

## והשקית ברגלך

אבנר רמו

In the Book of Exodus we read:

ולכהן מדין שבע בנות; ותבאנה ותדלנה ותמלאנה את-הרהטים, להשקות צאן אביהן.  
“And the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came and drew [water] and filled the troughs to water their father's flock” (Ex 2:26; see also: Ex 2:19; Num 24:7).

The content of this verse suggests that these young women used buckets to draw and transfer the water.

We read in the Book of Ezekiel:

ויהי בשתי עשרה שנה, בשני-עשר חדש באחד לחדש; היה דבר-יהוה אלי לאמר.  
בן-אדם, שא קינה על-פרעה מלך-מצרים ואמרת אליו, כפיר גוים נדמית; ואתה כתנים בימים, ותגח בנהרותיך ותדלח-מים ברגליך,  
“And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of *YHWH* came to me, saying:

Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: you did liken yourself to a lion of the nations; whereas you are as a crocodile in the seas; and you did gush forth your rivers, and did trouble the waters with your feet” (Eze 32:1-2).

However, the logic of this verse suggests that here ותגח (*vethagakh*) is a letter-substitution error of ותגר (*vathagar*) - “and you dwell” (e.g. 6:4). In addition, the comparison between these verses suggests that here ותדלח-מים ברגליך is a letter-substitution error of ותדלח-מים ברגליך - “and you are drawing water with your feet.”

Now in the Book of Deuteronomy we read:

כי הארץ אשר אתה בא-שמה לרשתה-לא כארץ מצרים הוא, אשר יצאתם משם: אשר תזרע את-זרעך, והשקית ברגלך כגן הירק.  
“For the land, whither you go in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence you came out, where you did sow your seed, and did water it with your foot, as a garden of herbs” (Deu 11:10).



**Human-feet powered devices traditionally were used to move water short distances and up low grades. This irrigation wheel in Japan was still being used in 1958 to irrigate a small plot.**