

## Rattling – an expression of derision

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In the Book of Amos we read: **הַפְּרָטִים עַל-פִּי הַנְּבֵל, כְּדוֹיֵד חֲשָׁבוּ לָהֶם כְּלֵי-שִׁיר** - **“Those that strum on the mouth of the psaltery, that devise for themselves instruments of music, like David”** (Am 6:5).

Yet in the Book of Psalms we find:

וְאֲנִי תוֹלַעַת וְלֹא-אִישׁ; חֲרַפְתָּ אָדָם וּבְזוּי עָם.  
כָּל-רֹאֵי יִלְעָגוּ לִי; יִפְטִירוּ בַשֶּׁפֶה, יִנְיְעוּ רֹאשׁ.

**“And I am a worm, and not a man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.  
All they that see me scorn me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head”** (Ps 22:7-8).

It is not known how the English translator determined that the rare word **יִפְטִירוּ** means **“they shoot out”**, and this understanding is not supported by the Greek translator. However, the comparison between these verses suggests that **יִפְטִירוּ** is an order-type error of **יִפְרְטוּ** - **“strum (the lip).”** It is not unlikely that this is an onomatopoeic word.

While it is not known when, this form of body-language of derision was replaced by a mechanical rattling device. The most common one is the Grogger, that is employed in the holyday of Purim, when the name of Hamman is read in the Book of Esther.



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