



Languages

R' Reuven Margolis (Margaliyos Hayam, Sanhedrin 4b) quotes the Shela that when the world was created, there was only Lashon Hakodesh. As a result of the Dor Haflaga, when languages got mixed up, Lashon Hakodesh was mixed into other languages.

In light of this, we can comprehend why there are many similarities in English to Lashon Hakodesh. The following is a sample of the many instances:

אלף-בית is pronounced very much like alphabet.

אשם, guilt, sounds similar to ashamed. כפול, double, twice, when pronounced, sounds like couple.

Halo (circle of light) and בהלו נרו, lamp shining (Iyov 29:3) are similar.

גורן, granary, sounds like grain.

פרט, part, piece, is similar to part.

סתירה, contradiction, sounds like mystery.

מטר, rain, sounds like the beginning of meteorologist.

הדר, splendor, has a sound similar to adore.

איכר, farmer, reminds us of agriculture. טעם, reason, taste, sounds like theme, which is what a theme is.

Here are some other similar words:

davening and divine;
gematria and geometry;

קול and call;

פּרדס and paradise (See Chagiga 14b);

לב and love;

אהלה and aloe;

דרך and direction;

ישן, old, ancient (Moreover, antique also sounds like עתיק, the Aramaic word that is translated as ancient, old.);

בטח, certainty, and bet;

כמו and common;

נפל and fall;

עול, sin (as in עול ואין משפט in Devarim 32:4), and evil;

כעס and chaos;

ארץ and earth;

די, ink, and dye (The Pnei Moshe in Yerushalmi Avoda Zara 5:14, s.v. *kli* writes that פפייר is a type of plant that paper is made from so it can be written on. The word פפייר, papyrus, and paper sound the same!);

עוד and add;

שום, estimate, and assume;

ככר and cake;

קרן and corner, as קרן זווית is a corner;

עיקר, the main part, and core;

שרש, root, source sounds like source (when pronounced as a ש, with the dot on the left);

מפסט and fat;

בבל and babble;

רגיל, to do by rote, sounds like regularity;

לא תתן את יבולה as in Devarim 11:17, which means produce, that which is brought forth) sounds like mobile, movable (An automobile takes a person from one place to another. It has been pointed out that the word automobile can be broken up into מוביל);

אותו מוביל and ערב רב;

יין, wine, and vine;

הי שטופי זמה and steeped in immorality;

גמל and camel.

בית and base.

Here are even more connections:

1) The words שלחן... refer to a deity (Yeshaya 65:11, Mahari Kara). Is it any coincidence that גד sounds like g-d?

2) Skin is called עור, which also means blind, as in לפני עור (Vayikra 19:14). Just as in English, hide means to conceal (like blind) as well as skin (as in the hide of an animal).

3) The word God in English comes from the word good. This stems from the pasuk טוב לכל, Hashem is good to everyone (Tehillim 145:9).

4) The term goodbye is a contraction of "God be with you." The sages (Brachos 54a) instituted that one should greet his friend with Hashem's name, as Boaz greeted the harvesters with the words עמכם ה', Hashem

is with you (Rus 2:4).

5) The word elevate begins with a sound akin to the letter א when pronounced. This is because א refers to that which is higher, as is shown in the following: (a) א spelled out is 1,000, אלף, the highest number that there is a single word for in Lashon Hakodesh. (b) The word אלוף is translated as a chief (as in אלופי אדום in Shemos 15:15). (c) א refers to Hashem, the אלוף של עולם (see Chagigah 16a).

6) בגד means a garment as well as a traitor (בוגד). Another word for traitor is turncoat (which is an article of clothing, coat). Similarly, מעיל, robe, is related to מעילה, spiritual treachery.

7) רגע and rage are connected, as רגע denotes the length of time Hashem stays angry (Avoda Zara 4).

8) If we break up the word miracle, we get מי רק א-ל, who did it, only Hashem, as this is what a miracle shows.

9) If we say abracadabra, we see a relation to אברא באדברא, I will create as I speak (of course we realize that this is a phrase magicians use when they magically want to create something). This is how the world was created, with ten utterances (Avos 5:1. Rashi to Bamidbar 13:30 tells us that ויהס expresses silence. הַס sounds like hush, to be quiet.).

10) "Look into it" is an English saying. We see a parallel between עין, eye, and עיין, look deeper.

There are also some connections between English and Aramaic, another language that has holiness: ממון and money (In Spanish, dinero means money, and one of the currencies in the Gemara's time was the דינר, dinar); דילמא, maybe, perhaps, and dilemma; ארעא, land, and area. In light of what we have mentioned, we have fulfilled קחו עמכם דברים ושובו אל ה' (Hoshea 14:3), as we took these words and returned them to Hashem, their source, tracing them back to their genuine language.

RABBI YEHOSHUA ALT

The newly released book "Remarkable Insights about Death and the Afterlife" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitised version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C9NNDCMNC> or Purchase it at <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP>, or by sending an email to yalt3285@gmail.com. This extensive and thought-provoking book addresses these questions and many more, providing transformative insights. With a collection comprising over 70 meticulously crafted essays, it eloquently articulates the Torah's viewpoint regarding death and the afterlife. This work stands as an invaluable resource, facilitating readers in acquiring a deeper comprehension of this vital subject. It makes a great gift for friends, relatives, business associates and learning partners.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

- What is the ultimate way to elevate the soul of one's parents?
- How does the death process rectify a person's soul?
- What profound life lessons can we learn from gravestones?
- In what ways can the concept of reincarnation help us better understand life?
- What is the idea behind davening at gravesites?
- What will happen at the Resurrection of the Dead?

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