

CHAPTER 43

A Great Light Shall Shine

Two Hebrew roots served as the base for a large array of words which arose in the European languages. The two roots are closely related to one another. They are *or* (oor)²¹⁵, and *ar* (aur)⁵⁷⁸². The first means “to become light,” “to shine.” In the Pi’el form this root is *ier* “to air.” The second (⁵⁷⁸²) means “to awake.” The two roots gave us such words as *air, ear, hour, early, ore, arise, rear, and year*.

These roots and their derivatives came into English by both the Mediterranean Romance languages and the northern European Teutonic languages. *Or* (*oor*) has many different applied meanings expressing luminosity, illumination, brightness, glory, revelation, clarity, happiness, and prosperity, as well as lightning, the sun, the morning, and the break of day.

The following tabulations and lists show the details of the root words, the sense and meanings found in the Bible, their inflections, and etymologies for the European and English words.

Several factors become evident in examination of the tables and lists.

1. The Hebrew roots are found as the base for European words, not the highly inflected Hebrew forms. This fact provides strong evidence that the elemental meaning of the root was introduced into the European languages. These did not come through commercial or incidental contact. In fact, they appear to be intelligent formulations, from a source with highly persuasive powers, imposed upon the respective cultures. This does not mean that purity was maintained, but rather that the essential concept behind the root was used in many different applications.

2. Many of the modern English forms are phonetically close to the original Hebrew roots and do not contain the inflectional variations found in the older Teutonic and Romance languages. They are more simple representations of the basic meaning of the Hebrew verbs. Either the original root sounds were maintained through many centuries to carry into modern English, and not recognized by etymologists, or there has been an evolution back to the original phonetics. I illustrated this process above with *no, nod, moat, and mock*.

3. “S” and “Z” phonemes which appear in Gothic, and assumed by linguists to be more original Teutonic, are a phenomenon associated with eastern Europe, and are not the source of postulated original primitive Teutonic stems. This sibilant addition is common in Greek, and caused much trouble for students of antiquity in their attempt to trace the word *Phoenix*. It is found in the Egyptian god *Osar* who was known in Greek as *Osiris*, (*H*)*or* became *Horus*, *Yeshua* became *Jesus*. The phenomenon probably is Indo-European but restricted geographically. (The Egyptian god (*H*)*Or* is from the same *or* root, meaning source of light, evidence of very ancient Semitic influence in Egypt.)

4. The two Hebrew roots *or* and *ar* are obviously related to one another in meaning and phonetics, but are separated in dictionary classifications because of the

initial Hebrew gutturals *aleph* and *ayin*. Modern linguists classify these two gutturals as distinct consonants, but the evidence suggests the two roots either were once not so separate, or that the constructive intelligence who designed the root system intentionally distinguished between the two forms by the two gutturals. Where and how the gutturals came into the Semitic languages to create these differences is beyond the scope of this work.

Partial Conjugation of the Hebrew Verb "Or"						
Person & Number	Past		Future		Present	Imperative
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural		
Kal form: or: "to become light," "to shine"						
I (we)	ortee	ornu	a'or	na'or		
You (m)	ortah	ortem	ta'or	ta'oru	or	or
You (f)	ort	orten	ta'oree	ta'ornah	orah	oree
He	or		ya'or	ya'oru	oreem	oru
(They)		oru			oroth	ornah
She	orah		ta'or	ta'ornah		
Pi'el form: eir: "to air"						
I (we)	iartee	iarnu	a'aer	n'aer	m'aer	
You (m)	iartah	iartem	t'aer	t'aru	m'aereth	aer
You (f)	iart	iarten	t'aree	t'aernah	(m'arah)	aree
He	ier		y'aer	y'aru	m'areem	aru
(They)		iru				aernah
She	irah		t'aer	t'aernah	m'aroth	
Pu'al form: uar: "to be aired"						
I (we)	uartee	uarnu	a'uar	n'uar	m'uar	
You (m)	uartah	uartem	t'uar	t'uru	m'uereth	
You (f)	uart	uarten	t'uaere	t'uarnah	(m'uarah)	
He	uar		y'uar	y'uru	m'uaereem	
(They)		uru				
She	urah		t'uar	t'uarnah	m'uaroth	

European Cognates of Hebrew *Or* and *Aer*

Time

Hebrew: *or, ora*

“Morning light,” *or boker*, I Sam 14:36

“Break of day,” *ye’or*, II Sam 2:32

Greek *ora* season, time of day, hour

Latin *hora* hour

Old French *ore*

Italian *ora* hour

Spanish *hora*

Hebrew: *or, ar, aer*

Greek *eri* early in the morning

Gothic *air* early

Old High *aer* at an early hour

German *er* the first part of the morning

Old Norse *ar* near the beginning of the day

Old English *ar* (ar + ly + early)

Manner, Appearance

“Light and gladness,” *ora*, Esther 8:16

“Light of countenance,” *or* Psalm 4:6

Glory, Honor

Hebrew: *aer, orah*

“Glorious,” *n’or*, Psalm 76:4

The following forms appear to have developed from the Pi’el = “to air.”

