A person who will have on the skin of his flesh a swelling or scab or bright spot, and it becomes in the skin of his flesh a plague of tzaraas, and he shall be brought to Aharon the Kohen, etc. And it must be explained why it says specifically "אָדָם" (adam – person) and not "אָיש" (ish – man).	אָדָם* כִּי יִהָיֶה בְּעוֹר בְּשָּׁרוֹ שְׂאֵת אוֹ סַפַּחַת אוֹ בֶהָרֶת וְהָיָה בְּעוֹר בְּשָׁרוֹ לְנָגַע צָרָעַת וְהוּבָא אֶל אַהְרוֹ הַכּּהֵן כו'. וְצָרִיךְ לוֹמַר לָמָּה נָאֱמַר אָדָם דַּוְקָא וְלֹא אִישׁ,
The idea is as follows: in the Midrash Rabbah on Parshas Tazria (15:9), it explains: "אָּדֶם"—either אָּדָם (person) or בַּם (blood)." That is, the person is composed half of water and half of blood. When he merits (i.e., acts righteously), neither do the waters overpower the blood, nor does the blood overpower the waters. But when he sins, etc., the blood becomes greater than the water and he becomes a metzora (leper)—as it says: "אַדָם אוֹ דָם"."	ְוְהָעִנְיֶן, דְּהַבֵּה בְּמִדְרָ"שׁ רַבָּה כָּּרָשֵׁת תַּזְרִיעַ פְּט"ו פַּירֵשׁ: אָדָם אוֹ דָם. וְהַיְנוּ, כִּי הָאָדָם מְשׁוּקֵל חָצְיוֹ מַיִם וְחָצִיוֹ דָּם. בִּשְׁעָה שָׁהוּא זוֹכֶה – לֹא הַמַּיִם רַבִּים עַל הַדָּם וְלֹא הַדָּם רַב עַל הַמַּיִם. וּבִזְמֵן שֶׁחוֹטֵא כו', הַדָּם רַבִּים עַל הַמַּיִם וְנַעֲשֶׂה מְצוֹרָע – הַהוּא דְּכְתִיב אָדָם אוֹ רָבִים
This means that the plagues (nega'im) come from the withdrawal of the water-element and the dominance of the blood-element. And this concept applies specifically to the term "אָדָם," which denotes integration. When one is integrated from many life-forces together, then he is called "אָדָם"."	ְוָהַיְנוּ, שֶׁהַנְּגָעִים בָּאִים מֵהָסְתַלְּקוּת חֵלֶק הַמַּיִם וּמֵהָתְגַּבְּרוּת חֵלֶק הַדָּם. וְזֶה שַׁיָּיךְ בְּאָדָם דַּוְקָא – שֶׁשֵׁם אָדָם מוֹרֶה עַל הַהִּתְכַּלְלוּת. כְּשֶׁנִּכְלֶל מֵרַבִּים בְּחַיֵּי יַחַד, אָז נִקְרָא אָדָם.
For behold, there is [the terminology of] adam, ish, enosh, gever, etc. The distinction between the level of ish and the level of adam is: ish is from the word esh (fire)—it is a single quality, namely fire and enthusiasm.	כִּי הִנֵּה יֵשׁ: אָדָם, אִישׁ, אֱנוֹשׁ, נֶּבֶר כו'. וְהַהֶּפְרֵשׁ בֵּין בְּחִינַת אִישׁ לְבְחִינַת אָדָם – כִּי "אִישׁ" הוּא מִלְשׁוֹן "אֵשׁ", וְהַרֵי זוֹ בְּחִינָה אַחַת, דְּהַיְנוּ בְּחִינַת אֵשׁ וְהִתְלַהָבוּת
And even though it is a very high level—therefore called "Ish"—ish with a yud, and even with Moshe it says the term "ish," as it says: "for this Moshe—the ish"—nevertheless, the term "ish" implies only one dimension.	ןאַף שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינָה גְבוֹהָה מְאֹד, שֶׁלֶּכֵן נִקְרֵא אִישׁ – "אֵשׁ יוּ"ד". וְגַם בְּמֹשֶׁה כָּתוּב לְשׁוֹן "אִישׁ", כְּמוֹ שָׁכָּתוּב: "כִּי זָה מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ", עַל כָּל פָּנִים – קְרִיאַת שֵׁם "אִישׁ" רוֹמֵז שֶׁהוּא רַק בְּחִינָה אַחַת.
But the level of "adam" is a quality of integration of chessed, din, rachamim (chesed-gevurah-tiferes)—that is, a level of ultimate completion.	אָבָל בְּחִינַת "אָדָם" הִיא בְּחִינַת הִתְּכַלְלוּת חַד"ר (חֶסֶד, דִּין, רַחֲמִים), שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת תַּכְלִית הַשְּׁלֵמוּת יוֹתֵר.
Therefore, our Sages said in Derech Eretz Rabbah, chapter 31, that adam is a miniature world, meaning that he possesses the qualities of all things in the world; and it said "adam" specifically because only "adam" includes everything together.	ְּוָלָכֵן אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל בְּאַדְב"ן בֶּּרֶק ל"א – שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא עוֹלָם קֶטָן כו', וְהַיְנוּ שֶׁנִּמְצָא בּוֹ בְּחִינַת הַהִּתְכַּלְלוּת כו'. וְחָשַׁב שָׁם כָּל הַדְּבָרִים שֶׁיֵשׁ בָּעוֹלָם שֶׁיֵשְׁנָם בָּאָדָם גַּם כַּן. וְאָמְרוּ אָדָם דַּוְקָא – לִהְיוֹת כִּי אָדָם דַּוְקָא הוּא הַבָּלוּל מִכָּל הַדְּבָרִים יַחַד.

