

יחשב את הים ליבשה

אבנר רמז



Behemoth and Leviathan, watercolor by William Blake (1757-1827).

From his "Illustrations of the Book of Job."

We read in the Book of Psalms: **הפך ים ליבשה** - "He turned the sea into dry land" (Ps 66:6).

We read in the Book of Isaiah:

הלוא את-היא המחצבת רהב, מחוללת תנין.

הלוא את-היא המחרבת ים, מי תהום רבה; השמה מעמקי-ים-דרך,

"Are you not it that crushed Rahab, that pierced the dragon?

Are you not it that dries up the sea, the waters of the great deep; that makes the depths of the sea to a way?" (Is 51:9-10).

כה אמר יהוה, הנותן בים דרך, ובמים עזים נתיבה.

"Thus said YHWH, who puts a way in the sea, and a path in mighty waters" (Is 43:16).

We read in the Book of Psalms: **נר-לרגלי דברך; ואור לנתיבותי** - "Your words are a lamp for my feet, and a light for my path" (Ps 119:105).

In the Book of Job we read: **המה היו-במרדדי-אור : לא-הכירו דרכיו ; ולא ישבו בנתיבתיו** -
“**These were among the rebel against the light; they did not know His ways, nor would they return in His paths**” (Job 24:13).

**בכחו רגע הים ; ובתובנתו (ובתבונתו) מחץ רהב.
ברוחו שמים שפרה ; חללה ידו נחש ברח.**

“**With His power He calmed the sea, and by His understanding He rushed Rahab.
By His breath the heavens are serene; His hand pierced the slant serpent**” (Job 26:12-13).

Yet Job tells us about the behemoth that God created

**ירתיח כסיר מצולה ; ים ישים כמרקחה.
אחריו יאיר נתיב ; יחשב תהום לשיבה.**

“**It boils the deep like it is in a pot; the sea he treats like a seething mixture.**

After it a path is illuminated. He considers the great deep as a hoary” (Job 41:23-24; see also: Ex 15:5).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here **לשיבה** is an order-type error of: **ליבשה** - “**to a dry land**” (e.g. Gen 1:9, 10). In addition, the reading of **הפך ים ליבשה** - “**He turned the sea into dry land**” (Ps 66:6), suggests that here **תהום** (*thehom*) is a letter-deletion, vowel letter exchange, and mis-division of the letters to words of **את הים** (*eth_hayam*) - “**the sea.**”