CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR

Coming Over

The Hebrew verb *abar* = "to cross over," which was the source of Eber and Iberi names, suggests other possible cognates in the European languages, but some of the evidence is slim. For example, did Latin *arbor* = “tree” come from this word, something which crosses over head?

A much stronger possibility is the Teutonic body of words which gave English *over.*

Old English *ofer.*
Old Saxon *obar.*
Old High German *obar.*
Gothic *ufar.*

Compare with: Greek *uper* and Sanskrit *upari* from *upara* = “over,” “higher,” “more advanced.”

The strength of the Hebrew *abar* suggests that the Indo-European cognates came from the older Semitic source. Since Sanskrit shows this form, we cannot say if the Teutonic *over* came through the Indo-European languages out of that older Semitic influence, or if it came through the Iberi migrations.

The many senses of the word suggest that its origins are not simple. OED uses five pages to list the various applications of the word, and more than fifty pages of the many compound forms. The main concepts are:

1. Above and related notions. Above and on high; above so as to cover the surface.
2. With sense of to, or on, the other side.
   a. Indicating a motion that passes above or across something.
   b. Crossing from one side to the other, as the sea.
   c. From one person, side, party, etc. to another.
   d. On the other side of something intervening.
3. With the notion of exceeding in quantity.
   a. Remaining or left beyond what is taken.
   b. Placed so as, or serving, to cover something else.
   c. Higher in power, authority, or station.
   d. That which is in excess or remaining above the normal amount, or that which is right or proper.
4. Being over in time.

These meanings compare with the many of the Hebrew *abar.* Refer Brown, Driver and Briggs. The main senses are “Pass over, through, by, pass on. ”

2. “Cross border or boundary.” Num 20:17 esher-na’abor = “we have passed” thy borders.
3. “Cross over intervening space.” 1 Sam 14:4 l’abor = Jonathan sought “to go over.”
4. “Pass, or march over. ” Isa 51:23 na’aborah = “we may go over,” and l’ebreem = “them that went over” captives prostrate on the ground.
5. “Overflow.” Isa 8:8 abar = “he shall overflow” and go over.
6. “Pass or go over waves or one’s head.” Jonah 2:4 abaru = waves “passed over me.”
7. “Passing over head.” Num 6:5 ya’abor = no razor “come over” his head.
9. “Be past, over, of time, etc.” Gen 50:4 ya’abru = When the days “were past.” These are only some of the uses of *abar* = over in the Bible. Compare them with similar meanings of English “over.”

The Word *Come*

This is a strong Teutonic word that finds multiple applications in the respective languages.

Old English *com.*
Old High German *chom.*
Old Norse *koma, kom.*
Gothic *qam.*

It is also found in Sanskrit as *gam.* Again this throws the question into the domain of a more ancient Semitic influence, or does it come out of the migrating Iberi tribes? OED offers the following uses:

1. In its most literal sense it expresses hitherward motion.
   a. To move towards, approach.
   b. To reach by moving towards; hence, often “to arrive,” present oneself.
2. Also said of the hitherward motion of involuntary agents.
   a. Of things having (apparently) a motion of their own, as water, wind, etc.
   b. Of things which are brought, or persons brought without their own will, e.g., “To come to bear,” “to be brought to bear.”
3. *Come* may be used with many different prepositions to express various nuances of meaning. The most common is to. Others are into, unto, towards, against, on, upon, about, around, beside, near, above, beneath, before, behind, over, and under.

   The notion is not limited to spatial or temporal sense.

   1. To come in one’s way, within one’s reach, under one’s notice, within the scope of a measure, and so on.

   Brown, Driver and Briggs define the Hebrew verb *gam* as arise, stand up, stand.

They offer the following cognates in other Semitic tongues.

Arabic stand, arise.
Ethiopic stand, stop.
Sabean place.
Assyrian *kumu* = place, dwelling, *kum, kemu* = in place of, *Kaiamanu* = enduring, constant.
B-D-B offer the following applications:

1. Arise —
   a. after lying down,
   b. out of a condition, state,
   c. stand, figuratively of success,
   d. For a purpose,
   e. To formal speech,
   f. To listen to God.
2. In a hostile sense.
3. To become powerful.
4. To come on a scene, as a leader or prophet.
5. Arise for a purpose, as a witness.
6. Arise for action,
   a. as from a throne,
   b. Out of inaction,
   c. To start, make a move

1. Stand,
   a. Maintain oneself,
   b. Be established, confirmed,
   c. Endure,
   d. Be fixed
   e. Be valid
   f. Be proven.

While it is clear that there is a different basic meaning from the Teutonic: the Hebrew \( qam \) there is also an overlapping in some of the senses. They are both fundamental verbs of action commonly employed in everyday life.