Likewise, in the creation of man, the verse used the word "adam" specifically, and not "ish" or "enosh," etc., like by Kayin where it says "I have acquired an ish," and by Noach it says "Noach, a righteous ish." This is because the world was created in its full form; therefore, man was created in his highest level—which is called "adam."	ְוְכֵן בָּבְרִיאַת הָאָדָם קְרָאוֹ הַכָּתוּב אָדָם דַּוְקָא, וְלֹא "אִישׁ" אוֹ "אֲנוֹשׁ" כו', כְּמוֹ בְּקֵיִן שֶׁכָּתוּב: "קָנִיתִי אִישׁ", וּבְנֹחַ נָאֱמַר: "נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק". וְהַטַּעַם – מִפְּנֵי כִּי הָעוֹלָם עַל מְלוֹאוֹ נִבְרָא, לָכֵן בָּרָא אֶת הָאָדָם בְּמַעֲלָתוֹ הַיּוֹתֵר גְּבוֹהָה – שָׁהוּא מַה שֶׁנִּקְרָא אָדָם.
And in Bereishis Rabbah (12:8), our Sages said that adam is composed of both upper and lower realms so that there would not be jealousy in the works of creation—that the upper beings not be greater than the lower ones.	וּבְרַבָּה בְּרֵאשִׁית פְּרָשַׁת י"ב אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל – שֶׁהָאָדָם כָּלוּל מִן הָעֶלְיוֹנִים וּמִן הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים, כְּדֵי שֶׁלֹּא תִּהְיֶה קִנְאָה בְּמַאֲשֵׂה בְרַאשִׁית – שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיוּ הָעֶלְיוֹנִים יִתוֹתֵרִים עַל הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים.
And likewise, in Midrash Tehillim, chapter 8, it enumerates what aspects come from the upper realms and what from the lower realms. It turns out that man is a general being who includes everything.	ְוְכֵן בְּפָּרְשַׁת חֵ"י – חָשְׁבוּ מַה שֶׁהוּא מִן הָעֶלְיוֹנִים וּמַה שֶׁהוּא מִן הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים. וְנִמְצָא כִּי הָאָדָם הוּא כְּלָלִי שְׁכּוֹלֵל הַכֹּל כו'.
And in the language of Kabbalah, <i>ish</i> is called a "point" (nekudah), for it is only a single point. But <i>adam</i> is called a "form" (partzuf), which is a complete configuration in the aspect of integration.	וּבְלְשׁוֹן הַקַּבָּלָה, הָנֵּה "אִישׁ" נִקְרָא "נְקוּדָּה", שֶׁהוּא רַק נְקוּדָה אַחַת. אֲבָל "אָדָם" נִקְרָא "פַּרְצוּף", שֶׁהוּא פַּרְצוּף שָׁלֵם בְּבְחִינַת הַהָּתְכַּלְּלוּת.
Also, <i>adam</i> has the numerical value of 45 (mem-heh), corresponding to the Divine Name "Mah" (שם מ"ה), which is inward-facing (milgaw), and it is the path of Atzilus (emanation), meaning a path that connects chessed and gevurah, etc.	גַם "אָדָם" גִּימַטְרִיָּיא "מ"ה" – בְּחִינַת שֵׁם "מ"ה" מִלְגַאוּ, דְאִיהוּ אוֹרַח אֲצִילוּת כו'. פֵּירוּשׁ: "אוֹרַח" – דֶּרֶךְ הַמְחַבֵּר חֶסֶד וּגְבוּרָה כו'.
And also, <i>adam</i> means "I will resemble the Supernal" ( <i>adameh l'Elyon</i> )—which is a very high level.	וְגַם "אָדָם" – "אַדַמֶּה לְעֶלְיוֹן", שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינָה גְּבוֹהָה מָאֹד.
(And to understand the explanation of the difference between <i>adam</i> and <i>ish</i> , and also to understand how <i>adam</i> has the numerical value of 45, which is the Divine Name Mah [מ״ה], which is the path of Atzilus that connects chesed and gevurah, and also how <i>adam</i> means "I will resemble the Supernal"—first one must explain the quality of the human species, namely that he is a speaker.	וּלְהָבִין בֵּיאוּר עִנְיַן הַהֶּפְרֵשׁ בֵּין אָדָם לְאִישׁ, וְגַם לְהָבִין) אֵיךּ אָדָם גִּימַטְרִיָּיא "מ״ה", דְּאִיהוּ אוֹרַח אֲצִילוּת שֶׁמְּחַבֵּר חוֹ"ג, וְגַם אָדָם "אָדַמֶּה לְעֶלְיוֹן" – צָרִיךְ תְּחִלֶּה עִנְיַן מַעֲלַת סוּג הָאָדָם שֶׁהוּא הֵיוֹתוֹ מְדַבֵּר
As it says, "And man became a living soul," and the Targum and Targum Yonasan translate it as "a speaking spirit."	כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּתוּב: "וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה", וּתַרְגוּם וְכֵן "תַּ"י: "לְרוּחַ מְמַלְּלָא.

