

The 10 RashiYomi Rules

Their presence in Rashis on VaEthChaNan-EyOeV

Vol 20#15 - Adapted from Rashi-is-Simple

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GOALS

The goal of the Weekly Rashi Digest is to use the weekly Torah portion to expose students at all levels to the ten major methods of Rashi's commentary. Continual weekly exposure to these ten major methods facilitate the acquisition, familiarity, and facility with the major exegetical methods.

For the half year period Oct-2012 through May-2013 we studied the Rashi grammar rule. This entire series will be summarized and conveniently available in zip format in the near future.

For the coming half year period, we will study the Rashi reference rule, also known as the citation rule or colloquially at the other-verse rule. This deceptively simple rule- the use of citations or references by Rashi - is actually a super-rule, that dominates a large portion of Rashis. This rule was chosen by the authors of the Passover Haggadah and is exclusively featured in the Aramaean tried to destroy my father Haggadah passage.

We are also devoting this series to home-schoolers. The Rashis will be presented in home-schooling format and can be used on any age group above 5. Nevertheless, the scholarly aspect of the Rashi will not be ignored: Citations and references are very popular in Rabbinic sermons and in Talmudic passages.

We briefly illustrate the richness of the reference/citation rule by exploring the sister rule, reading comprehension, so popular now in America. Consider the sentence: At a red light, Abe quickly jumped out and purchased a coke for Sarah. Consider the following levels of reading comprehension questions:

- *Citation level: Who purchased the coke. **Answer**: Abe*
- *Inference level: From where did Abe jump out. **Answer**: A car*
- *Speculation level: Why did Sarah need a coke. **Answer**: She was very thirsty.*

Students in first - third grade may find the citation level easy but the inference and speculation level hard. The speculation level is frequently powerfully used in Rabbinic sermons. This is but a taste of what we will do this year.

As usual, when making transitions in the Rashi Newsletter we welcome positive and negative comments as well as requests. Please send all comments to RashiYomi@GMail.Com.

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In this week's issue we devote ourselves very straightforward applications of the **reference** method accessible to children of any age.

Reference - *Daily Rashi Sunday July 21th 2013*

The question and answer below can be used as a starting point for teaching young children. It can also be used by adults who wish a richer participatory experience of Rashi.

Read the reference and target verse below and then answer the questions.

- **Reference verses Ex23-27** [God at Mount Sinai promising to help the nation conquer Israel] *I will send my fear before you, and will destroy all the people to whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*
- **Target verse Dt06-18:19** [Moses, exhorting the people to do good to earn God's good will] *And you shall do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord; that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.*

Question: Explain the underlined phrase in the **target** verse, *as the Lord has spoken* based on the underlined phrases in the **target** and **reference** verse.

Answer:

- The **reference** verse relates a *promise* by God *and I will destroy all the people to whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*
- In the **target** verse Moses **references** this promise by telling the people that if they good they will merit that God will *cast out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.*

Comment: Based on the age of the student, the teacher can adjust the difficulty level for the student as follows

- **Advanced level:** The teacher can ask the student to find the verse that Moses is

referencing

- Intermediate level: The teacher can ask the student to read Exodus 23 and find the verse that Moses is referencing
- Elementary level: The teacher can give the student the two verses as we have done above and ask the student to confirm that a reference was given.

Reference - *Daily Rashi Monday July 22nd 2013*

The question and answer below can be used as a starting point for teaching young children. It can also be used by adults who wish a richer participatory experience of Rashi.

Read the reference and target verse below and then answer the questions.

- **Reference verses** **Ex16:22-25** [God preparing Moses for a war victory]
And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man; and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said to them, This is what the Lord has said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath to the Lord; bake that which you will bake today, and boil what you will boil today; and that which remains over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade; and it did not stink, neither was there any worm in it. And Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a sabbath to the Lord; today you shall not find it in the field.
- **Target verse** **Dt05-12** [Moses, repeating the 10 commandments] *Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord your God has commanded you.*

Question: Explain the underlined phrase in the Target verse, as the Lord has commanded you based on the underlined phrases in the target and reference verse.

Answer:

- The reference verse relates a *command* by God to observe the Sabbath as indicated in the underlined words
- In the target verse Moses **references** this promise by telling the people that they should observe the Sabbath as the Lord your God has commanded you.

