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?

מָה אָנוֹשׁ הִנְוָאַה שְׁמִית זָרוֹםָה
meh-eh-NOHSH kiy-tidz-k’RAY-noo

וֹמַרְאָה שָׁלְחֵה נָאֵן
oo-ven-ah-DAHM kiy tif-q’DAY-noo

הָוֹן mah what? how?
אָנוֹשׁ eh-NOHSH man, humankind, people
כִּי kiy for, that, when

tidz-k’RAY-noo the root word is הָרְנֵם meaning “remember”

k is a prefix that makes it “you remember” (second person singular)

ה is a suffix indicating who is being remembered – “him” (the direct object)

oo-ven-ah-DAHM the oo (oo) on the front means “and” or “or”

א means “son” and לְאָנָה means “man” or “humanity”

א means “son of man” or “child of humanity”

c kiy for, that, when

tif-q’DAY-noo the root word is לָשְׁפָקָה meaning “visit”

k is a prefix that makes it “you visit” (second person singular)

ה is a suffix indicating who is being visited – “him” (the direct object)