

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 Rashi comment to the reader

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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)}

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PESHAT: THE SPONTANEOUS REACTION OF NATIVE SPEAKERS FAMILIAR WITH WORD NUANCES

WHAT IS NEW IN THIS ISSUE

- Because of the poetic nature of this Parshah we exclusively explore various word meanings. However, we cite the Midrash Rabbah and give numerous insights into these word meanings.

VERSES: Gn47-29a,Gn47-29c,Gn47-29d, Gn48-01a, Gn48-07b, Gn48-11a, Gn48-14a, Gn49-03a,Gn49-03b, Gn49-04a,Gn49-04d, Gn49-04e, Gn49-02a, Gn39-14a, Gn41-13a, Ex10-11c, Gn35-25b , Gn24-02b

VERSE ID	Text of Biblical Verse	Hebrew Word	Figure of Speech	Brief Explanation
Gn47-29a	his days were near to death		Idiom	Refers to a death prior to expected life of parents
Gn47-29c	place your hand under my thigh		Idiom	An idiom meaning oath (2)
Gn47-29d	kindness and truth		Idiom	This phrase specifically refers to the kindness done to the dead (4)
Gn48-01a	He said to Joseph		Grammar-Pronoun	The pronoun <i>he</i> has no reference (this is equivalent -to 'someone' in English (1))
Gn48-07b	there was still a sieve of land to...	Caph-Beth-Resh	Meaning Root	This word only occurs a few times in the bible ; based on its root there are several possible explanations: : (i) From context, it could be a measure (e.g. a kilometer of land) (Rashi), (ii) it could indicate largeness (Midrash Rabbah) See footnote (3) for several other suggestions)
Gn48-11a	I never expected to see you	Pay-Lamed-Lamed	Idiom	The Hebrew Pay-Lamed-Lamed is the equivalent of the English idiom, <i>I never expected it. The biblical root Pay-Lamed-Lamed</i> means judgement and hence the idiom means "Although I carefully judged the entire situation, I could not see a path or angle in which I would have seen you again. So the proper translation is <i>I never</i>

				<i>expected to see you again and amazingly I am even seeing your children.</i>
Gn48-14a	He behaved skillfully with his hands		Denominative	Sin-Kaph-Lamed means <i>good sense, intelligence</i> : The verb form from the noun would indicate <i>skillfully acted with his hands</i> (in this case he crossed his hands when placing them on the children so that his right hand was on the head of the child on the left which Jacob explained signified that the child on the left the younger brother would surpass the older brother during human history)
Gn49-03a,b	Reuven you are my firstborn		Synonym	Kaph-Cheth and Aleph-Vav-Nun both are synonyms for <i>strength</i> Aleph-vav-nun seems to refer more to <i>fortitude</i> (Strength in adversity) because another meaning of aleph-vav-nun refers to adversities that happen (e.g. mourning) Hence it can also idiomatically refer to intimacy (a person might fondly recall the conception of his first child which was the beginning of <i>fortitude</i> in his intimate relationship)
Gn49-04a,d	impetuousness	Pay-Cheth-Zayin	Meaning-Root	Pay-Zayin means pure gold and because of the glitter resembles constantly varying motion (like fizzing of water) an apt resemblance to impetuousness. Rashi points out that the form indicates a noun (<i>fizz</i>) rather than an activity.
Gn49-04e	spread		Synecdoche	This Hebrew word is similar to the English <i>bed-spread</i> . It specifically refers to a (marital) bed since one spreads out sheets and other items on it.

NOTES

(1) Applies also to Gn49-02a, Gn39-14a, Gn41-13a, Ex10-11c, Gn35-25b

(2) Applies also to Gn24-02b

(3) Gn35-16a *Kivrath* land: Possible explanations: ((Gen Rab 82:7)) (i) some type of measure (e.g., a mile of land), (ii) difficult terrain (land soggy like a sieve)

(iii) adjective indicating largeness of path (Kabir) (iv) Springtime (land is sieve-like and grain (Bar) sprouts, (v) Summar (the rain and harvest already have passed (KeVar)

(4) The phrase is an idiom. However, Rashi conjectures *how* the idiom evolved: *Normally, when you do someone a favor there is an expectation that it may be returned some day. However, when you do kindness to a dead person there is no such expectation. Therefore, kindness to the dead is so to speak a true kindness. But again, the real reason for the translation kindness to the dead is because it is an idiom of the language.*