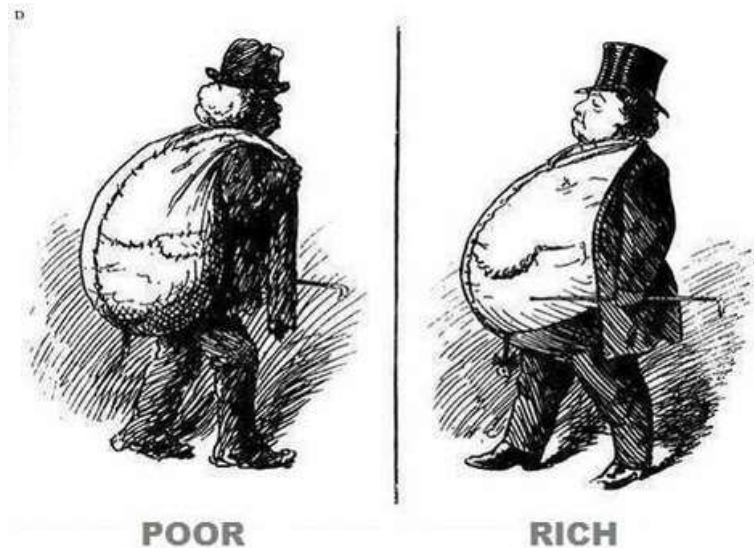


ריש = עוני

אבנר רמו



By Shelby G. Floyd

In the Book of Proverbs we read:

מעט שנות, מעט תנומות; מעט חבק ידים לשכב.
ובא-מתהלך רישך; ומחסריך כאיש מגן.

“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.
And your poverty shall come [as] a walker, and your want (will come) as an armed man”
(Pro 24:33-34).

Yet we also find in this book:

עד-מתי עצל תשכב; מתי תקום משנתך.
מעט שנות, מעט תנומות; מעט חבק ידים לשכב.
ובא-כמהלך ראשך; ומחסרך כאיש מגן.

“Until when will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.
And your poverty shall come as a walker, and your want (will come) as an armed man”
(Pro 6:9-11).

The understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators indicates that they believed that here ראשך (*reshecha*) is a vowel letter exchange error of: רישך (*raishecha*) - “your poverty.”

In addition, the reading of: ופן-אורש וגנבתי - “lest I will become poor, and steal” (Pro 30:9), and of: ויתגנב העם ביום ההוא לבוא העיר: כאשר יתגנב העם הנכלמים-בנוסם במלחמה - “And the people got them by stealth that day into the city, as people that are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle” (2 Sam 19:4), and the logic of verses Pro 6:11 and Pro 24:34, suggest that כאיש מגן is a letter-deletion error of: כאיש מתגנב - “like a man coming in in stealth.”

Alternatively, the reading of: **וירגנו באהליהם; לא שמעו בקול יהוה** - “**And they murmured (bitterly) in their tents, they hearkened not to the voice of YHWH**” (Ps 106:25; see also Deu 1:27), suggests that **כאיש מַגֵּן** is a letter-substitution error of: **כאיש נַרְגָן** - “**like a bitterly complaining man.**”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Proverbs: **עשיר ורש נפגשו** - “**A rich and a poor met**” (Pro 22:2; see also: Ps 82:3; Pro 22:7; 29:13).

Yet in the Book of Samuel we find:

וישלח יהוה את-נתן אל-דוד; ויבא אליו ויאמר לו שני אנשים היו בעיר אחת, אחד עשיר ואחד ראש. לעשיר היה צאן ובקר-הרבה מאד. ולרש אין-כל, כי אם-כבשה אחת קטנה אשר קנה,

“**And YHWH sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: There were two men in one city: the one rich, and the other poor.**

The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds;

But the poor man had nothing save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought” (2 Sam 12:1-3; see also; 2 Sam 12:4; Pro 17:5, 7).

As the Greek (and English) translators wrote “**poor**” for both **ראש** (*rash*) and **רש** (*rash*) we may conclude that they believed that here **ראש** is a vowel letter insertion error of: **רש** - “**poor.**”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Proverbs: **עבד אדמתו ישבע-לחם; ומרדף ריקים ישבע-ריש** - “**He that tills his ground shall satiate of bread; but he that follows vain things shall satiate of poverty**” (Pro 28:19; see also: Pro 10:15).

Yet two chapters later we find: **שוא ודבר-כזב הרחק ממני-ראש ועשר אל-תתן-לי** - “**Remove far from me vain thing and a lie; give me neither poverty nor riches**” (Pro 30:8; see also: Pro 10:4).

The understanding here of the Greek (and the English) translators of the word: **ראש** as “**poverty**” suggests that this word is vowel letter exchange error of: **ריש**.

Similarly, we find in the Book of Samuel; **יהוה מוריש ומעשיר; משפיל אף-מרומם** - “**YHWH impoverishes and enriches; He brings low, He also lifts up**” (1 Sam 2:7).

Yet the comparison to verses Pro 24:34 and Pro 28:19 suggests that here the word: **מוריש** is a vowel letter insertion error of: **מריש** (*merish*) - “**impoverishes.**”

Similarly, we find in the Book of Proverbs: **יש מתעשר ואין כל; מתרושש והון רב** - “**There is [that pretends himself] rich, and has nothing; [there is that pretends himself] poor, and has great wealth**” (Pro 13:7).

The English translation of this verse does not adhere to the Hebrew version nor is supported by the Greek version of this verse. The reading of verse 1 Sam 2:7 suggests that here the word:

מתעשר is a letter insertion error of: **מעשר** - "becomes rich." If this understanding is correct then it is also suggested that here the word: **מתרושש** is a vowel letter exchange and a letter insertion error of: **מריש** - "becomes poor."