

Vayetze 5786

Rashi on Genesis 31:19

AND RACHEL STOLE THE TERAPHIM — her intention was to wean her father from idol-worship.

Ibn Ezra to Bereishit 31:19

Some say these were copper implements used to determine the units of hours. Others say that astrologers can create forms which will speak at set times; they cite, "The terafim will speak corruption." That isn't what the sentence means, though. It seems to me that terafim are human forms created to receive celestial forces in a way I cannot explain. Proof to this explanation of terafim is in the terafim that Michal bat Shaul placed in the bed, such that the guards thought they were the body of David (Samuel I 19).

Judges 17:5

And the man, Michah, had a house of god, and he made an ephod and terafim, and he appointed one of his sons as his priest.

Samuel I 19:13

And Michal took the terafim and placed them in the bed, and she placed the goatskin at his head, and she covered it with a garment.

Genesis Rabbah 74:5

She intended it only for the sake of Heaven. She said, "Will I go, and abandon this old man to his downfall?" Therefore the text needed to say, "And Rachel stole the terafim belonging to her father."

Genesis Rabbah 38:13

He would say to him: 'Woe to this man who is sixty years old and seeks to prostrate himself before something that is one day old.' He would be ashamed and leave. One time, a certain woman came, carrying a dish of fine flour in her hand. She said to him: 'Here, offer it before them.' He arose, took a club in his hand, shattered all the idols, and placed the club in the hand of the largest among them. When his father came, he said to him: 'Who did this to them?' He said to him: 'I will not lie to you, a certain woman

came, carrying a dish of fine flour in her hand. She said to me: Here, offer it before them. I offered it before them. This one [idol] said: I shall eat first, and another one said: I shall eat first. This big idol, who was standing among them, got up and took the club and shattered them.' He [Terah] said to him: 'What, are you mocking me? Are they sentient at all?' He said to him: 'Do your ears not hear what your mouth is saying?'

Genesis Rabbah 74:9

Rabbi Yochanan said: He did not find terafim; he found pitchers. The terafim were transformed into pitchers, so as not to embarrass Rachel.

Genesis Rabbah 74:9

"Shall not live" – And so it was. This was like the error that goes forth from the ruler (Ecclesiastes 10:5). "And Rachel stole" "And Rachel died"