

A Woman of Valour

Eshet Chayil

אִשֶׁת־חַיִל מִי יִמָּצָא וְרַחֵק מִפְּנִינִים מְכָרָהּ

(Eshet chayil mi yimtza v'rachok mip'ninim michrah)

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

בָּטַח בָּהּ לֵב בַּעֲלָהּ וְשָׁלַל לֹא יַחְסֹר

(Batach bah lev ba'lah v'shalal lo yechar)

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

גָּמְלָתָהּ טוֹב וְלֹא־רָע כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ

(G'malat'hu tov v'lo ra kol y'mei chayeiha)

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

דָּרְשָׁה צֹמֶר וּפְשִׁתִּים וַתַּעַשׂ בַּחֲפָץ כַּפֵּיהָ

(Darshah tzemer ufishtim vata'as b'chefetz kapeiha)

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

הִי־תָהּ כְּאֹנִיּוֹת סוֹחֵר מִמֶּרְחָק תָּבִיא לַחֲמָהּ

(Haitah ko'oniyot socher mimerchak tavi lachmah)

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

וַתִּקַּם בְּעוֹד לַיְלָה וַתִּתֵּן טֶרֶף לְבֵיתָהּ וְחֶק לַנְּעוֹרֹתֶיהָ

(Vatakom b'od lailah vatiten teref l'vetah v'chok l'na'aroteiha)

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

זָמְמָה שָׂדֵה וַתִּקְחֶהּ מִפְּרֵי כַּפֵּיהָ נֹטַע כָּרֶם

(Zamemah sadeh vatikachehu mip'ri chapeiha nat'ah karem)

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

חָגְרָה בְּעוֹז מִתְּנִיָּהּ וַתְּאַמֵּץ זְרוּעֹתֶיהָ

(Chograh v'oz motneiha vate'ametz zro'oteiha)

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

טָעַמָּה בִּי־טוֹב סוֹחֵרָה לֹא־יִכָּבֵד בַּלַּיְלָה נֵרָהּ

(Ta'amah ki tov sochrah lo yichbeh balailah nerah)

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

יָדֶיהָ שְׁלָחָה בְּפִישׁוֹר וְכַפֵּיהָ תָּמְכוּ פְּלֵדָּהּ

(Yadeha shilchah vakishor v'chapeiha tamchu falech)

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

כַּפָּהּ פָּרְשָׁה לְעָנִי וַיְדִיחַ שְׁלָחָה לְאֶבְיוֹן

(Kaphah parsah le'ani v'yadeiha shil'chah la'evyon)

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

לֹא־תִירָא לְבֵיתָהּ מִשָּׁלֵג כִּי כָל־בֵּיתָהּ לְבֹשׁ שָׁנִים

(Lo tira l'vetah mishaleg ki chol betah lavush shanim)

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

מַרְבָּדִים עֲשֶׂתָהּ־לָּהּ שֵׁשׁ וְאַרְגָּמָן לְבוּשָׁהּ

(Marvadim astah lah shesh v'argaman l'vushah)

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

נֹדַע בְּשַׁעְרִים בְּעֵלָה בְּשִׁבְתּוֹ עִם־זִקְנֵי־אֶרֶץ

(Noda bashearim ba'lah b'shivto im ziknei aretz)

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

סָדִין עֲשֶׂתָהּ וְתַמְכֹר וַחֲגֹר נָתַתָּה לְכַנְעָנִי

(Sadin astah vatimkor vachagor natnah lak'na'ani)

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

עֹז־וְהַדָּר לְבוּשָׁהּ וְתִשְׁחַק לְיוֹם אַחֲרוֹן

(Oz v'hadar l'vushah vatischak l'yom acharon)

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

פִּיהָ פֶּתַחַּה בְּחָכְמָה וְתוֹרַת־חֶסֶד עַל־לְשׁוֹנָהּ

(Piha patchah v'chochma v'torat chesed al l'shonah)

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

צוּפִיָּה הַלִּיכוֹת בֵּיתָהּ וְלֶחֶם עֲצָלוֹת לֹא תֹאכַל

(Tzofi'ah halichot betah v'lechem atzlut lo tochel)

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

קָמוּ בָנֶיהָ וַיִּאֲשְׁרוּהָ בְּעֵלָה וַיְהִלְלֶהּ

(Kamu vaneha vay'ash'ruha ba'lah vay'hal'lah)

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

רַבּוֹת בָּנוֹת עָשׂוּ חֵיל וְאֵת עָלִית עַל־כָּלָנָהּ

(Rabot banot asu chayil v'at alit al kulanah)

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

שֶׁקֶר הַחֲזַן וְהַבֵּל הַיָּפִי אִשָּׁה יִרְאֵת־יְהוָה הִיא תִתְהַלָּל

(Sheker hachen v'hevel hayofi ishah yir'at Hashem hi tit'halal)

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

תְּנוּ־לָּהּ מִפְּרֵי יָדֶיהָ וַיְהִלְלוּהָ בְּשַׁעְרִים מִעֲשֵׂיהָ

(T'nu lah mip'ri yadeiha vihal'luha vash'arim ma'aseha)

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.