אָר ד' בְּחִינוֹת רַצִּייֶח מִ (דֹמָם, צוֹמָח, הַי, מְּדֶבּר), park, animal, and human (domem, tzomeach, chai, medaber), as explained in Likkutei Torah, Parshas Pinchas, the first discourse on "Tzav es Bnei Yisrael," page 63.  Earth corresponds to the mineral (domem), water corresponds to the plant (tzomeach), since water causes all kinds of growth and pleasure—as it is written: "Fortunate are those who sow by all waters."  And fire corresponds to the animal (chai), for regarding the angels it says: "His ministers are a flaming fire" (Tehillim 104:4), and these are the four beasts of the chariot—face of a lion, face of an ox, etc.—which are the roots from which the souls of animals and beasts below descend, as is known from what is stated in the Zohar.  (As is known from what is stated in the Zohar; and see also in the discourse on "Bayom HaShemini Atzeres" [not printed], that the root of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the chariot, and their bodies are made of flaming fire—"His ministers are a flaming fire.")  But man is superior and distinct from the animals, and his root is that he is a speaker.  For intelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the eleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess.		1 7 T
the plant (tzomeach), since water causes all kinds of growth and pleasure—as it is written: "Fortunate are those who sow by all waters."  And fire corresponds to the animal (chai), for regarding the angels it says: "His ministers are a flaming fire" (Tehillin 104:4), and these are the four beasts of the chariot—face of a lion, face of an ox, etc.—which are the roots from which the souls of animals and beasts below descend, as is known from what is written in the Zohar.  (As is known from what is stated in the Zohar; and see also in the discourse on "Bayom HaShemini Atzeres" [not printed], that the root of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the chariot, and their bodies are made of flaming fire—"His ministers are a flaming fire.")  But man is superior and distinct from the animals, and his root is from the level of the adam on the Throne. His primary distinction is that he is a speaker.  For intelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the eleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "Teo x knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Veshavabu 1:3)—so we see they possess.	ארמ"ע) correspond to the four classifications of creation: mineral, plant, animal, and human (domem, tzomeach, chai, medaber), as explained in Likkutei Torah, Parshas Pinchas, the first discourse	כִּי הָנֵה ד' יְסוֹדוֹת – אַרְמ"ע (אֵשׁ, רוּחַ, מַיִם, עָפָּר) – הַם נָגֶד ד' בְּחִינוֹת דַּצַ"חַ"מ (דוֹמֵם, צוֹמֵח, חַי, מְדַבֵּר), כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּלִקוּטֵי תוֹרָה פָּרָשַׁת פִּנְחָס בַּדִּ"בּוּר הָמַתְחִיל "צַו אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל" הָרִאשׁוֹן, עַמּוּד ס"ג,
it says: "His ministers are a flaming fire" (Tehillim 104:4), and these are the four beasts of the chariot—face of a lion, face of an ox, etc.—which are the roots from which the souls of animals and beasts below descend, as is known from what is written in the Zohar.  (As is known from what is stated in the Zohar; and see also in the discourse on "Bayom HaShemini Atzeres" [not printed], that the root of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the chariot, and their bodies are made of flaming fire—"His ministers are a flaming fire.")  But man is superior and distinct from the animals, and his root is from the level of the adam on the Throne. His primary distinction is that he is a speaker.  For intelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Veshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess the possess for the fox is considered the cleverable of the datam on the Throne. His primary distinction is that he is a speaker.  To rintelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Veshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess.	the plant ( <i>tzomeach</i> ), since water causes all kinds of growth and pleasure—as it is written: "Fortunate are those who sow by all	עָפָר הוּא בְּחִינַת דוֹמֵם, וּמִיִם הוּא בְּחִינַת צוֹמֵחַ – שֶׁהֲרֵי הַמֵּיִם מַצְמִיחִים כָּל מִינֵי תַּעֲנוּג, וּכְכָתוּב: "אַשְׁרֵיכֶם "זוֹרְעֵי עַל כָּל מֵיִם
discourse on "Bayom HaShemini Atzeres" [not printed], that the root of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the chariot, and their bodies are made of flaming fire—"His ministers are a flaming fire.")  But man is superior and distinct from the animals, and his root is from the level of the adam on the Throne. His primary distinction is that he is a speaker.  For intelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Veshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess in the foot of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the charical, the ox-face in the charical the ox-face in the charical the ox-face in the charical the ox-face in the ox-face in the charical the ox-face in	it says: "His ministers are a flaming fire" (Tehillim 104:4), and these are the four beasts of the chariot—face of a lion, face of an ox, etc.—which are the roots from which the souls of animals and beasts below descend, as is known from what is written in the	וְאֵשׁ הוּא בְּחִינַת חֵי – כִּי בַּמַלְאָכִים נָאֱמֵר: "מְשֶׁרְתָיו אַשׁ לֹהָט" (תְּהִלִּים ק"ד:ד'), וְהֵם ד' חַיּוֹת הַמֶּרְכָּבָה: פְּנֵי אַרְיֵה, פְּנֵי שׁוֹר כו', שֶׁהֵם הֵם הַמְּקוֹרִים שֶׁמֵּהֶם הָמִשְׁתַּלְשָׁלִים נְפָשׁוֹת הַבְּהֵמוֹת וְהַחַיּוֹת שֶׁלְמֵשָּה
from the level of the <i>adam</i> on the Throne. His primary distinction is that he is a speaker.  For intelligence (seichel) also exists among animals—for instance, the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -	discourse on "Bayom HaShemini Atzeres" [not printed], that the root of animal souls descend from the level of the ox-face in the chariot, and their bodies are made of flaming fire—"His ministers	כְּנִודָע מִמַּה שֶׁנָּאֲמַר בַּזּהַר. וּרְאֵה גַּם בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי עֲצֶרֶת", שֶׁלֹּא נִדְפַּס, שֶׁשֹׁרֶשׁ נְפָשׁוֹת הַבְּהֵמוֹת מִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלִים מִבְּחִינַת פְּנֵי שׁוֹר שֶׁבַּמֶּרְכָּבָה, וְגוּפָם הוּא מֵאֵשׁ לֹהֵט – כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "מְשָׁרְתִיו אֵשׁ ,"לֹהֵט
the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals possess some intelligence.  For example, they protect themselves from danger and avoid falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess.	from the level of the <i>adam</i> on the Throne. His primary distinction	וְרַק הָאָדָם – שֶׁהוּא נִבְדָּל בְּמַעֲלָה עַל הַבְּהֵמוֹת, וְשָׁרְשׁוֹ הוּא מִבְּחִינַת "אָדָם" שֶׁעַל הַכִּפֵּא, וְהֲרֵי עִקַּר הַבְּדָלוֹ – הוּא בְּמַה שֶׁהוּא מְדַבֵּר,
falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess.  The pursue their food, and they understand the voice of the one who leads them.  As it is written: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess.	the fox is considered the cleverest of beasts, and all animals	שָׁהַרֵי שֵׂכֶל נִמְצָא גַּם בַּבְּהַמוֹת – וּכְמוֹ הַשׁוּעָל שֶׁנֶּחְשָׁב לְפִקֵּחַ שֶׁבַּחַיּוֹת, וְקָצָת שֵׁכֶל יֵשׁ בְּכֶל הַבְּהַמוֹת,
וּב: "יָדַע שור קונֵהוּ וַחֲמור אֵבוּס בְּעָדִין" (יְשַעְיָהוּן master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they nossess!	falling into pits; they pursue their food, and they understand the	שֶׁהָרֵי תִּשְׁמוֹר אֶת עַצְמָה מִנַּזֶק – שֶׁלֹּא תִּפּּׁל בְּאַחַת הַפַּחִים; וְתִּפֶּשֵׁך אַחַר מַאֲכָלָה; וְכֵן תָּבִין קוֹל הַמְנַהִיגָה,
some measure of intelligence and awareness. אַנְמְצָא יֵשׁ לָהֶם קְצָת שֵׁכֶל וְדַעַת – (	master's feeding trough" (Yeshayahu 1:3)—so we see they possess	וּכְכָתוּב: "יָדַע שׁוֹר קוֹנֵהוּ וַחֲמוֹר אֵבוּס בְּעָלָיו" (יְשַׁעְיָהוּ א:ג) – שֶׁנִּמְצָא יֵשׁ לָהֶם קְצֶת שֵׂכֶל וְדַּעַת.
Thus, it is understood that the main superiority of man is in his being a <i>speaker</i> .  Thus, it is understood that the main superiority of man is in his being a <i>speaker</i> .	1 -	אָם כֵּן, מוּבָן שֶׁעִקַּר יִתְרוֹן הָאָדָם – בְּמַה שֶׁהוּא מְדַבֵּר.

