

MILA YOMIT 29 : (VA'YEHEE) EREV

וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב

Breishit 1:5

TRANSLATION: (AND IT WAS) EVENING

CONTEXT-

We are in Breisheet 1:5. The Creator let there be AUR- light; divided between the AUR- light and the CHOSECH-darkness and named the light YOM-Day and the darkness LAYLA-Night. The verse continues with a closing phrase.

MILA CHOZERET:Repeating Word

וַיְהִי -VA'YEHEE- And It Was - Mila 19

MILA CHADASHAH-New Word

עֶרֶב EREV

OTIOT:LETTERS

ע AYIN - sight, Kabbalistically represents Divine Providence-the Eye of God.

ר REISH -consciousness

ב BEIT(actually Soft Bet)-(usually soft when at the end of a word)-home

Evening-sight, consciousness return home. What can be made of this?

MEANING and RELATED WORDS:

ערב EReV - masculine noun meaning 'evening' and/or 'eve'.

(notice similarity between Hebrew and English word).

ערב ARaV is a transitive verb meaning 'to be dark' or 'to grow dark'.

-also it is a transitive verb meaning 'to guarantee, to stand surety for'.

ערב ERaV- is a transitive verb meaning to mix, intermingle,

ערבב EeRBeV means 'to mix, confuse confound'.

ערב ARaV means 'to be agreeable , pleasant (different vowelizations of the same word offer a different meaning, and yet perhaps related; evening is time for pleasantness, 'have a pleasant evening' is said more naturally than have a pleasant day, no?)

ערבב ARBaV- is a swizzle stick- (to mix the drink together)

ער ER- means 'to be awake', or 'to awake.

(It is interesting .that **רע**RAH =evil, (a big concept, coming up later) is contained in backward order within this MILA) Certainly there is a link between night and the bad in our culture/consciousness. The fear that sets in at night as we experience the diminution of the light and the increase in darkness.

It is also interesting to consider that EREV could be read as **ער**ER

awaken to the **ב** BET. We let go at night and allow ourselves to

rest in the Divine. We surrender to the mystery that is Life. Return to the Beginning. And then awaken and begin again.)

רב RaV means much or many.

עב AV is 'cloud', 'darkness' or thick.

העיב HayEeV) means to darken or become cloudy

מערב MAaRaV-west, can be read as "**ערב** **מ** Mee Erev" that is, "from the 'evening'" - does the evening come from the west.

The Word by Mozeson also connects the Hebrew word -EREV to the English 'Eve' and 'Evening.'

There is also speculation about a possible connection between the word Arab and the word Erev.

CONCEPTUAL MEANING:

The use of **ויהי** VAYEHHEE here teaches us that it is Evening somewhere all the time. It puts it into reality as a 'permanent' part of existence.

Ibn Ezra (Middle Ages commentator, who worked with grammar and etymology) explains that EREV is that time when forms mingle together and become indistinct-evening.

Midrash Rabbah has a remarkable teaching related to EREV:

“R. Yehuda Bar Simon said: **יהי ערב** -Yehee Erev- Let There Be

Evening' is not written here, but **ויהי ערב** -VA'YEHEE

EREV-And There Was Evening-

from this you can infer that a time-order existed before this.

R. Abbahu said: This teaches that the Holy One went on creating worlds and destroying them until He Created this one when He Declared, 'This one pleases me; those did not please me.' "

Some contemporary commentators point to this Midrash as an explanation for how the remains of dinosaurs are to be accounted for.

The Zohar describes EREV as a time of judgment:

"In the dusk 159,000 spirits wail and argument dwells in the world...It is called EREV because a mixture of many destructive forces control that time...In the time known as EREV, judgment rules and thus it was at this time that Itzchak established the Mincha-afternoon prayer."

EREV seems to be that transition where darkness begins to mix in with light. A 'thick cover of night' descends gradually. We, as part of the creation vivified by light, prepare to rest, go inward, sleep and dream.

It is the introduction of change, one state changing into another, mixing together. Each being transformed by the other.

VA'YEHEE EREV:

And it became evening as the darkness and the light, the night and the day, intermingled, mixed together and then separated. The cycle of life begins.

וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב

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