I shall now tabulate parallel forms among Hebrew, English, and German.

Root word: Hebrew \( qam \) — English \( come \) — German \( kam \).
Past, third person, singular: Hebrew \( qan \) — German \( kam \).
Past, second person, between Hebrew singular \( qam \) and German plural \( kam \).
Present, between Hebrew second person \( qamah \) and German first person \( kommen \).

Present, third person, plural between Hebrew \( qameem \) and German \( kommen \).
Imperative between Hebrew \( qumeem \) and German \( kommen \).

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The presence of the \( "ge-" \) form in Old English prevents linguists from looking for the \( "be-" \) prefix in the verbs for existence, \( is \), \( was \), and \( be \). They accept \( become \) as a form with an independent origin, and with cognates in German.

The \( "be-" \) sense of \( "in" \) is retained in both Hebrew and Teutonic. A similar sense is found in the \( "ke-" \) or \( "ge-" \) prefix in both Hebrew and Teutonic.

This is an illustration of how Hebrew not only introduced vocabulary into the European languages, but also grammatical forms.

It might be possible to determine more precisely the manner in which Hebrew affected the European languages by examining, for example, the loss of the \( "le-" \) and \( "me-" \) prefixes. However, such detail is beyond the scope of this work.

Sour Soup

I shall go on to other cognates which are striking.

Two common everyday words which have their origin in Hebrew are \( sour \) and \( soup \).

The first is found as \( sur \) in OE, OS, OHG, and ON. It is also in Lithuanian \( suras = \) saltish or bitter, and in Old Slavonic \( syru = \) moist, raw. (Note the \( "s" \) ending again in an eastern European language.) OED states the ultimate origins of \( sour \) are uncertain.

The word comes from Hebrew \( sur391 \), “to turn aside,” “to turn off,” “to deteriorate.” It is translated in the Bible as “decline,” Deut 17:11 in KJV, “leave undone,” “put down,” “turn aside,” “degenerate,” Jer 2:21, and “be sour,” Hos 4:18 in KJV.

This word also probably gave us English \( sewer \), from Old French \( seuvriere \), although etymologists would derive it from Latin \( ex-awquare = \) “out of the water.” The word was originally used in France to denote a drainage system for a swamp, and later for covered drains from houses and towns, hence our sewer.

English \( soap \) comes to us through OE \( sawpe \) and Latin \( sawpo \). It is found in the Keltic languages as Gaelic \( siabunn \), Cornish \( seban \), Welsh \( sebon \), and Manx \( sheabon \). The Hebrew \( zoh \) from the root \( zoob \), is used to describe seminal or menstrual flux. Brown, Driver, and Briggs offer a meaning of “flow” or “gush” for \( zoob \). In Arabic it means “to melt,” “to dissolve,” and “to flow.” Urine was once used to make soap, as a convenient source of chemicals, and thus a direct connection to the Hebrew meaning.

The Teutonic cognates are ON \( supa \), OHG \( sufan \), OE \( sop \), \( sup \), and \( seap \). The word was also in the Romance languages as French and Latin \( suppa \) and \( supe = \) “a piece of bread steeped in soup.” They became the modern English \( sop \), or a slice of bread dipped in gravy, as well as \( supper \), \( sup \), and \( sip \).

When I traced this word I visualized many generations of European people who enjoyed their \( soup \), their \( sop \), and their \( supper \), and afterwards washed themselves with the use of \( soup \). And if they left their \( soup \) too long it turned \( sour \).
Guarded Gardens

This word is found in Teutonic as garda, Gothic gardo = “enclosure,” and German garten = “enclosure” or “yard.” With a slight metathesis it is from Hebrew gawdal541 = “to wall in or around,” “close up,” “fence in.” From it we get guard, = “to fence around,” “protect,” and through sound shifts we also received warden = “a keeper of an enclosure.”

Shameful Shams

Awsham or awshame546 is a Hebrew root meaning “to be guilty,” or “to offend,” “a fault,” or “a trespass.” See Lev 5:19 and Num 5:7, awsham = “trespass,” Jer 50:7, nesham = “we offend not,” Hos 4:15, el-yesham, = “let not offend,” and so on. According to Teutonic etymologies our words shame and ashamed came through OE scom, and OS, OHG, and Gothic skama. The “a” prefix is a common separate element widely attested in the Teutonic languages. Therefore, linguists believe ashamed is a formulation of a + shame. However, this is an illustration once again how modern English has reverted to a more original sound pattern found in Hebrew.

The word sham, which appears to be derived from shame, first appeared in English literature in the 17th century as a slang term.