However, it must be explained, for the verse says (Koheles 3:19): "And the superiority of man over animal is naught, for all is vanity." And according to the plain meaning, we must ask: how can the superiority of man over beast be considered as nothing and null? Do we not clearly observe a great distinction between man and beast?	ְוְאָמְנֶם צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר, דְּהָרֵי כָּתוּב (לְהֶלֶת ג', י"ט): "וּמוֹתָר הָאָדָם מִן הַבְּהֵמֶה אָיִן כִּי הַכּּלֹ הָבֶל", וּלְפִי פְּשׁוּטוֹ צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר – אֵיךְ יֵחְשֵׁב לְאַיִן וָאֶפֶס מוֹתַר הָאָדָם מִן הַבְּהֵמֶה? הֲלֹא אֲנַחְנוּ רוֹאִים הֶבְדֵּל גָּדוֹל וֹמֵהָאָדָם לַבְּהֵמֶה
Moreover, man is classified as a unique species unto himself due to his being a <i>speaker</i> , which is what elevates his status and advantage over the category of living creatures ( <i>chai</i> ).	וְגַם – הָנֵּה הָאָדָם נֶחְלָק לְסוּג בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ, שֶׁהוּא הֶיוֹתוֹ מְדַבֵּר, שֶׁבָּזֶה גָּבְהָה מַעֲלָתוֹ וְיִתְרוֹנוֹ עַל בְּחִינַת הַחַי.
However, the explanation is that the Targum translates that verse as referring to the wicked. And it can be explained because earlier in that verse it says: "For the fate of man and the fate of beast—they have one fate: as one dies, so dies the other"	אֲבָל הָענָנָן – דְּבַתַּ"י פֵּירֵשׁ שֶׁזֶּה קָאֵי עַל הָרְשָׁעִים. וְיֵשׁ לוֹמַר – מִפְּנֵי שֶׁבִּתְחַלַּת הַפָּסוּק נֶאֱמַר: "כִּי מִקְרֵה בְנֵי הָאָדָם וּמִקְרֵה הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִקְרֶה אֶחָד לְהֶם – כְּמוֹת זֶה כֵּן ,"מוֹת זָה כו
Therefore, it (the verse) is interpreted about the wicked—as is also explained in Parshas Noach (Bereishis 11:5) regarding the verse: "The city and the tower which the sons of man built," where Rashi explains: "The sons of the wicked man."	לָכֵן פַּירֵשׁ זָה עַל הָרְשָׁעִים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּפָּרָשַׁת נֹחַ: "אֶת הָעִיר וְאֶת הַמִּגְדָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם" (בְּרֵאשִׁית "י"א:ה') – ע"ש בְּפֵירוּשׁ רַשִּׁ"י: "בְּנֵי הָאָדָם הָרְשָׁע."
Therefore, the verse compares them (the wicked) to animals. And the Targum interprets that as referring to <i>impure animals</i> .	וְלָכֵן דָמָה אוֹתָם הַכָּתוּב לַבְּהֵמוֹת. וּפֵירוּשׁ בַּתַּ"י – הַיְנוּ לָבַהֲמוֹת טְמֵאוֹת.
However, in the commentary <i>Seder HaYom</i> on Koheles, section 20, it states: "The matter is to distance pride and arrogance from man."	אֲבָל בְּסֵדֶר הַיּוֹם, בְּפֵירוּשׁוֹ לְקֹהֶלֶת כ', כָּתוּב וְזֶה לְשׁוֹנוֹ: "."הָעִנְיָן הוּא לְהַרְחִיק הַגַּאֲוָה וּגְדַל לֵבָב מִבְּנֵי הָאָדָם".
"For even though the Creator, may He be blessed, has magnified and wondrously made man with wondrous wisdom, and made him in the likeness of G-d with intellect and understanding, and created him more perfect than all the other creatures"	שֶׁעִם הֱיוֹת שֶׁהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרֵךְ הִגְּדִּיל וְהִפְּלִיא לַעֲשׁוֹת" בְּחָכְמָה נִפְלָאָה אֶת בְּנֵי הָאָדָם, וְעֲשָׂה אוֹתוֹ כִּדְמוּת אֱלֹקִים בְּחָכְמָה וּבִתְבוּנָה, וּבָרָא אוֹתוֹ שָׁלֵם מִכָּל "הַנִּבְרָאִים כַּלָּם
"nevertheless, he should not become haughty because of this. Rather, he should look at his material aspects and consider himself inwardly like a beast—when he sees that their fate is the same: as this one dies, so dies that one. And so too in all other respects"	עַל כָּל פָּנִים אֵין לוֹ לְהָתְגַּאוֹת מִפְּנֵי כָדְ, אֶלָּא רָאוּי לוֹ" לְרְאוֹת עִנְיַנֵי הַחוֹמֶר אֲשֶׁר לוֹ, וְלַחֲשֹׁב עַצְמוֹ בֵּינוֹ לְבֵין עַצְמוֹ כַּבְּהֵמָה – בִּרְאוֹתוֹ כִּי מִקְרֶה אֶחָד לָהֶם: כְּמוֹת זֶה "בֵּן מוֹת זֶה, וְכֵן בְּכָל שְׁאָר עִנְיָנִיו
"for 'man has no superiority over beast,' and 'all go to one place,' even though the soul of man is pure, hewn from beneath the Throne of Glory and a portion of G-d above"	פִּי 'הָאָדָם מִן הַבְּהֵמָה אָיִן', וְ'הַכֹּל הוֹלֵךְ אֶל מָקוֹם אֶחָד''' — אַף עַל פִּי שָׁנִּשְׁמָתוֹ שֶׁל זֶה טְהוֹרָה, חָצוּבָה מִתַּחַת "כָּסֵא הַכָּבוֹד, וְהִיא חֵלֶק אֱלוֹקָה מִמַּעַל

