

אוהבי שקר ושנאי חנם, עלי אל ישמחו ואל יגילו

אבנר רמו



We find in the Book of Psalms: **אל-ישמחו-לי איבי שקר ; שנאי חנם [] יקרצו-עין** - “**My wrongful enemies should not rejoice over me; [neither] those that hate me without a cause shall wink with the eye []**” (Ps 35:19).

However, the logic of this verse, and the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators suggest that here the words: **עלי אל** - “**upon me shall not**” are erroneously missing. In addition, the logic of this verse suggests that here (and in verse: Ps 69:5) the words: **איבי שקר** are a vowel letter substitution error of: **אוהבי שקר** - “**those that love lies**” (e.g. Zec 8:17; Ps 52:5).

Five verses later we find: **ואל-ישמחו-לי [] שפטני כצדקך יהוה אלהי ;** - “**YHWH my God Judge me according to your righteousness; and [they] shall not rejoice over me**” (Ps 35:24).

The Greek (and the English) translators believed that here the word: “they” is missing, but the comparison between these verses suggests that the here the missing words are: **אוהבי שקר** - “**those that love lies.**”

Three chapters latter we find: **כי-אמרתי, פן-ישמחו-לי [] ; במוט רגלי [] עלי הגדילו** - “**For I said: Lest [they] shall rejoice over me; when my foot slips, [they] magnified [themselves] over me**” (Ps 38:17).

The comparison between the verses suggests that here again the words: **אוהבי שקר** - “**those that love lies**” are erroneously missing. The logic of this verse, and the comparison between these verses also suggest that here the words: **במוט רגלי עלי הגדילו** are a letter insertion, a letter substitution, and a word deletion error of: **במוט רגלי, שנאי חנם עלי יגילו** - “**when my foot slips, those that hate me without a cause will delight upon me.**” This understanding is supported by the reading of: **צרי יגילו כי אמוט** - “**my adversaries will delight when I will slip**” (Ps 13:5).