

עלוקה או מצוקה ?

אבנר רמו



Hirudinaria

In the Book of Proverbs we read:

לעלוקה [] שתי בנות: הב הב: שלוש הנה לא תשבענה; ארבע, לא אמרו הון.
[] שאול ועצר-רחם: []ארץ לא שבעה מים; ואש לא אמרה הון.

“To the leech [] two daughters; Give, give; [there] are three [things that] they will not satiate; four, they did not say enough.

[] underworld, and a blocked womb, [] a land that did not satiate (with) water, and a fire that did not say enough” (Pro 30:15-16).

The Greek translator changed here the number daughters from two to three, and ignored the words: **הב הב**. It is also not clear how it was determined that the unusual word: **עלוקה** means "leech", and how the English translator determined that here the word: **הון** means: “enough.”

The logic of these verses suggests that the words of verse Pro 30:15 are a letter substitution, a word insertion, a word deletion error of: **אף שלוש, אף ארבע** - “To the distress there are two daughters, even three, even four; and the words of verse Pro 30:16 are a letter insertion, and a letter and a word deletion error of:

הן השאול ועצר-רחם: ואש לא אמרה עד הנה - “They are the underworld, and a blocked womb, and a land that did not satiate (with) water and a fire that did not say: up to here.”

It seems possible that the third daughter - “a land that did not satiate (with) water” and the fourth one - “a fire that did not say: enough” were gradually added later by late scribes.