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"while the animal has no soul, only a vital spirit which descends downward—still, this is a hidden matter. And who knows whether the soul will return to its source or not? Therefore, one should not become arrogant." (end quote).	וְזֶה אֵין לוֹ נְשָׁמָה – רַק רוּחַ חַיּוּנִי הַיּוֹרֵד לְמַטָּה, עִם" פָּל זֶה – זֶה דָּבָר נֶעְלָם, וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם תָּשׁוּב אֶל מְקוֹרָה אוֹ לֹא תָשׁוּב? וְאִם כֵּן – אֵין לוֹ לְהָתְגַאוֹת מִפְּנֵי כָדְּ." – עכ"ל
But this is difficult—for the Mishnah says (Avos 3:14): "Beloved is man, for he was created in the image [of G-d]"	ְוָקָשֶׁה – דְּהֲרֵי אָמְרוּ (פִּרְקֵי אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק ג', מִשְׁנָה י"ד): """חָבִיב אָדָם שֶׁנִּבְרָא בְּצֶלֶם כו".
And elsewhere I have written that the categories of <i>Domem</i> , <i>Tzomeach</i> , <i>Chai</i> , <i>Medaber</i> (D–Tz–Ch–M) correspond to the worlds of <i>Atzilus</i> , <i>Beriah</i> , <i>Yetzirah</i> , <i>Asiyah</i> (A–B–Y–A). Thus, <i>Domem</i> , <i>Tzomeach</i> , <i>Chai</i> are from the level of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah, and <i>adam</i> (man) is from the level of Atzilus.	וּבְמֶקוֹם אַחֵר כָּתַבְתִּי, כִּי דַּצַ"חַ"ם הֵם נָגֶד אֲבִי"ע – אָם כֵּן, דַּצַ"חְ הֵם בְּבְחִינַת בִּי"ע, וְהָאָדָם בְּבְחִינַת אֲצִילוּת.
And there is no comparison at all between Beriah-Yetzirah-Asiyah and Atzilus. So how can it say, "The superiority of man over animal is nothing"?	ָןאֵין עֵרוּךְ בִּי"ע לְאַצִילוּת – וְאָם כֵּן, אֵיךְ נֶאֱמַר: ""וּמוֹתָר הָאָדָם מִן הַבְּהֵמָה אָיָן?
And in <i>Chovos HaLevavos</i> , Parshas Bereishis, on the verse "And He blew into his nostrils," he explains that the word "nothing" ( <i>ayin</i> ) is similar to the verse "and wisdom comes from nothing," (Iyov 28:12) as explained in Likkutei Torah, end of Parshas Bechukosai.	ְוָהַבְּחֵיֵי פָּרָשַׁת בְּרֵאשִׁית עַל הַפָּסוּק "וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפִּיו" פֵּירַשׁ, דְּמַה שֶׁכָּתוּב "אָיִן" – הוּא עַל דָּרֶדּ: "וְהַחָּכְמָה מֵאַיִן הִּמָּצֵא" (אִיּוֹב כ"ח:י"ב), כְּמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֱמַר בְּלִקוּטֵי תוֹרָה סוֹף פָּרָשַׁת בְּחֻקֹּתֵי
But then the question returns: what does it mean when it says "for all is vanity"?	?"וְקָשֶׁה – אָם כֵּן, מַהוּ "כִּי הַכֹּל הָבֶל
And it may be explained based on what is written in <i>Midrash Tehillim</i> , Psalm 92, that the verse "Vanity of vanities all is vanity" refers to the day of Shabbos.	וְאֶפְשָׁר לוֹמַר עַל דֶּרֶהְ מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּמִדְרֵשׁ תְּהִלִּים סִימָן צ"ב, דְּמַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב: "הָבֶל הַבָלִים כו', הַכֹּל הָבֶל" – קָאֵי עַל יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת
(But at first glance this is astonishing—Shabbos is the level of wisdom, and it has been explained elsewhere that Shabbos is the level of <i>mochin de'Abba</i> , which is above the entire order of the worlds. See Likkutei Torah, Parshas Tzav, on the maamar <i>Matzah Zo</i> .)	וּלְכָאוֹרָה יִפָּלֵא – הָלֹא שַׁבָּת הוּא בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה,) וְנִתְבָּאֵר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר שֶׁשַׁבָּת הוּא בְּחִינַת מוֹחִין דְאַבָּא, שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה מֵהִשְׁתַּלְשָׁלוּת – רְאֵה בְּלִקוּטֵי תוֹרָה (."פָרשַׁת צַו בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "מַצָּה זוֹ
But the matter is that Shabbos is called "hevel" (vanity) similar to what is said in <i>Midrash Koheles</i> on the verse "I said in my heart" (Koheles 2:1), p. 72b: the Torah that man learns in this world is vanity compared to the Torah of the World to Come.	אָבָל הָעִנְיָן – דְּמַה שֶּׁשַׁבָּת נָקְרָא "הָבֶל", צָרִידְּ לוֹמֵר שָׁנָּהוּ עַל דֶּרֶדְ מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּמִדְרַשׁ קֹהֶלֶת עַל הַפָּסוּק "אָמַרְתִּי אֲנִי בְּלִבִּי" (קֹהֶלֶת ב', א'), דַּף ע"ב ע"ב – שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה שֶׁהָאָדָם לוֹמֵד בָּעוֹלֶם הַנָּה "הֶבֶל" הִיא לְגַבֵּי הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁבָּעוֹלֶם הַבָּא

