

# Hebrew Text Parsing and Translation

## Midrash Tankhuma Veyera Bet

By Andrew Ash

### English

Rabbi Barchiya in the name of Rabbi Levi  
began his homily as follows:  
"You have given me the shield of your  
protection-salvation;  
Your right hand supported me,  
Your giving me the benefit of the doubt has  
made me great." (Psalms 18:36)  
When (God) revealed Himself unto (Avraham):  
there was the Holy One, Blessed Is He,  
standard while Avraham was sitting!  
As it is said:  
"As he was sitting" (Gen. 18:1)

The Holy One, Blessed is He, said to him:  
Don't be astounded!  
For even for your children I will be doing thus.  
When they will be sitting,  
in the synagogues and study halls,  
then too I will be standing-firm beside them.  
As it is said,  
"God stations himself in the congregation of  
God." (Psalms 82:1)

It is a universal practice,  
when a student is sick,  
and the Rav goes to inquire-after-his-health,  
first his fellow students walk-as-a-throng together  
to give over the Rav's messages to the household  
of the sick man:  
that the Rav asks to inquire-after-his-health.

However, the Holy One, Blessed is He, does not  
act like that!  
When Avraham was circumcised,

### Hebrew

רבי ברכיה בשם רבי לוי  
פתח:  
וַתְּפֹרֶלֶי מִגֹּן יְשׁוּעָה.  
וַיְמִינֶךָ תְּסַעְדָּנִי,  
וַעֲנוּתֶךָ תַּרְבֵּנִי.  
כִּי־נָשָׂא נִגְלָה עָלָיו,  
הִיא הַקֵּב"ה,  
עוֹמֵד וְאַבְרָהָם יוֹשֵׁב!  
שְׁנֵאמֹר:  
וְהָיָא יֹשֵׁב.

א"ל, הַקֵּב"ה:  
אַל תִּתְמַה!  
שֶׁאִף לְבָנֶיךָ אֲנִי עוֹשֶׂה כֵן.  
כְּשִׁיחֵיו יוֹשְׁבֵינָה,  
בְּבֵתִי כְּנִסְיוֹת וּבְבֵתִי מִדְּרָשׁוֹת,  
וְאֲנִי נֹצֵב עֲלֵיהֶם.  
שְׁנֵאמֹר,  
אֱלֹהִים נֹצֵב בְּעֵדֶת-אֵל.

בְּנוֹהֵג שְׁבַע עוֹלָם,  
כֹּשׁ הַתְּלִמִּיד חוֹלָה,  
וְהָרֵב הוֹלֵךְ לְבַקְרוֹ,  
הַתְּלִמִּידִים מֵהֹלְכִין תַּחְלָה,  
וְאוֹמְרִים שְׁלִיחוֹת הָרֵב לְבֵיתוֹ שֶׁל חוֹלָה,  
לֹאמֹר שֶׁ הָרֵב מִבְּקֵשׁ לְבַקְרוֹ.

וְהַקֵּב"ה אֵינוֹ כֵּן!  
כֹּשׁ מֶלֶךְ אַבְרָהָם,  
וְהָיָה מִצְטַעֵר מִן הַמִּילָה,

and he was suffering from the circumcision,  
 he assigned divine-messengers to travel to  
 inquire-after-his-health  
 Before yet the divine-messengers were walking,  
 the Holy One, Blessed is He, (went OR was  
 there) before them!  
 As it is said:  
 "God was revealed to him" (Gen. 18:1),  
 and only then:  
 "He lifted up his eyes and saw [the divine-  
 messengers]" (Gen. 18:2)  
 Is any being more humble than this?!

Our Rabbis said in the name of Rabbi Eliezer ben  
 P'dat:  
 In seven passages the Holy One, Blessed Is He,  
 placed God's self side-by-side  
 with the lower creatures.  
 As it is said:  
 "For YHWH is your God,  
 he (is) the God of gods,  
 and the Lord of lords,  
 The Great God! Powerful, and awe-inspiring,  
 Whose face will not flinch at threats,  
 nor will he take a bribe!" (Deut. 10:17)  
 And what is written after this?  
 He establishes the justice of orphan and widow,  
 and loves the sojourner such that he gives him  
 bread and clothing." (Psalms 138:6)

Also it says:  
 "Even though raised-high is YHWH,  
 still the lowly will he regard-favourably." (ibid.)  
 Also it says:  
 "For thus said The Forever Exalted and Uplifted  
 -  
 and holy (is) his Name:  
 High and holy I will dwell,  
 Yet also with the crushed and lowly-in-spirit."  
 (Isaiah 57:15)

אמר למלאכים לילך לבקרו.  
 עד ש המלאכים הולכין,  
 קדמן הקב"ה,  
 שנאמר:  
 ויֵרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה,  
 ואח"כ:  
 וישָׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא.  
 יש עניו גדול מזה?

אמרו רבותינו בשם ר' אליעזר בן פדת:  
 ב שבעה מקומות  
 השהו הקב"ה עצמו  
 עם הבריות הנמוכין.  
 שנאמר:  
 כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם,  
 הוּא אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים,  
 וְאֲדֹנֵי הָאֲדֹנִים,  
 הָאֵל הַגָּדֹל, הַגִּבּוֹר, וְהַנּוֹרָא,  
 אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִשָּׂא פָנִים,  
 וְלֹא יִקַּח שֹׁחַד!  
 מה כתיב אחריו?  
 עֲשֵׂה מִשְׁפָּט יְתוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה,  
 וְאַהֲבֵב גֵּר לְתֶמֶת לוֹ לֶחֶם וְשִׂמְלָה.

ואומר:  
 כִּי-יֵרָם יְהוָה,  
 וְשָׁפַל יִרְאֶה.  
 ואומר:  
 כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה וְנִשָּׂא שִׁכְנוֹ עַד,  
 וְקִדְוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ:  
 מָרוֹם וְקִדְוֹשׁ אֲשַׁכֵּן,  
 וְאֶת-דָּכָא וְשִׁפְלֵ-רוּחַ.