

of this verse suggests that here **לעצם** is a letter-substitution error of **לעצב** - “to sadness” (Gen 6:6; 34:7; 45:5; 1 Sam 20:3; 2 Sam 19:3; Is 54:6; 63:10; Ps 78:40; Neh 8:10, 11). A similar theme appears in the Book of Psalms: **ומחבש לעצבותם ; הרפא לשבורי לב** - “(He) who heals the broken in heart, and alleviates their sadness” (Ps 147:3). If this understanding is correct then here the word **ומחבש** is a letter-substitution error of **ומחלש** (e.g. Joel 4:10).

Yet we also find in the Book of Proverbs: **שמן וקטרת ישמח-לב ; ומתק רעהו מעצת-נפש** - “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; and [so does] the sweetness of a man's friend of hearty counsel” (Pro 27:9).

The understanding of **מעצת-נפש** as “of hearty counsel” by the English translator is not supported by the Greek translation. However, the logic of this verse and the comparison between these verses suggests that **ומתק רעהו מעצת-נפש** is a letter-insertion and a letter and word deletion error of: **ומתק רעהו יעבר עצבת-נפש** - “and the sweetness of his friend shall remove the sadness of the soul.” A similar theme is found in verses Pro 18:24; and Pro 27:10.