That is, because the Torah of this world is merely the "cast-off" of supernal wisdom, for it extends only from the level of the <i>hairs</i> of Abba (father), drawing from the level of Mazla (the supernal source).	ְוְצָרִיךְ לוֹמַר – שֶׁזָּהוּ מִפְּנֵי כִּי "נוֹבְלוֹת חָכְמָה שֶׁלְּמַעְלָה – תּוֹרָה", וְהַיְנוּ – שֶׁנִּמְשְׁכָה רַק מִבְּחִינַת שֵׁעָרוֹת דְּאַבָּא, יוֹנֵק מִמַּזְלָא
This is the meaning of the verse "And wisdom comes from nothing"—that is, from a level that is called <i>ayin</i> (nothing), and is considered as <i>not</i> in relation to G-d's essence.	ן ֶהוּ פֵּירוּשׁ "וְהַחָּכְמָה מֵאַיִן תִּמֶּצֵא" – מִבְּחִינָה שֶׁהִיא אַיִן", וְכְלוֹם לֹא חָשִׁיב לְגַבֵּי עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךּ".
But in the future there will be a revelation from the hidden source ( <i>Mocha Stimaa</i> ) that is higher than the level of the "hairs," as explained in <i>Or HaTorah</i> by the Mitteler Rebbe on the verse "And He smote the edge of Moav."	אֲבָל לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא – יִהְיֶה גִּילוּי מִמּוֹ"ס (מוֹחָא סְתִימָאָה) – שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַשֵּׁעָרוֹת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּאוֹר הַתּוֹרָה מֵהָאֲדוֹן הַמְצוּלֶּע נ"ע עַל הַפָּסוּק "וּמְחַץ פְּאַתֵּי מוֹאָב.
(And see also the discourse "Sing to Him, Make Music to Him" on the level of song in Torah—which is the <i>ta'amim</i> [musical notes] of Torah—the melody in Torah, which is presently hidden but will be revealed in the future.	וּרְאֵה גַּם בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "שִׁירוּ לוֹ, זַמְּרוּ לוֹ" –) בְּעִנְיֵן שִׁיר שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת טַעֲמֵי הַתּוֹרָה, בְּחִינַת הַנְּגִינָה שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה, שֶׁלֹּא נִתְגַּלוּ עַכְשָׁו – וּלֶעָתִיד יִתְגַּלֶּה בְּחִינַת טַעֲמֵי תּוֹרָה, בְּחִינַת שִׁיר, שֶׁעָלָיו נָאֱמַר: "וָאֶהְיָה ,"שַׁעֲשֵׁעִים יוֹם יוֹם
And also in the unpublished discourse "Sixty are the queens" regarding <i>TaNTa</i> " <i>A</i> , where <i>ta</i> ' <i>amim</i> correspond to Kesser [crown]).	וּרְאֵה גַּם בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "שָׁשִּׁים הַמָּה מְלָכוֹת" (שֶׁלֹא נִדְפַּס), בְּעִנְיַן טַנְהָּ"א – שֶׁפֵּירוּשׁ טַעֲמִים בְּכֶתֶר.
Therefore, the level of <i>ayin</i> , from which wisdom is found—though it is extremely exalted—nonetheless, relative to G-d's essence, it is still called "nothing," since it is as naught compared to Him.	1
Just like the supernal Kesser (Crown)—even though it is a radiant light, it is black [insignificant] compared to the Ein Sof, as explained in Likkutei Torah on Shir HaShirim, the first discourse on "Black I am, but beautiful," at the end of the section.	וּכְמוֹ "כֶּתֶר עֶלְיוֹן" – אַף עַל גַּב דְּאִיהוּ אוֹר צַח, אוּכָם הוא לְגַבֵּי אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּלִקּוּטֵי תוֹרָה עַל שִׁיר הַשִּׁיִרִים בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "שְׁחוֹרָה אֲנִי וְנָאנָה" – יְדְרוּשׁ הָרָאשׁוֹן, סוֹף כֶּרָק ב'.
So too here: the superiority of man (Atzilus) over animal (Beriah-Yetzirah-Asiyah) is merely ayin—the level from which "wisdom is found from nothing."	וְאָם כֵּן – עַל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה, "מוֹתַר הָאָדָם" (אֲצִילוּת) "מָן הַבְּהֵמָה" (בִּי"ע) – הוּא רַק "אַיִן", בְּחִינַת: "וְהַחָּכְמָה מַאַיִן תִּמָצֵא".
"For all is vanity"—because the source of all emanation is from the level of <i>hevel</i> (breath), which emerges from the hair, and similarly from the breaths (hevelim) of the inner limbs of Adam Kadmon, etc.	כִּי הַכּלֹ הָבֶל" – שֶׁמְּקוֹר הָתְהַוּוּת מִבְּחִינַת "הֶבֶל"" הַנָּמְשָׁךְ מֵהַשֵּׁעָרָה, וְכֵן מִבְּחִינַת "הַבָּלִים" דַּאֲחַ"פּ דְּאָדָם קַדְמוֹן כו.