Greek *aer, aura* to blow, breath, breeze

Latin *aer, aura* spirit, manner, countenance

Old French *air* aspect, air

English *air* spirit emanation, distinctive quality or character, as in “putting on airs.”

Hebrew *ora, aer*

Old High German *era*

Old Norse *eir*

Old Saxon *era*

Old English *ar*

English *ore, are*

Atmosphere

Hebrew *aer* = “to air”

Greek *aer*

Latin *aer*

Italian *aria*

Spanish *aire*

French *air*

English *air*

Hearing

Hebrew *ora, aer* = “to air”

Latin *auris*

OHG *ora, horren*

ON *eyra, heyra*

OS *ora, horean*

OE *eare, hieran*

English *ear, hear*

Eastern European forms have “s”: Goth *auso*, Greek *ous*, Lithuanian *ausis*, Old Slavic *ucho*

Place

Hebrew *aeree* = “airy place”

Greek *aeree*

Latin *aeri, area*

English *area* = Spot of level ground

aerie, = Nest of a bird of prey

aerial, = Of the air

arena = Open place

Other cognates:

English *year* is found in Old Saxon and Old High German as *yar*, Gothic *yer*, but the more direct Hebrew form is found in Old Norse as *ar*, with Swedish and Danish *ar*, and *aar*. Other forms are in Zend *yare* and Greek *oros*.

English *era* has a curious history. OED says that “*The chronological use of the word appears to have originated in Spain, where (as also in southern Gaul and North Africa) it is found in inscriptions prefixed to the number of years elapsed*”

since 38 BC, the selection of which as an initial year has not been satisfactorily explained. Isadore of Seville in the 6th century said that this was the year in which Augustus first ordered the taxation of Spain.” Thus we have historic evidence for use of the Hebrew (perhaps Puni) word at that early date.

Another curious form is found in Latin **aurum** = gold, that which shines? The Danish denomination for money is **ora**. English parallel in **ore** creates a question of the actual (or confused) origin. Western European parallels are in OHG **er**, ON **eir**, OS **er**, and Old English **ora**. The eastern European forms once again display the “s” sibilant: Latin **aes** = brass, Gothic **aiz** = brass, and as far away as Sanskrit **ayas** = metal, suggesting a more ancient influence on the “s” forms.

Ore is also an old Teutonic word for a fine kind of wool. It is parallel with Greek **orion** = wool, and may be the original meaning of the **Orion** stellar constellation. Old English **ore** also meant “beginning,” “origin,” and “front,” equivalent to the “break of day.”

Latin **ora** meant “shore,” “coast,” perhaps from the sense of the “beginning of land.”

Other Latin forms are found in **ornahand ornare**, directly from the Hebrew inflection, which became

English **ornament**.

English **adorn** is from Latin **ad + ornare**, and **aurora** from Latin **aurora**, the rising light of morning.

The Hebrew Root *Ar*

The sister verb, *ar*, with the initial *ayin*, follows the same pattern of inflections as *or*, but does not contain the Pu’al form. The Kal imperatives in the *ayin* are pronounced the same as in the *aleph*, except for the switch in gutturals. The Pi’el in the *ar* also has a doubled “r.”

Many of the *or* forms take on meanings which are close to the *ar* forms. For example, *or boker* in I Sam 14:36 is translated as “the morning light,” but II Sam 2:32 has *ye’or* = “break of day.” Thus the *or* verb has wide application, but the *ar* verb is limited more to personal reaction to the “break of day.”

The European linguistic evidence shows both the *or* and *ar* forms. If the two Hebrew roots were the source for European words we are not now able to readily distinguish their respective influence. The tabulations show this difficulty.

Some of the biblical words deriving from *ar* are:

Joel 3:12, **yaralu** = awakened.

Isa 42:12, **yayeer** = stir up.

Isa 41:2, **h’eer** = raised up.

Job 31:29, **hitorarte** = lifted up.

