**נשבע לרעהו ולא ירמה"”**

**אבנר רמו**

We read in the Book of Proverbs: **כן-איש רמה את-רעהו; ואמר, הלא-משחק אני**- “**So is the man that deceives his fellow, and said: Am not I in sport?**” (Pro 26:19).

In the Book of Psalms we read:

**נקי כפים, ובר-לבב: אשר לא-נשא לשוא נפשי; ולא נשבע למרמה.**

“**He that has clean hands, and a pure heart; who had not taken My name in vain and had not sworn deceitfully**” (Ps 24:4).

Yet we also find in this book:

**הולך תמים, ופעל צדק; ודבר אמת בלבבו.  
לא-רגל על-לשנו-לא-עשה לרעהו רעה; וחרפה לא-נשא על-קרבו.**

**נבזה, בעיניו נמאס-ואת-יראי יהוה יכבד; נשבע להרע ולא ימר.**

“**He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart;****That has no slander upon his tongue, nor does evil to his fellow, nor takes up a reproach against his next kin;****In whose eyes a vile person is despised, and he honors them that fear *YHWH*; He that swears to** [his own] **hurt, and changes not**” (Ps 15:2-4).

It seems that the English translator was puzzled here by the words: **נשבע להרע ולא ימר** and he inserted some words to make some sense of them. The Greek translator understood these words differently and for the words **נשבע להרע** he wrote: “swears to his fellow”, which indicate that he believed that here **להרע** (*lehara’*) is a vowel-letter deletion and an order-type error of: **לרעהו** - "to his fellow.”

With this understanding and the comparison between these verses it is suggested that the final two words of verse Ps 15:4 **ולא ימר** (*velo yamor*) are also a vowel-letter deletion and an order-type error of: **ולא ירמה** (*velo yerameh*) - “and (he) will not deceive.”

In addition, it is not clear why here (Ps 15:3) the word **רגל** (*ragal*) was translated to English as:” slander.” The Greek translator wrote here “beguile”, but the reading of: **הולך רכיל מגלה-סוד** - “**He that goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets**” (Pro 11:13; see also: Lev 19:16; Eze 22:9; Pro 20:19), suggest that **רגל** (*ragal*) is a velar exchange error of **רכל** (*rachil*) - “talebearing.”