

# Bereshit - Creation of the Woman

## Did God "Steal" Adam's Rib?

In the following verses the Torah describes creation of the woman:

וַיִּפֹּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים תְּרִדְמָה עַל הָאָדָם, וַיִּישָׁן; וַיִּקַּח אֶחָת  
מִצִּלְעֹתָיו, וַיִּסְגֹּר בָּשָׂר תַּחְתָּנָה.

וַיִּבֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַצֶּלַע אֲשֶׁר-לָקַח מִן-הָאָדָם,  
לְאִשָּׁה; וַיְבִאֶהָ, אֶל-הָאָדָם. (ב, כא-כב')

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the place with flesh instead thereof

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from the man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Then the Torah quotes Adam's words right after his wife was created. He gives her a name, but also mentions a connection between his name and hers:

וַיֹּאמֶר, הָאָדָם, זֹאת הִפְעַם עֵצִים מֵעֲצָמַי, וּבָשָׂר מִבְּשָׂרִי;  
לְזֹאת יִקְרָא אִשָּׁה, כִּי מֵאִישׁ לָקַחָהּ-זֹאת.

And the man said: 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'

Based on the Medrash in Bereshit Rabba (18:4), Rashi says that because the words **אִישׁ ISH (man)** and **אִשָּׁה ISHA (woman)** are related, from this verse follows that the world was created in Hebrew!

There is a lot of discussion going on in regards with the etymology of the Hebrew words for man and woman and what exactly caused Rashi and other Torah commentators to make such a conclusion about the creation of the world in Hebrew and it is not my intention to enter the discussion at this time.

I would like to relate to the creation of the woman using a dialogue between the clever daughter of Raban Gamliel and the Roman Emperor as appears in the Talmud:



In the Talmud (Sanhedrin 39, pg 1) appears the following dialogue:

אָמַר הַקַּיִסָּר הַרֹמִי לְרַבֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל : אֱלֹהֵיכֶם גָּנַב הוּא!  
שָׁנְאָמַר : וַיִּפֹּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים תַּרְדֵּמָה... וַיִּקַּח אֶחָת מִצַּלְעָתָיו... (ב:כא)

The Roman Emperor said to Rabbi Gamliel: Your G-d is a thief!

As it says, "And the LORD G-d caused a deep sleep to fall... and He took one of his ribs..." (Genesis, 2:22)

אָמְרָה לוֹ בַּתּוֹ : אָבִיא, תֵּן לִי לְהַשִּׁיב לְקַיִסָּר.  
נָתַן לָהּ רַבֵּן גַּמְלִיאֵל לְעֲנוּת לְקַיִסָּר.

His daughter said to him: Father, let me answer the emperor.

Rabbi Gamliel let her answer the emperor.

אָמְרָה הַבַּת לְקַיִסָּר : תֵּנוּ לִי שׁוֹפֵט אֶחָד.  
שָׂאל אוֹתָהּ הַקַּיִסָּר : לָמָּה אַתְּ צָרִיכָה שׁוֹפֵט?

The daughter said to the emperor: Give us a judge.

The emperor asked her: Why do you need a judge?

אָמְרָה לוֹ : בָּאוּ שׁוֹדְדִים הַלַּיְלָה וְלָקְחוּ מֵאֵיתָנוּ כֶּד שֶׁל כֶּסֶף  
וּבְמִקוֹמוֹ הִשְׁאִירוּ לָנוּ כֶּד שֶׁל זָהָב וְאֲנִי צָרִיכָה שֶׁהַשׁוֹפֵט יַעֲנִישׁ אֶת  
הַשׁוֹדְדִים.

She said to him: Robbers came in the night and took from us a silver vase and in its place left us a golden vase and I need the judge to punish the robbers.

אָמַר לָהּ הַקַּיִסָּר : מָה פְּתָאוֹם שֶׁנַּעֲנִישׁ אוֹתָם ; הַלְוֹאִי שֶׁיָּבֹאוּ עָלֵינוּ  
שׁוֹדְדִים כָּאֵלֶּה כָּל יוֹם!

The emperor said to her: There is no way that we will punish them; I wish robbers like these would come to us every day!

אָמְרָה לוֹ הַבַּת : וְלֹא כֵּן הָיָה אֶצְל הָאָדָם הָרִאשׁוֹן? הֲאֵלֶּהִים נֹטֵל מִמֶּנּוּ צַלַּע  
אֶחָת וּבְמִקוֹמָהּ נָתַן לוֹ אִישָׁה!...

The daughter said to him: And is this not what was by Adam? G-d took from him one rib and in its place gave him a wife!

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