

מדרש

Midrash

Bereshit Rabbah 8:5

ON GENESIS 1:31

When the ministering angels debated before Adam's creation, Kindness and Righteousness favored it while Truth and Peace opposed it, citing man's capacity for falsehood and discord; God resolved the impasse by casting Truth down to earth, prompting the angels to protest this demeaning of His own seal until Truth was restored. The midrash further identifies the word "meod" (very) in "very good" with "adam" (man), teaching that man himself is called very good. Rav Huna adds that while the angels were still absorbed in their deliberation, God had already created man, rendering their debate moot. AI SUMMARY

Rabbi Simon said: When the Holy One blessed be He came to create Adam the first man, the ministering angels divided into various factions and various groups. Some of them were saying: 'Let him not be created,' and some of them were saying: 'Let him be created.'

That is what is written: "Kindness and truth met; righteousness and peace touched" (Psalms 85:11). Kindness said: 'Let him be created, as he performs acts of kindness.' Truth said: 'Let him not be created, as he is all full of lies.' Righteousness said: 'Let him be created, as he performs acts of righteousness.' Peace said: 'Let him not be created, as he is all full of discord.'

What did the Holy One blessed be He do? He took Truth and cast it down to earth. That is what is written: "You cast truth earthward" (Daniel 8:12).

The ministering angels said before the Holy One blessed be He: 'Master of the universe, why are You demeaning Your very seal? Let Truth ascend from the earth.' That is what is written: "Truth will spring from the earth" (Psalms 85:12).

The Rabbis say in the name of Rabbi Ḥanina bar Idi, and Rabbi Pinḥas and Rabbi Ḥilkiya said in the name of Rabbi Simon: Meod, this refers to Man [adam]. That is what is written: "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very [meod] good" (Genesis 1:31) – Man [adam] was good.

Rav Huna, the rabbi of Tzippori, said: While the ministering angels were busy deliberating with one another and engaging with one another, the Holy One blessed be He created him. He said to them: 'Why are you deliberating? Man has already been created.'