

「たましいを打つこと」

津村俊夫

ABSTRACT D.T. TSUMURA “To strike the soul.” The Hebrew term *nepeš* does not simply have an abstract meaning such as Japanese *tamashii* or *reikon*. Rather, it refers to an inner self, to whom a man speaks, in such verses as Gen. 49:6, Jud. 5:21, Ps. 42:5, 11, 43:5, 103:1, 2, 22, 104:1, 35, 146:1; cf. Lk. 12:19. So, the expression “to strike the soul (*NKH[hi] + *nepeš*) of someone” means more than a casual striking.

The phrase *NKH(hi) + *nepeš* can take a second object, *nepeš* being the internal object. The syntax of this double-object expression is as follows:

[Vt + O₁] + O₂ : [*NKH(hi) + O₁ (internal: *nepeš*)] + O₂

Sometimes double-object expressions experience a “passive (= niph) transformation,” as in Hab. 3:9a:

‘eryāh tē ‘ôr qaštekā: *‘eryāh* (O₁) + *‘WR(Niph) + *qaštekā*(S)
“The nakedness of your bow is uncovered.”

“Your bow is uncovered (the nakedness).”¹

In Dt. 19:11, the clause “and he dies” follows the clause “(anyone) strikes him fatally”.

*NKH(hi) - [O₂] + O₁ (internal: *nepeš*) + waw-*MWT(Qal)

¹ See D. T. Tsumura, “Niph with an Internal Object in Habakkuk 3:9a,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 31 (1986), 11-16.

In this verse, the phrase “to strike someone on the soul” does not necessarily mean “to kill” physically, but it means “to make that person non-existent,” regardless of his physical death.

Num. 35:11 refers to “cities of refuge” where “the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee” (ESV). Here the phrase “to kill a person” is literally “to hit one’s soul.” What is emphasized here is that he didn’t intend to kill a person *physically* when he hit his soul, but he ended up killing that person.

In Mat. 5:21-22 Jesus warned:

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. (ESV)

Thus, “everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment”, even if his brother did not die physically, for he “hit his soul,” that is, he makes another *imago Dei* non-existent.