

Hebrew Poetry – Psalm 8:4 (Hebrew Bible 8:5)

Remember to read the Hebrew right-to-left!

KJV: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

NRSV: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

מַה־אֲנוֹשׁ כִּי־תִזְכְּרֵנּוּ *mah-eh-NOHSH kiy-tidz-k'RAY-noo*

וּבֶן־אָדָם כִּי תִפְקֹדֵנּוּ: *oo-ven-ah-DAHM kiy tif-q'DAY-noo*

מַה *mah* what? how?

אֲנוֹשׁ *eh-NOHSH* man, humankind, people

כִּי *kiy* for, that, when

תִּזְכְּרֵנּוּ *tidz-k'RAY-noo* the root word is זָכַר meaning “remember”
ת is a prefix that makes it “you remember” (second person singular)
נּוּ is a suffix indicating who is being remembered – “him” (the direct object)

וּבֶן־אָדָם *oo-ven-ah-DAHM* the וּ (oo) on the front means “and” or “or”
בֶּן means “son” and אָדָם means “man” or “humanity”
בֶּן־אָדָם means “son of man” or “child of humanity”

כִּי *kiy* for, that, when

תִּפְקֹדֵנּוּ: *tif-q'DAY-noo* the root word is פָּקַד meaning “visit”
ת is a prefix that makes it “you visit” (second person singular)
נּוּ is a suffix indicating who is being visited – “him” (the direct object)