

COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

Background

Adam HaRishon was gifted with astounding wisdom. To display his brilliance, HASHEM asked him to name the animals. These names weren't merely titles agreed up on by convention. He was being challenged to describe the very nature and essence of each animal and sum it up with one expression. He did this flawlessly. "This is a *gamal*. This is a *shor*. This is a *chatul*."

After cataloguing the wild kingdom, he gave defining names to himself and to his wife. The *Baal Haturim* explains that his wife he named Chava, which means "talker," as in the teaching that ten measures of speech came down into this world. Women took nine of them. (*Kiddushin* 49b)

ספר בראשית פרק ג

כ) וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁם
אִשְׁתּוֹ חַוָּה כִּי הוּא הִיְתָה
אִם כָּל חַי:

And man called his wife Chava because she is the mother of all humans.

בעל הטורים על בראשית פרק ג פסוק כ

כ) ויקרא האדם שם
אשתו חוה - על שם
שמחיה. וזהו שאמרו
(קידושין מט, ב) יו"ד
קבין שיחה ירדו לעולם,
תשעה נטלו נשים:

He named his wife Chava because she was a talker. This is what is said: ten measures of speech came down into the world, and women took nine of them.

Questions

This *Baal HaTurim* is very difficult to understand. First of all, it doesn't sound very complimentary to call your wife, "Talker."

But even more, what in the world does that have to do with what the *posuk* is speaking about? It says, "He called her Chava because she is the mother of all people." While it may be the nature of women to be more talkative than men, that's not why she is the progenitor of the human race.