**להב-חרב ולהבת-אש**

**אבנר רמו**



In the Book of Judges we find:

**ויקח את החרב מעל ירך ימינו; ויתקעה בבטנו.**

**ויבא גם הנצב** [] **אחר הלהב, ויסגר החלב בעד הלהב, כי לא שלף החרב מבטנו;**

“**And he took the sword of his right thigh and jabbed it into his belly.**

**And the** [] **hilt also went** [in] **after the blade, and the fat closed upon the blade, for he did not draw** **the sword out of his belly**” (Jud 3:21-22).

The English (but not the Greek) translator believed that here of the word: **להב** means: "**blade**.” In addition, the logic of these verses suggests that the words of verse Jud 3:22 are a letter substitution, a letter and a word deletion, and a word disorder of:

**ויבא אחרי הלהב גם נצב**-**החרב פנימה, ויסגר העור עליהם, ולכן לא נשלפה החרב מבטנו** - “**And after the blade came in the sword’s hilt**, **and the skin closed upon them**, **and therefore, the sword was not withdrawn from his belly**.”

Yet in the Book of Job the words: **להב חנית** was translated to English as: “**glittering spear**” (Job 39:23), and in verse 17:7 of the Book of Samuel the words: **להבת חניתו** were translated to: “**his spear’s head**.”

In the Book of Nahum we read about: **להב חרב** - “flashing sword” (Nah 3:3). The Greek translator wrote here: “glittering sword.” However, the comparison between these verses suggests that the words: **להב חנית** mean: “**spear’s blade**”, the words: **להבת חניתו** are a letter insertion error of: **להב-חניתו**, and the words: **להב-חרב** mean: “**sword’s blade**.”

In the Book of Genesis we find: **וישכן מקדם לגן-עדן את-הכרבים ואת להט החרב המתהפכת** - “**And he placed in front of the garden of Eden the Cherubim and the turning flaming sword**” (Gen 3:24).

The understanding of the translator indicates that he believed that here the first word: **וישכן** is a letter substitution error of: **וישם**. The comparison between these verses suggests that here the words: **להט החרב המתהפכת** are a letter insertion, and substitution error of:

**להב החרב המתהפך** - “**the turning sword’s blade.**”



In 14 out of total of 15 biblical verses that contain the word: **להבה** we also find the word: **אש** - "**fire**.”

In the Book of Isaiah we read: **נגה אש להבה** - “**glare of flaming fire**” (Is 4:5; see also: Hos 7:6; The 2:3).

The understanding of the translators indicates that they believed that the words: **אש להבה** are a letter substitution and a word disorder of: **להבת-אש** - “**flaming fire**”, but such a term does not appear in the Bible.

On the other hand, we read in the Book of Isaiah: **להב אש אוכלה** - “**flame of devouring fire**” (Is 29:5; see also: Is 30:30; Joel 2:5).

The understanding of the translators indicates that they believed that here the words:

**להב אש אוכלה** are a letter substitution, and a letter deletion error of: **להבת-אש אוכלת** - “**a devouring flame of fire**.”

In the Book of Psalms we read: **קול יהוה חצב; להבות אש** - “***YHWH*’s voice hews out fire’s flames**” (Ps 29:7).

The Greek translator wrote here: “divides”, but the reading of verses Lev 13:38; Eze 21:3; and Pro 16:27 suggests that here the word: **חצב** is a letter substitution, and order type error of: **צ**ר**ב** - "**is scorching**” or of: **שרף** - "**is burning**.”

Yet in the Book of Isaiah we find about God: **גערתו בלהבי-אש** - “**His rebuke with flames of fire**” (Is 66:15).

However, the logic of this verse, and the comparison between these verses suggest that these words are a letter substitution error of: **גערתו כלהבות-אש** - “**His rebuke is like flames of fire**.”

In the Book of Psalms we read: **עשה מלאכיו רוחות;** []**משרתיו אש להט** - “**He made winds his messengers,** [] **flaming fire His servants**” (Ps 104:4).

The understanding of the translators, and the Hebrew syntax and grammar suggest that these words are a letter deletion, a letter substitution, and word disorder of:

**עשה רוחות למלאכיו; ולהבות-אש למשרתיו** - “**He made winds to his messengers and flames of fire** **to His servants**.”

In the Book of Job we find: [] **נפשו גחלים תלהט; ולהב[] מפיו יצא** - “**His breath kindles coals; and flame comes out of his mouth**” (Job 41:13).

However, the understanding of the English translator, the Hebrew grammar, and the comparison between these verses suggest that these words are a letter substitution, and a letter and a word deletion error of: **ורוח-נפשו גחלים תלהב; ולהבת-אש מפיו תצא** - “**And his breath will flame coals, and a flaming-fire shall come out of his mouth**.”

Similarly, we find in the Book of Psalms: [] **אש לפניו תלך; ותלהט סביב צריו** - “[] **fire shall go before him; and it shall burn His adversaries round-about**” (Ps 97:3; see also: Ps 83:15; 106:18).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that these words are a letter substitution, and a word deletion error of: **ולהבת-אש לפניו תלך; ותלהב סביב צריו** - “**Ans a flaming-fire shall go before him; and it shall flame His adversaries round-about**.”