

“In the beginning”, translating Torah and what the Zohar says about it

Genesis Chapter 1, Verse 1, the first three words of the Torah

א בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים

A few translations:

“At the beginning of God's creating...”

[Everett Fox]

“In the beginning God created...”

[Jewish Publication Society, 1917]

“When God began to create...”

[Jewish Publication Society, 1999]

From the Zohar 1:15a [Daniel Matt's translation]

With this *beginning*, the unknown concealed one (1) created the palace. This palace is called אֱלֹהִים (*Elohim*), *God*. (2) The secret is אֱלֹהִים בְּרָא בְּרֵאשִׁית (*Bereishit bara Elohim*), *With beginning, \_\_\_\_\_ created God*. (3)

- (1) “the unknown concealed one” - The hidden source of emanation, the *Ein Sof*, the “infinite”.
- (2) “אֱלֹהִים (*Elohim*), *God*” - Here the name signifies *Binah*, the Divine Mother who gives birth to the lower *sefirot*, or emanations.
- (3) “The secret is...” - The Zohar offers its mystical reading of the opening words of Genesis....