Ravished River Ravines

The Hebrew words ravah and raveh730, mean “to be saturated,” and “drink one’s fill.” Proverbs 7:18 says “come let us take our fill (nirveh) of love.” Isa 14:5 says “For my sword satiated (ki-rivtha) itself in heaven.” Isa 6:9 shows God’s sorrow when he says he shall “water (ehrayavek) thee with my tears.” Other senses of the verb are “to be intoxicated,” “drench,” “water abundantly,” and “satiated.” Nouns and adjectives derived from this verb have the sense of “moisture,” “sated with affliction,” “saturation,” “sake the thirst,” “bathe,” “fill,” and “soak.”

This word is found in Latin rivare = “to carry water,” and in its derivative ripa= “river bank.” It is found in Spanish rio, and English river. The French ravine is from an earlier ravin, which is from Latin rapina = “robber and rapine,” a form of Latin rapere= “to seize,” “to take away.” These words gave French raviss and English ravish, as well as rape. French raviss became French ravir and English ravage.

These interrelated forms all have similar senses in the Hebrew ravah and raveh words.

Effacing the Faces

The Hebrew root awface or awfes656,657 means “cease,” “fail,” and “come to an end.” In the noun form it is used to denote “end,” or “extremity.” It also expresses non-existence, as in Isa 34:12, where “all his princes shall become nought (ahfes).” Other passages are translated as “end,” “less than nothing,” “none,” “uttermost part,” and so on. In Ezek 47:3 it denotes an extremity of the body, “the waters were to the ankles (awfeseem).”
Living a Life of Love

Brown, Driver and Briggs list the many meanings and nuances, together with illustration of Bible passages, for the Hebrew word labe\textsuperscript{3820}\textsuperscript{3820} = “heart.”

1. The inner man in contrast with the outer: Ps 84:2, “My heart (libbee) and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.”

2. Of one’s own mind: In Num 16:28 Moses saying, “…I have not done them of my own mind (or heart) (milibbee).”

3. Inclinations, resolutions, and determinations of the will: Job 11:13 says, “If thou prepare thine heart (libbee).


5. And as the seat of the emotions and passions, numerous passages: In Ps 37:4, “And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart (libbee).

As we all know, the heart is also the seat of love. In German leib means “body,” “belly,” and “womb,” with the sense centered on the inner anatomy. Certainly, a clear and close phonetic and semantic relationship to Hebrew labe.

More curiously, in German, with a reversal of the vowels, liebe means “love.” As an adjective lieb means “dear, nice, and kind.” There are numerous German inflectional variations, with additive words, for example liebechen = “sweetheart.” Liebehaben = “have love,” or “be fond of.” A more curious form is liebehaber = “lover,” or “beau,” a “heart companion.” The curiosity comes from Hebrew. Haber\textsuperscript{2270}\textsuperscript{2270}, known also in Assyrian as abaru = “friend,” denotes a joining together. In Ps 94:20 haber is used as “to be allied with.” It also means “company,” “association,” and “companion.” It is translated as “companion” in Ps 119:63. Literally, in Hebrew labe haber means “heart companion.”

The German leib and liebe derive from the same Teutonic source as English “live,” “life,” “love,” and “liver” = “the inner part.” OHG had l\textipa{b} = “life.” OHG and Gothic also had luba and lubo = “love.” These related forms all come out of that Hebrew labe, with inflectional shifts from “b” in lub, to “f” in luf, to “v” in love.

Other Word Curiosities

Oath


The English oath finds historic predecessors in Old English ayth, Old Saxon eoth, Gothic ath, and Old Irish oeth, where it means literally, “a going,” or “a going together in agreement.”

Yet again, we see how modern English has reverted to a near identity to the Hebrew in both phonetics and meaning.

Cover

Hebrew kawfar\textsuperscript{3722} means “a village, as protected by walls,” or “covered,” among other senses. Latin cooperire = “shut up,” or “cover” is thought to derive from co = “together,” or “jointly,” added to operire. It came into English through French covrir = “to cover,” and French covert. We see it in our modern words of cover, covert, and cove.

Milieu

Among many other curiosities is this English word. It comes from French milieu = “middle or medium.” Etymologists derive it from Latin medius, in turn formed from mis = medium plus lieu = “place,” hence “middle place.” Hebrew miloo\textsuperscript{106} means a “fulfilling,” “a setting,” or “a consecration.” The English meaning of milieu is “environment, medium, or condition.” Again the similarities are evident, with the possibility that the English word comes through a process which is not evident to linguists.

Pig

This is one of the most curious of all words. It is in Old English as pigga, but its origins are unknown. The Hebrew word piggool\textsuperscript{6269} means “fetid,” “unclean,” and “to stink!”