Isa 10:26, **orer** = to awaken, arouse

er: waking, watchful

eree: watchful

eran: watchful

eer: a watching

eerah: watch

eru: a watching

eru: a watchman

In the first waking of the morning one is **oor**: “bare, naked.” In Hebrew a derived meaning is found in words for “skin,” “hide,” “leather.”

An example of a Latin word which comes out of the Hebrew *ar* is **ex-oriri** = “to get up.” This is found in Isa 10:26, **orer**, “to awaken,” or “arouse.” The Teutonic words **arise** and **rear** come from this form: Gothic **ur-risan**, OHG forms **ur- ar- ir-risen**, and Old Saxon **arisan**. No related forms are reported beyond the Teutonic; etymologists credit these words to Indo-European origins because of the forms without the **ar** prefix. They view **aras** a modifying prefix, but we now see the Hebrew influence.

Another curiosity is found in English **arable**. It is from Latin **arabilis** = “to plough.” It is found in Old English **earian**, OHG **erran**, Old Norse **erya**, Gothic **aryan**, Irish **airim**, Latin **ar**, Greek **aro**, all of which mean “to till the soil.” Were these considered acts of “awakening the soil” and “lifting it up to the light of day.”

Other words come from these two Hebrew roots. The following is a partial list.

Aureate: golden, gold colored, brilliant, splendid.

Aurelai: shine like gold, yellow, golden.

Aureola: golden, celestial (shining) crown.

Auric: pertaining to gold, that which glows or gleams.

Aerate: to blend with air.

Aerial: airy, thin or attenuated air, ethereal.

Auricle: Latin “external ear.”

Oracle: a divine speech or pronouncement.

Orient: from Latin **oriens** = “rising sun, east.”

Orifice: from Latin **or + facere** = “to make a mouth.”

Origin: from Latin **oriri** = the act or fact of springing from some thing.

Plus many, many more.

The Surname *Moyer*

When Europe was converted to Christianity it began using mostly Bible names for given names. Few Keltic or Teutonic names still exist. One of those is Thurston, from Thor’s Stone.

The surnames of Europe would be an intriguing area of investigation, since many may have retained their original meanings, but beyond the scope of this book. However, one exactly familiar is my personal surname.

The gerunds of the Hebrew verbs, those words taken in systematic manner from verbs but functioning as nouns, have four forms. From *or* these are:

b’or = “in becoming light,”

k’or = “on becoming light,”

l’or = “to become light,” and

m'or = “from becoming light.”

In the Pi'el these are:

b'aer = “in becoming aired,”

k'aer = “on becoming aired,”

l'aer = “to become aired,” and

m'aer = “from becoming aired.”

From *ar* these are:

b'ur = “in awakening,”

k'ur = “on awakening,”

l'ur = “to become awake,”

m'ur = “from becoming awake.”

If we attempt to spell these words in English, and with accent on the last syllable, we might have *meyor*, *meyer*, and *meyur* for the “m” = “from” forms. These are very well known surnames in Europe and carried by descendants who now live widely dispersed in other parts of the world.

Golda Maier was a former Prime Minister of the modern state of Israel. She was born in eastern Germany and adopted this name when she moved to Israel. She had good cause; she knew the literal significance. Maier, Meier, Meyer, Myer, Mayer, and Moyer are all different spellings and pronunciations of the same name.

Two supposed ancestors of mine were Hans and Christian Meyer, brothers living in Pennsylvania Dutch country in the 17th century. Many students believe the Moyer name is a corruption of Meyer, and indeed, some Meyer family lines did assume the Moyer form. However, in my investigation of lists of passengers coming to this country from Europe, I discovered an Alan Moyer on a German ship in 1684. Therefore, the supposed origin of the Moyer name from Meyer is suspect. I also learned that Moyers emigrated from Germany directly into Virginia in the 17th century.

In 1977 I met a Jewish man of Yiddish background who asked if I was Jewish. I replied, not to my knowledge. He stated that Moyer was the Yiddish way of pronouncing Meyer. The changes in inflection of the vowel come about because of the accent. With accent on the last syllable the initial vowel is suppressed, as shown in the Hebrew gerund forms. Therefore, it can easily be modified in pronunciation to create Moyer from Meyer. Multiple origins of the Moyer name should not be surprising.

Golda Maier chose this name because of its literal significance. Whether we see *or*, *aer*, or *ar*, the literal significance in Hebrew is “from becoming light,” “from becoming aired,” or “from becoming awake.” A person who carries that name serves others in providing light, fresh air, or awakening.