

# 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](http://www.Rashiyomi.com/Rashibook.htm),

MG=Modern Grammar with Applications to Rashid ([www.Rashiyom.com/Rashibook2.htm](http://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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**RASHI ID: Nu30-04a, Nu31-03b, Nu31-06c, Nu-31-10a, Nu31-11b,c,d**

## **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.

**VERSE:** Nu30-04a  
**TRANSLATION:** *When a woman takes a vow while being brought up by her father in her youth [lit in her father's house]*  
**METHOD:** Synecdoche  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** A person living in his father's house is a good or typical example of being brought up by one's father. The principle of synecdoche names things by good examples. So in her father's house acquires the meaning of while being brought up by one's father. Rashi points out that no literalism is required; she need not physically be in her father's house.

**VERSE:** Nu31-03b  
**TRANSLATION:** *Moses spoke to the Jews: Gird from yourself people for the army*  
**METHOD:** Metonymy  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** The word *gird* as in *gird your sword* is a typical activity of military men. The metonymy principle names related activities such as army conscription by the term *gird*.

**VERSE:** Nu31-06c  
**TRANSLATION:** *Moses sent them to war with Pinchas the priest who had the military trumpets and the Holy Ark [lit. had in his hand]*

**METHOD:** Synecdoche  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** A good example of possession is having something literally in your hand. The Synecdoche principle allows naming possession by a good example of it, in your hand. However, it does not require the object be literally in one's hand

**VERSE:** Nu-31-10a  
**TRANSLATION:** *They destroyed their [rural] cities and linearly arranged houses*  
**METHOD:** Etymology  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** The Hebrew word **TiRoThaM** comes from the root **TuR** meaning line. Rashi contrasts rural houses which might be on hilltops and built on slants with neighborhoods of orderly houses lined up. Rashi then gives two examples of who would live in such orderly villages (i) Priests and (ii) Nobility. Rashi is not presenting a controversy but showing that the concept of orderly arranged houses can apply to a broad range of situations

**VERSE:** Nu31-11b,c,d  
**TRANSLATION:** *They took all the cloth-booty and the animal-takes ...they brought to Moses and the congregation the captives, the animal takes and cloth booty .....The animal takes the remainder of the booty...had sheep....*

**METHOD:** Hypernymy - Synonyms  
**BRIEF EXPLANATION:** Rashi distinguishes the nuances of 4 synonyms all of which refer to some type of booty. **ShaLaL** refers to cloth-booty; **BaZ** refers to non-living booty; **takes** refer to animal booty; **captives** refer to human booty. Rashi also points out that **takes** can also be an umbrella terms referring to both animal and human booty. [Similarly, although not explicitly said, **booty** can be a general term referring to both living and non-living booty]