

MILA YOMIT 28: (VE'LACHOSECH QARA) LAYLA

וְלַחֲשֵׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה

Breishit 1 :5

TRANSLATION: (AND TO THE DARKNESS CALLED) 'NIGHT'

CONTEXT: We are in Breisheet 1, verse 5. The unfolding continues. ELOHIM first created AUR-Light, then divided between the light and the darkness. Verse 5 describes ELOHIM calling the light YOM-Day and now continues:

MILOT CHOZROT: Repeating Words

וְלַחֲשֵׁךְ-VE'LACHOSECH-And To The Darkness -MILA 11

קָרָא -QARA -Called- past tense of verb- 'to call'-MILA 26

MILA CHADASHAH- New Word

לַיְלָה LAYLA

OTIOT: Letters

ל LAMED - learning, and preposition 'to'

י YUD -Divine Spark

ל LAMED -

ה HEH -expression, second and fourth letter of Name- YHVH

Notice that the word is composed of two Lameds divided by Yud, Heh- a primary Divine Name.

(purely by its letters, it can perhaps be read as 'to the YUD, to

theHEH)

Does it contain the hint that night is a time for Divine Contemplation?

RELATED WORDS AND MEANINGS

לילה LAYLA- is a male noun meaning 'night'.

לַיִל -LaYIL- is also a m. noun meaning 'night'.

לי LeeY means 'to me'. Interesting that 'to me' is 'to the YUD.'

לה LaH means 'to her'

לילית LILITH is the Night spirit who has Midrash fame as Adam's first wife.

Rabbi S.R. Hirsch relates LAYLA to לול LUL (lamed, vav, lamed) which is a spiral leading down-"the time when everything sinks down and the whole world is lying down, and no longer stands there in its own separate outline."

Mozeson speculates a connection between LAYLA and 'lilac'.

CONCEPTUAL MEANING:

R. Samson Raphael Hirsch:

" when we have used all our forces for twelve hours, the ray of light, working and attempting and accomplishing, we sink back, weary and enervated, into the old darkness and sheltered under the motherly wings of Night, imbibe fresh forces to be able to develop a fresh life of light...God called to the darkness and appointed it to the tasks of the night. "(P. 10)

The Zohar:

"God summoned to issue from the side of Darkness a kind of female

moon which rules over the night and is called night, and is associated with Adonai, the Lord of all the earth....the Left (pillar of the Tree of Life, bina-understanding, gevurah-strength, hod-surrender) flamed forth with its full power...and from this fiery flame came forth the female moonlike essence. This flaming was dark because it came from Darkness...Just as it is the desire of Darkness to merge itself in Light, so it is the desire of night to merge itself in day. "

Midrash Rabbah:

“‘And ELOHIM Called the light day.’ R. Eleazar said: The Holy One does not allow His name to be connected with evil, but only with good. Thus it is not written here, ‘And ELOHIM Called The Light Day And ELOHIM Called Darkness Night,’ but ‘And The Darkness He Called Night.’ ”

Chosech-darkness was seen to be the primal fire out of which the universe of light emerged. (see Mila 11).

The other side of the duality is formed.

VE'LACHOSECH QARA LAYLA- And the Creator Summoned the primal fire to its place, to fill the night.

The capacity for growth and nurturing through rest and withdrawal is set as the other side of Day.

Midrash: "It is known to God what is hidden in the darkness-the purpose and deeper meaning of all trouble which is, in reality, only good and light."

'Even darkness is not dark to You. Night shines like day- light and darkness are the same." (Psalms, 139:12)

The Holy Zohar teaches:

“Where ever there are those who are engaged in Torah study at night, a ray of light emerges from the hidden light and reaches to those learning Torah. As it is written in the Book of Psalms (42)

‘By Day, the Creator’s love guides me, at night his son is with me.’ “

May the Divine song be with us always.

וּלְחַשְׁוֹת קָרָא לַיְלָה