

”מסת נדבת ידך” או ”מתת (נדבת) ידך”?

אבנר רמו

We read in the Book of Ezekiel that some of the offerings of the president to God should be: **מתת ידו** which was translated to English as: “**as he is able to give**” (Eze 46:5, 11). The Greek translation to: “**a gift of his hand**” seems to be more accurate.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we read: **ונדבתיך ותרומת ידך** - “**and your contributions and the donation of your hand**” (Deu 12:17; see also: Deu 12:6).

Yet four chapters later we find: **ועשית חג שבועות ליהוה אלהיך-מסת נדבת ידך אשר נתן** - “**And you shall do a feast of weeks to YHWH your God after the measure of the freewill-offering of your hand, which you shall give.**” (Deu 16:10).

It appears that the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators of the unusual word: **מסת** indicates that they believed that it is a letter-substitution error of **מדת** - “measure.” Yet the comparison between these verses suggests that **מסת ידך** is a letter-substitution error of: **מתת ידך** - “**a gift of your hand**”, and that a late scribe who was aware of the error here inserted the explanatory correction: **נדבת** - “**a contribution of.**”