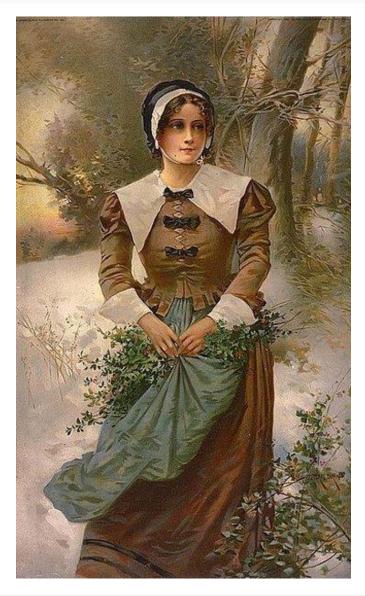
אבנר רמו



Edward Percy Moran: A Fair Puritan wearing an apron 1897

In the 2^{nd} Book of Kings we read that after the returning messengers of King Ahaziah told him about the man that they encountered:

וידבר אלהם-מה משפט האיש אשר עלה לקראתכם; וידבר אליכם את-הדברים האלה. ויאמרו אליו, איש בעל שער, ואזור עור אזור במתניו; ויאמר, אליה התשבי הוא.

"And he said to them: What manner of man was he that came up to meet you, and told you these words?

And they answered him: He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said: It is Elijah the Tishbite" (2 Ki 1:7-8).

In this 9th century BC event the Bible refers for the first time to: \mathbf{N} (*ezor*) translated to Greek and English as "belt" or "girdle." The actual word used here by the Greek translators is ζώνην (*dzoney* or *zoni*).

The word **האור** (*ezor*) - "belt" appears also in eleven other biblical verses (Is 5:27; 11:5; Jer 13:1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11; Eze 23:15; Job 12:18). From the root of this word: **האור** (a,z,r) there is also a biblical verb that is mentioned in several other verses (1 Sam 2:4; 2 Sam 22:40; Is 8:9; Jer 1:7; Ps 18:33, 40; 30:18; 65:7; 93:1; Job 30:18; 38:3; 40:7; Neh 4:12), meaning: "to girdle.

A derivative of the Greek ζώνην (zoni) is ζωνάριον (zonarion). This word is apparently the source of the Arabic word: $(zun\bar{a}r)$ - "girdle" and the Talmudic Hebrew: "apron." It should be pointed here that exchanges between the sibilants (z) and (z) (s) are not rare in loan words, as well as in the Hebrew Bible itself (e.g. Job 12:18; Neh 4:12).