

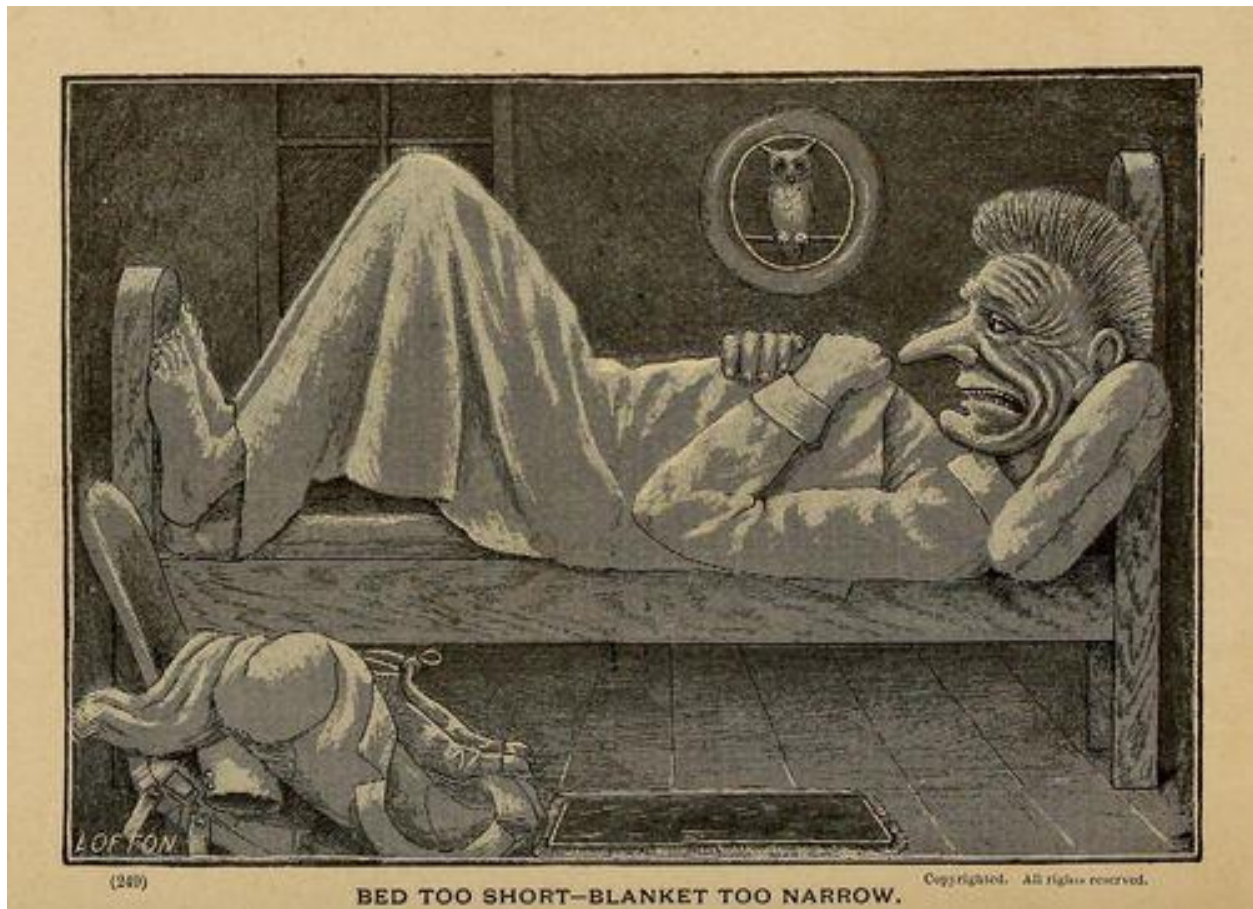
קצר המצע מהשתרע והשמיכה קצרה מהתכסות

אבנר רמו

We read in the Book of Judges: **ויסר אליה האהלה ותכסהו בשמיכה** - “And he turned in to her into the tent, and she covered him with a blanket” (Jud 4:18).

Yet in the Book of Isaiah we find: **כי-קצר המצע מהשתרע; והמסכה צרה כהתכנס**; and **המסכה** **צרה כהתכנס**; and **המסכה** **צרה כהתכנס** too narrow when [he] **gathers** [himself] **up**” (Is 28:20).

In many biblical verses **מסכה** is understood to be a “mask” (e.g. Ex 32:4, 8; 34:17; Lev 19:4; Deu 9:12, 16; 27:15; Jud 17:3, 4; 18:14, 17, 18; 2 Ki 17:16; Is 42:17; Hos 13:2; Nah 1:14; Hab 2:18; Ps 106:19; Neh 9:18). The understanding here of: **מסכה** as: “covering” by the English (but not the Greek) translators suggests that they assumed that **מסכה** is a sibilant letter exchange and order-type error of: **שמיכה** - “blanket.” It is also suggested that the words: **צרה כהתכנס** are a letter-insertion, and a letter deletion error of: **קצרה מהתכסות** - “too short from covering.”



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