אָבָל לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא – יִהְיֶה גִּילּוּי מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם בּן מָנָתִיד יִהְיֶה גִּילּוּי "שַׁבַּת בְּשַׁבְּתוֹ" כו'.
ו וְלָכֵן לְגַבֵּי "שַּׁבְּתוֹ שֶׁל שַׁבָּת", שֶׁיִּתְגַלֶּה לֶעָתִיד – נָחְשָׁב) 'שַּׁבָּת דְּעַרְשָׁו בְּרָחִינַת "הֶבֶל" כו'.)
וּלְהָבִין שַׁיָּכוּת בְּחִינַת מַעֲלַת הַדִּבּוּר שֶׁבָּאָדָם – לְמַה שָּׁ"מוֹתַר הָאָדָם מִן הַבְּהַמָּה" הוּא בְּבְחִינַת "אַיִן" – מֵהוּ "שִׁיֶּדְ בְּחִינַת דִּבּוּר לְ"אַיִן?
וְהָעִנְיָן הוּא – דְּהָנֵּה שֹׁרֶשׁ עִנְיַן הַדִּבּוּר, אַף כִּי לְכָאוֹרָה נִרְאֶה שֶׁהָאוֹתִיּוֹת יוֹצְאוֹת מִן הַמּוֹצָאוֹת: אחה"ע מֵהַגָּרוֹן, גיכ"ק מֵהַחֵיךּ, דטלנ"ת מֵהַלָּשׁוֹן, זסשר"ץ מֵהַשְׁנַּיִם, – בומ"ף מֵהַשְּׂפָתַיִם
אַמְנָם בָּאֱמֶת אֵינוֹ כֵן – שֶׁשֹׁרֶשׁ הָאוֹתִיוֹת הוּא בְּעַצְמוּת הַנָּפָשׁ, רַק שֶׁקְבָעָן בַּפָּה – כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּסֵפֶּר הַיְצִירָה.
שָׁהַרֵי יְצִיאַת הָאוֹתִיּוֹת מָן הַמּוֹצָאוֹת – אֵינָהּ כְּמוֹ יְצִיאַת יּ הַקּוֹל מָן כְּלִי זָמֶר, שֶׁהוּא עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁמַכִּים בְּחוּטֵי הַכִּנּוֹר, עַד מָשָׁל – שֶׁהֲרֵי הָיָה צָרִיף שְׁהַיֵּית זְמַן וְנֵשׁוּב הַדַּעַת אֵיךְ לְנַעֲנֵעַ הַמּוֹצָאוֹת שֶׁיוֹצִיאוּ אֶת הָאוֹתִיּוֹת,
כְּמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֲמֵר בְּתוֹרָה אוֹר, בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "מְזוּזָה מָיָמִין,
אֶלָא שֶׁשֹׁרֶשׁ הָאוֹתִיּוֹת – הוּא מֵעַצְמוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ, בְּבְחִינַת "מֵשְׂכִּיל", מְקוֹר הַחָּכְמָה – אוֹ בְּבְחִינַת קַדְמוּת הַשֵּׁכֶל, בְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּאָגֶּרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ סִימָן ה', בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל ""וַיַּעַשׁ דָּוִד שֵׁם
וְהָאוֹתִיּוֹת הֵם הַמְּנַעְנְעִים אֶת הַמּוֹצָאוֹת – שֶׁכְּשֶׁרוֹצֶה לְדַבֵּר, אָז הָאוֹתִּיּוֹת מְנַעְנְעִים אֶת הַמּוֹצָאוֹת, שֶׁיוֹצִיאוּ ה''אֶת קוֹל "הֶבֶל הַלֵּב".
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(And see what is written regarding the forming of the expression of the voice, which emerges simply from the breath of the heart, in the <i>siddur</i> , in the Rosh Hashanah prayer, in the maamar <i>Hashem</i> , <i>Open My Lips</i> .)	וּרְאֵה מֵענְיֵן חָתּוּדְּ הָבָרַת הַקּוֹל הַפָּשׁוּט הַיּוֹצֵא מֵהֶבֶל) הַלֵּב – בַּסִדּוּר, בִּתְפִלַּת רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה, בְּדִ"בּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל (.""אֲדֹנָי שְׂפָתַי תִּפְתָּח
to produce the articulation and differentiation of the letters in their combinations into words. And even though letters are garments for the intellect—for it is through the letters that the intellect is understood—	לְהִשָּׁמֵע חִתּוּדְ וְהֶבְדֵּל הָאוֹתִיּוֹת בְּצֵירוּפֵי הַתֵּבוֹת וְהַגַּם כִּי הָאוֹתִיּוֹת הֵם לְבוּשׁ לַשֵּׁכֶל – שֶׁהָרֵי עַל־יְדֵי – הָאוֹתִיּוֹת מְבִינִים הַשֵּׁכֶל
that is, through the letters of speech one transmits the intellect to another, and through the letters of thought one understands it within himself—	וְהַיְנוּ – שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר הוּא מֵשְׁפִּיעַ הַשֵּׂכָל לָזּוּלָתוֹ, וְעַל־יְדֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה מֵבִין בְּעַצְמוֹ,
for without them it is impossible to grasp the intellect from the level of a "flashing spark" at all—	שָׁבִּלְעַדִיהֶם אִי אָפְשֶׁר לְהָבִין הַהַשְׂכָּלָה מִבְּחִינַת בָּרָק הַמַּבְרִיק כְּלָל – הַמַּבְרִיק כְּלָל
it follows that letters are only garments for the essential light of intellect.	נָמְצָא – הָאוֹתִיּוֹת הֵם רַק לְבוּשִׁים לְעָצֶם אוֹר הַהַשְׂכָּלָה.
Nevertheless, the root of the letters is higher than the level of intellect, which is like the flashing spark.	מָכָּל מָקוֹם – שֹׁרֶשׁ הָאוֹתִיּוֹת הוּא לְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַשֵּׂכֶל – דְּבָרָק הַמַּבְרִיק.
For they stem from the externality of the higher level, which becomes a garment for the level beneath it, as explained in <i>Torah Or</i> , Parshas Miketz, in the maamar <i>Mezuzah MiYemin</i> , subsection <i>Uve'iur Hadavar</i> .	ְוָהֵם מִבְּחִינַת חִיצוֹנִיּוּת שֶׁבֶּעֶלְיוֹן – שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה לְבוּשׁ לַתַּחְתוֹן מִמֶּנוּ – כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּתוֹרָה אוֹר, כָּּרָשֵׁת מִקֵץ, בְּדִּ"בּוּר הַמֵּתְחִיל "מְזוּזָה מִיָּמִין" – סְדוּ"ת "וּבָאִיוּר הַדָּבָר.
Therefore, we see that a particular concept can be expressed in any letters one chooses. For example, Tosafos, the Rosh, and the Ran—although they all express the same concept, each expresses it with different letters.	וְלָכֵן אֲנַחָנוּ רוֹאִים – שֶׁעִנְיַן הַשֵּׂכֶל יְכוֹלִים לוֹאֲמְרוֹ בְּאֵיזֶה אוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁיִּרְצֶה. וּכְמוֹ תּוֹסְפוֹת וְרֹאשׁ וְרַ"ן – שָׁהַגַּם שָׁכֵּלָם אוֹמְרִים שֵׂכֶל אֶחָד – עִם כָּל זָה כָּל אֶחָד אוֹמֵר בְּאוֹתִיּוֹת אֲחֵרוֹת.
This is because the letters are part of the essence of the soul, as explained in the maamar <i>Mezuzah MiYemin</i> , that the soul is filled with letters.	ְרַהִינוּ – מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהָאוֹתִיּוֹת הֵם בְּעֶצֶם הַנֶּפֶשׁ, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּבֵיאוּר "מְזוּזָה מִיָּמִין" – שֶׁהַנֶּפֶשׁ מְלַאָה אוֹתִיּוֹת.
However, they are not visible and revealed as they are in the essence of the soul—meaning in the pre-intellect.	_ רַק שֶׁאֵינָם נִרְאִים וּמִתְגַלִּים כְּמוֹ שֶׁהֵם בְּעַצְמוּת הַנָּפֶשׁ הַיְנוּ בְּקַדְמוּת הַשֵּׂכֶל.
Their primary revelation occurs in the intellect—that is, when one needs to comprehend a concept, then the letters are revealed from the desire of the soul in order to become a garment for the intellect.	ְוְעִיקֶּר גָּלוּיָם הוּא בַּשֵּׁכֶל – דְּהַיְנוּ, כְּשֶׁצָּרִיךְ לְהָבִין אֵיזֶה שֵׂכֶל – אָז מִתְגַלִּים בְּחִינַת הָאוֹתִיּוֹת מֵרָצוֹן הַנֶּפֶשׁ, כְּדֵי לָהְיוֹת לְבוּשׁ לַשֵּׁכֶל – דְּבָרָק הַמַּבְרִיק,