Comment: Based on the age of the student, the teacher can adjust the difficulty level for the student as follows

- Advanced level: The teacher can ask the student to find the verse that Moses is referencing

- Intermediate level: The teacher can ask the student to read Exodus 16 and find the verse that Moses is referencing
- Elementary level: The teacher can give the student the two verses as we have done above and ask the student to confirm that a reference was given.

Comment: This Rashi arises from a Talmudic source, Shabbath 87b.

Reference - Advanced *Daily Rashi Tuesday July 23rd 2013*

This example is probably to advanced to try on children.

Read the reference and target verse below and then answer the questions.

- **Reference verses Ex16:22-25** [God preparing Moses for a war victory]
And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man; and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said to them, This is what the Lord has said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath to the Lord; bake that which you will bake today, and boil what you will boil today; and that which remains over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade; and it did not stink, neither was there any worm in it. And Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a sabbath to the Lord; today you shall not find it in the field.
- **Target verse Dt05-12, 16** [Moses, repeating the 10 commandments] *Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord your God has commanded you. ... Honor your father and mother as the Lord your God has commanded you*

Question: Explain the *second* underlined phrase in the Target verse, as the Lord has commanded you based on the underlined phrases in the target and reference verse.

Answer:

- The reference verse relates a *command* by God to observe the Sabbath as indicated in the underlined words
- In the target verse Moses **references** this promise by telling the people that they should observe the Sabbath as the Lord your God has commanded you.
- Moses also tells the people to honor their parents as the Lord your God has commanded you. But we find no such command ever given!!! Rashi brilliantly connects the *as the Lord your God commanded you* in the Sabbath laws with the *as the Lord your God commanded you* in the honor-parents law. Rashi states: *Both these laws were given at Marah (Ex16).* Of course, Rashi has no

proof. For this reason we have classified this **reference** rule as advanced. It is simply something reasonable: *If as the Lord your God commanded you* occurs only twice in the 10 commandments and one of the two times we find a cross reference (to Marah, Exodus 16) then *perhaps* the other should also be so cross-referenced. Rashi even brings a *hint* (But that is all it is): *For it states in Ex15-25 there he placed statute and law*. So perhaps many laws, not just the Sabbath law, were given.

Comment: This example illustrates how some Rashis are conjectural (not explicit and full proof) in nature. This is a very important point.

Reference - Details *Daily Rashi Wednesday July 25th, 2013*

The question and answer below can be used as a starting point for teaching young children. It can also be used by adults who wish a richer participatory experience in learning Rashi.

Read the reference and target verse below and then answer the questions.

Reference verses Ex32-30 [Moses statement the day after he destroyed the golden calf] *And on the next day, Moses said to the nation, you sinned a great sin, and now I will go up to God; perhaps I will attain atonement for your sin.*

- **Target verse Dt09:18a** [Moses relating to a later generation how he prayed for the Jewish people after the sin of the Golden calf] *And I fell before God as the first time - 40 days and 40 nights - I didn't eat bread and didn't drink water [and I prayed] on all your sins that you sinned on the evil that you did defiantly to God to anger him.*

Question:

- (1) The **target** verse mentions that Moses *fell before God as the first time*. To what does this refer?
- (2) What *new* information in the **target** verse sheds light on the **reference** verse.

Answer:

- (1) The **target** verse's statement *I fell before God as the first time* **references** *now I will go up* in the **reference** verse.
- (2) The **target** verse adds to the **reference** verse the information that Moses was on the mount praying for the Jews, for 40 days and 40 nights.

Reference - *Daily Rashi Thursday July 26th 2013*

The question and answer below can be used as a starting point for teaching young children. It can also be used by adults who wish a richer participatory experience of Rashi.

Read the reference and target verse below and then answer the questions.

- **Reference verses Ex32-34** [God's statement to Moses after he agreed to forgive the Jewish people] *And now go lead the people to that which I have spoke to you....*
- **Target verse Dt10-11a** [Moses account of what happened after God forgave the sin of the Golden calf] *And God said to me: Get up and lead the nation in journey; they will come and inherit the land that I swore to their forefathers to given them.*

Question: The **target** verse states that God said to Moses to get up and lead the nation in journey. Where do we find such a command from God to Moses?

Answer: This command in the **target** verse references the verse now go lead the people to that which I have spoke to you in the **reference** verse.

