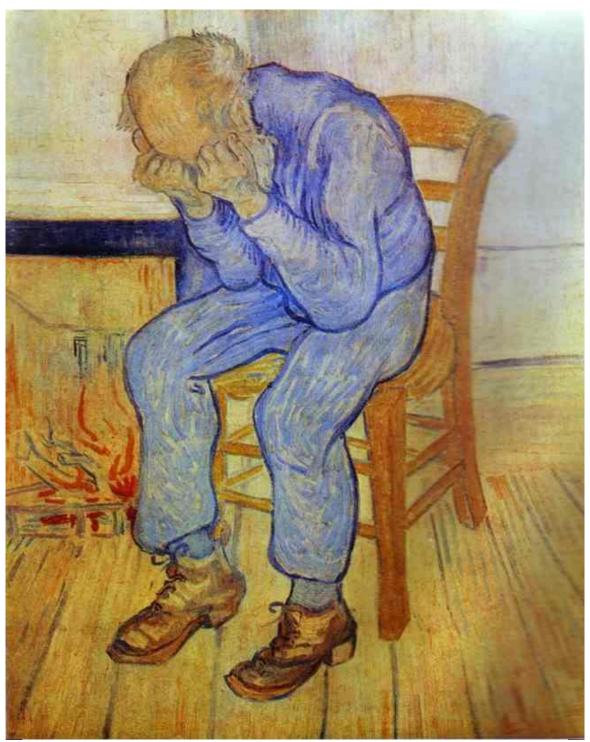
## האם ה-"צער" בעברית אחר-תנכית זהה ל-"שער" התנכי?



Sorrowing Old Man (At Eternity's Gate), an oil painting by Vincent Willem van Gogh (1853 –1890)

In the Book of Psalms we read the expression: ממר-חרון ישרנו (Ps 58:10) that was translated to Greek as: "as if in anger he shall bestorm you." The English translator wrote here: **He will sweep it away with a whirlwind**." Both translations do not contribute to the understanding of the paragraph that contains this verse, and are rather questionable. While in other biblical verses the Hebrew word אור appears to mean "anger" (e.g. Ex 32:12; Num 25:4; 32:14; Deu 13:18; Jos 7:26; 1 Sam 28:18; 2 Ki 23:26; Is 13:9, 13; Jer 4:8, 26; 12:13; 25:37, 38; 30:24;49:36; 51:45; Hos 11:9; Jon 3:9; Nah 1:6; Zep 2:2; 3:8; Ps 69:5; 78:49; 85:4; Job 20:23; Thr 1:12; 4:11; Ezr 10:14; 2 Ch11, 13; 29:10; 30:18), the meaning of the word אשרר (from the root: שער (sa'r) is less certain.

In the Book of Ezekiel we read:

כל ישבי האיים שממו עליך; ומלכיהם שערו שער, רעמו פנים.
"All the inhabitants of the isles are appalled at you, and their kings are horribly afraid, they are troubled in their countenance" (Eze 27:35; see also: Eze 32:10).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that שערו שער means: "are horribly

**afraid**" and this understanding is not supported by the Greek translation of this verse.

In the Book of Jeremiah we find:

ההימיר גוי אלהים, והמה לא אלהים; ועמי המיר כבודו, בלוא יועיל. שמו שמים על-זאת; <u>ושערו חרבו מאד,</u> נאם-יהוה.

"Had a nation changed its gods, which yet are no gods? But My people had changed its glory for that which does not helps.

Be astonished, O you heavens, at this, <u>and be horribly afraid, be you exceeding amazed</u>, said *YHWH*" (Jer2:11-12).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that here the Hebrew word ארבו means "be you exceeding amazed" and such an understanding is not supported by the Greek translation. However the comparison with verse Ps 58:10 suggests that here ארבו (kharvu) is a letter-substitution and order-type error of יוֹחר להם מאד (vekhru) - "and (they) were angry." In fact, the term: "then they were very wroth" appears in the Bible multiple times (e.g. Gen 4:5; 34:7; Num 11:10; 16:15; 1 Sam 11:6; 18:8; 2Sam 3:8; 12:5; 13:21; Neh 4:1; 5:6; 2Ch 25:10).

Of particular interest is verse Gen 34:7: ויתעצבו האנשים, ויחר להם מאד - "and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth." The combination here of "wroth" and "grief" suggests the possibility that as a result of sibilants exchange, the few biblical words from the root שער (sa'r) are actually the same as those from the post-biblical Hebrew root צער (tsa'r), that means "grief."

In the Book of Ezekiel we read:

ואמרת אל-עם הארץ כה-אמר אדני יהוה ליושבי ירושלם, אל-אדמת ישראל, לחמם בדאגה יאכלו, ומימיהם בשממון ישתו

"And say to the people of the land: Thus said my Lord YHWH concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of Israel. They shall eat their bread with anxiety, and drink their water with appalment" (Eze 12:19; see also: Eze 4:16).

Yet one verse earlier we find:

ויהי דבר-יהוה, אלי לאמר

בן-אדם, לחמך ברעש תאכל; ומימיך ברגזה ובדאגה תשתה.

"And the word of YHWH came to me, saying:

Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink thy water with anger and with anxiety" (Eze 12:18).

Here the Greeks translated ברעש (beraa'sh) to "in grief" which suggests that they assumed that here ברעש (beraa'sh) is an order-type error of בעש (besaa'r) - "in grief."