#### אָדָם כִּי יִהְיֶה בְּעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ שְׂאֵת

Which draws from the level of <i>maskil</i> . And through the intermediary of this garment of the letters of thought, the intellect comes into the level of grasp and comprehension for oneself.	— שֶׁנְּמְשֶׁךְּ מִבְּחִינַת מֵשְׂכִּיל. וְעַל־יְדֵי אֶמְצָעוּת לְבוּשׁ זֶה דְּאוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה — יָבוֹא הַשֵּׁכֶל לִבְּחִינַת הַשָּׂגָה וְהָבָנָה לָעַצְמוֹ
And through the letters of speech, the intellect is also transmitted to another.	וְעַל־יְדֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר – יוּשַׂג גַּם לַזּוּלָתוֹ כו'.
And this is what the Targum translates on the verse "And man became a living soul"—"a speaking spirit"—that man's greatness as a speaker comes from the level of <i>ruach</i> (spirit),	ְןזֶהוּ מֵה שֶׁתִּרְגָּמוּ עַל: "וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה" – "לְרוּחַ מְמַלְּלָא", שֶׁמַּעֲלַת הָאָדָם – הֱיוֹתוֹ מְדַבֵּר – הִנֵּה ,זֶהוּ מִבְּחִינַת רוּחַ
which is the level of air, and its root is in <i>primordial air</i> (avir kadmon), etc.	שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת אֲוִיר, וְשֶׁרְשׁוֹ – בְּבְחִינַת "אֲוִיר קַדְמוֹן"

#### **[NOTE: Summary**

This profound maamar explores the distinction between אָדָם (adam) and אָדָם (ish), emphasizing that *adam* represents a deeper, more integrated level of human identity. Unlike *ish*, which implies a singular trait (fire, passion), *adam* denotes a harmonious integration (*hiskalelus*) of multiple soul faculties—reflecting a complete human being as designed in the image of G-d.

The Tzemach Tzedek explains that the uniqueness of man lies in his capacity for **speech**, which stems not merely from physical articulation (the five sources of sound), but from the **essence of the soul**. Speech originates in the innermost levels of *seichel* (intellect) and even beyond, in the *koach hamaskil*—the soul's root of insight—manifesting through the "breath of the heart."

Furthermore, he delves into the meaning of the verse "קַּבְּהַלֶּה – אַרָּהָ בְּּהָבֶּה – the superiority of man over beast is nothing." This, he says, reflects the concept that man's higher faculties, though immensely lofty, are still *nothing* compared to G-d's essence (*atzmus*). In truth, speech itself, and even intellect, is rooted in "ayin" — a divine nothingness that transcends comprehension. Even Shabbos, associated with *mochin d'Abba* (divine wisdom), is considered "hevel" (vanity) in contrast to the future revelation of "Shabbos within Shabbos"—the ultimate inner delight to be revealed in the World to Come.

Thus, speech—man's defining trait—is deeply linked to his **source in ayin**, a hidden realm that enables connection to the Infinite. Yet, until the full revelation of the essence in the Messianic era, all human expression remains a limited outer garment (*levush*) relative to the soul's essence.

#### **Practical Takeaway**

אָדָם כִּי יִהְיֵה בָּעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ שְׂאֵת

The maamar teaches us that **speech is sacred**—not just a tool for communication, but a **window into the soul**. When we speak, we are drawing from the deepest levels of our being, from the *ayin*, the divine nothingness that transcends thought. This awareness should lead to:

- **Greater care with words**: Guarding one's tongue becomes not only a moral issue, but a spiritual one—since the power of speech is rooted in the divine.
- **Using speech to elevate**: Whether in prayer, Torah study, or conversation, we should aim to elevate our speech, using it to connect ourselves and others to truth and holiness.
- **Humility**: Even our greatest qualities—intellect, language, spiritual refinement—are ultimately *nothing* before the infinite essence of G-d. This brings deep humility without diminishing our mission.

#### **Chassidic Story (about the Tzemach Tzedek)**

Source: Reshimot Devarim Vol. 1 by R. Yehuda Chitrik, and Shemuos Vesippurim Vol. 1

#### The Story:

When the **Tzemach Tzedek** was still a young boy learning under his grandfather, the Alter Rebbe, he once asked him the following question:

"Why does Hashem need man's prayers—doesn't He already know everything?" The Alter Rebbe did not respond directly. Instead, he instructed his grandson to wait.

Later that day, the Alter Rebbe called the boy into his study and opened a *Zohar*. He pointed to a passage about the power of human speech—how it ascends and creates unifications in the higher worlds. He then said, "You asked why Hashem needs our prayers. It's not that He *needs* them—it's that **through them**, we become elevated. Our speech touches the deepest levels—far beyond intellect. Even when you don't understand, your voice connects Above."

Years later, as Rebbe, the Tzemach Tzedek would often quote that Zohar when explaining this very maamar—that speech comes from *ayin*, from the breath of the heart, and it is through this that man surpasses all creation. He would say, "Words create worlds, but only when they come from the depths of the heart."

This story not only illustrates the central message of the maamar but also reflects the lived experience and spiritual depth of its author—the Tzemach Tzedek—who exemplified the link between human speech and divine essence. **END NOTE**]