Comment: Based on the age of the student, the teacher can adjust the difficulty level for the student as follows

- **Advanced level:** The teacher can ask the student to find the verse that Moses is referencing
- **Intermediate level:** The teacher can ask the student to read Exodus 32 and find the verse that Moses is referencing
- **Elementary level:** The teacher can give the student the two verses as we have done above and ask the student to confirm that a reference was given.

APPENDIX

THE 10 RASHI RULE CATEGORIES / THE 30 RASHI RULES

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I-REFERENCE: Dt26-05d *We went down to Egypt with a few people* explained by Gn46-27: with 70 people

II-MEANING / Lexicography / Dictionary: EXAMPLE (Connectives) KI means IF,PERHAPS,RATHER,BECAUSE,WHEN,THAT (Rashi on Gn18-15a Gn24-33a) **EXAMPLE (Nuances):** YDA means FAMILIAR, not KNOW (eg Dt34-10a) eg Gn04-01 Adam was FAMILIAR with his wife **EXAMPLE (Idioms)** ON THE FACE OF means DURING THE LIFETIME (Rashi on Nu03-04a Gn11-28a Ex20-03c Dt05-07a) **EXAMPLE (Synonyms)** *Marchesheth* means pot; *Machavath* means frying pan (Lv02-05a, 07a) **EXAMPLE (Hononyms)** SHAMAH can mean listen, hear, understand: (Gn42-23a) *They didn't appreciate that Joseph understood them* (Note: They knew he was listening) **EXAMPLE (Metonymy)** (Lv02-11a) *Don't offer ...any honey as sacrifices* RASHI: *honey* includes any sweet fruit juice

III-GRAMMAR: EXAMPLE: BA-ah means CAME;ba-AH means COMING(Gn46-26a)
EXAMPLE: Hitpael conjugation has different rules if 1st root letter is Tzade (Gn44-16a)

IV-PARALLELISM: (Ex20-04) Dont **POSSESS** the gods of others Dont **MAKE** idols RASHI: So both **POSSESSion & MAKING** of idols are prohibited

V-CONTRADICTION: (Nu04-03, Nu08-24a)Levites start Temple work at 25; Levites start temple work at 30.
RASHI: They apprentice at 25 but start actual service at 30.

VI-STYLE: RABBI ISHMAEL RULES: EXAMPLE: (Simple verses should be generalized): (Rashi Pesachim 6) (Dt25-04a) *Dont MUZZLE an OX while THRESHING* RASHI: Dont STOP any WORKING ANIMAL from eating

VII-FORMATTING: EXAMPLE (BOLD indicated by Repetition): Ex12-09c) COOK COOK it in water (So COOKED-COOKED is understood the same way bold is understood by modern reader) RASHI: Preferred to COOK it in water; But COOK it at all costs(Even if you dont have water) **EXAMPLE: (BULLETS indicated by Repeating keywords)** (Ex03-11a) Who am I - **THAT** I should go to Pharaoh - **THAT** I should take the Jews out of Egypt RASHI: Repeated word **THAT** creates BULLET effect - Pharaoh was a difficult king (Bullet one) - Jews were not yet ready for freedom (Bullet two) **EXAMPLE (Climax assumed in any Biblical list):** (Dt19-11a) *If a man HATES, SPIES, CONFRONTS & KILLS.* RASHI: Bible identifies 4 stages to murder(indicated by capped words)

VIII-DATABASE: EXAMPLE: *God spoke to Moses to say over* introduces about 7 dozen biblical commandments; *God spoke to Aaron to say over* only introduces 2 commandments. RASHI: (Lv10-03b) Aaron was silent when his sons died because they served in the Temple drunk; hence he merited that the commandment prohibiting priests to work in the Temple drunk, was given to him

IX-NON VERSE: EXAMPLE: (Use of Algebra)(Ex38-26b) *Temple donations of silver were 100 Kikar and 1775 Shekel from 630,550 half-shekels* RASHI: So one Kikar of silver = 3000 Shekel.

X: SYMBOLISM: EXAMPLE: (Use of puns) (NuXX-XX) Moses made a copper snake for people to look up to when bitten by snakes (so they should pray and recover) RASHI: (Nu21-09a) The Hebrew root for copper and snake are identical (Cf. The English *copperhead*) Moses made the metal snake copper colored to symbolize the snake