explains that raised means an up and down motion while waived refers to a horizontal motion.</i></p>

Lv07-37a	<p>For the (Priestly) Inauguration ceremony [lit. fill-in]</p>	Synecdoche	<p><i>We are all familiar with the English idiom, my plate is full. Here full refers to a day filled with activities in contrast to a lower activity day which is not as time-filled. Even the word filled is a synecdoche since technically fill refers to the spatial sphere (you fill a space) while my plate is full metaphorically refers to the temporal sphere (my time is filled with activities). The origins of the word fill-in to refer to a time filled with activities occurs in the description of the Priestly inauguration ceremony (Ex29-35). The seven-day ceremony by which Priests are inaugurated into Temple service are characterized by a full plate of activities including multiple offerings and multiple donnings of Priestly garments. Hence, from that ceremony, the term fill-in was coined to refer to inaugurations.</i></p>
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