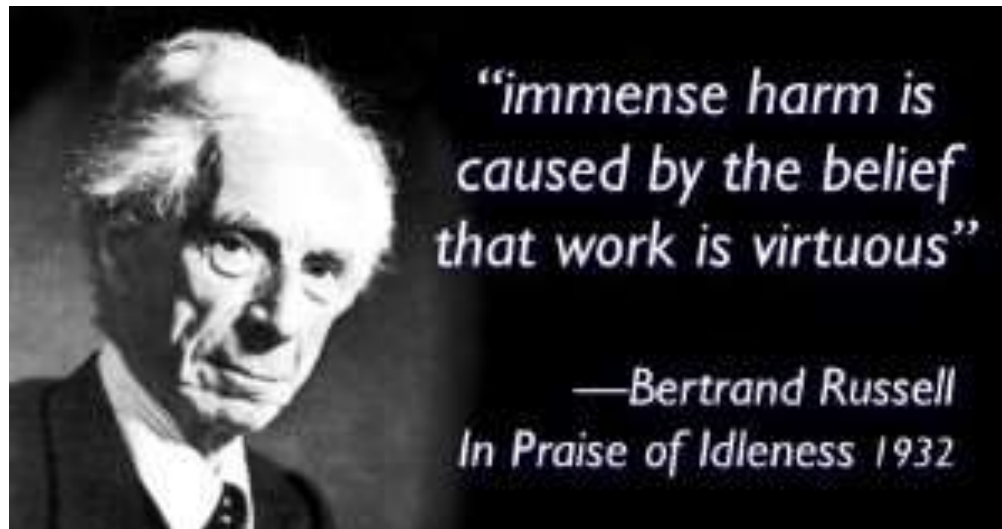


## על העצלות

אבנר רמו



In the Book of Proverbs we read:

עד-מתי עצל תשכב; מתי תקום משנתך.  
מעט שנות, מעט תנומות; מעט חבק ידים לשכב.

“How long wilt you sleep, indolent one? When will you arise out of your sleep?

[Yet] a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to lie down” (Pro 6:9-10; see also: Ps 132:4; Pro 6:4; 24:33-34; Job 33:15).

Yet in the same book we also find:

כי-סבא וזולל יורש; וקרעים תלביש נומה.

“For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall cloth a man with rags” (Pro 23:21).

The comparison between these verses suggests that the Hapax legomenon נומה (*numah*) is a letter-deletion error of תנומה (*thenumah*) - “slumber.”

We read in the Book of Proverbs: נרדם בקציר, בן מביש - “a shameful son falls asleep in the harvest” (Pro 10:5; see also: Gen 2:21; 15:12; Jud 4:21; 1 Sam 26:12; Is 29:10; Jon 1:5, 6; Ps 76:7; Job 4:13; 33:15; Dan 8:18; 10:9).

Yet we also read in this book: עצלה תפיל תרדמה; ונפש רמיה תרעב - “Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep; and the idle soul shall suffer hunger” (Pro 19:15).

It is not clear how the Greek (and the English) translators determined that here: רמיה (*remiah*) means: “idle.” However, the content of this verse suggests that here רמיה (*remiah*) is a vowel letter insertion and a letter-deletion error of רדמה (*redumah*) - “a sleeping (soul).” In addition,

the reading of: **ולחם עצלות לא תאכל** - “and a bread of idleness she does not eat” (Pro 31:27), suggests that the word: **עצלה** of verse Pro 19:15 is a letter substitution error of: **עצלות** - “idleness.”

We also find in the Book of Proverbs: **כי-מאנו ידיו לעשות : תאות עצל תמיתנו** - “The desire of the idle shall kill him; for his hands refuse to labor” (Pro 21:25).

However, as the previous verses indicate that the idle one desire is to lie down and sleep (e.g. Pro 6:9; 26:14), it is suggested that here the words: **תאות עצל** is a letter and word deletion error of: **תאות השינה של העצל** - “the sleep desire of the idle.”