

「勇士は弓を砕かれ」（1サムエル記2:4）

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ABSTRACT D. T. TSUMURA, “‘The mighty are broken of the bow’ (1 Sam 2:4).” 1 Sam 2:4a has been translated as “The bows of the mighty are broken” (NRSV). However, since the predicate יָבִיטֵם is a masculine plural adjective, only “the mighty men” (m. pl. יְבָרִים), not “the bow” (f. sg.) can be its subject. However, both in LXX and in 4QSam^a, the predicate is the m. sg. form of the verb, thus taking “God” as the agent and “the bow of the mighty” as the object of the verb. On the other hand, McCarter alters the vowel of קִשָּׁה to be a m. pl. noun; thus he tries to solve its grammatical incongruence. He translates it just like other English translations.

However, the MT makes good sense as it is, both grammatically and stylistically. The verse constitutes a bicolon, in which “the mighty” corresponds with “the feeble”, while “bow” with “strength”. The poetic structure is chiasmic: a - b - c // b' - c' - a'. In this structure, two TOPICS “the mighty” and “the feeble” are given COMMENTS, i.e. “be broken of bow” and “be girded with strength”. An improved translation would be:

“The mighty are broken of the bow;
the feeble are girded with strength.”