

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

Genesis 23:1

In the year 1677 b.c.e., Sarah (f/k/a Sarai), wife of Avraham (f/k/a Avram), and mother of Yitzchok (Isaac) dies at age 127. Sarah's life ends while Avraham and Yitzchok are interacting with God. Unaware that calling upon him to sacrifice Yitzchok is the manner in which God is testing his faith in Him, Avraham unhesitatingly proceeds toward ending his son's life. Had God not interceded on Yitzchok's behalf, Avraham would have slaughtered, burned and offered him up as a sacrifice to God. Her (Sarah's) passing marks the end of a 37-year-span of joyful familial interaction <i>and it is</i> the beginning of a sad epoch in his (Avraham's) widowed	וַיָּהִי
<i>life.</i>	חַיִּי
<i>Sarah</i> comported herself in a saintly manner spanning a	שָׂרָה
<i>hundred</i>	מֵאָה
<i>years</i> , comported herself in saintly fashion,	שָׁנָה
<i>and at twenty</i>	וְעֶשְׂרִים
<i>years</i> of age, Sarah was as beautiful as a seven year old,	שָׁנָה
<i>and</i> remained unaffected by the ravages of time for <i>seven</i> and one hundred and twenty	וְשִׁבְעַת
<i>years</i> of her life. Sarah comported herself in saintly fashion throughout the	שָׁנִים
<i>years</i> of	שָׁנֵי
<i>life</i> allotted to her.	חַיִּי
<i>Sarah's</i> death profoundly affected everyone.	שָׂרָה

Genesis 23:2

Prior to Avraham (f/k/a Avram) returning and explaining to Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) what happened to him and Yitzchok (Isaac) while they were interacting with God on Mount Moriah, the Satan encounters and lies to Sarah about Avraham and Yitzchok's outcome from interacting with God. The Satan tells Sarah that Avraham slaughtered Yitzchok while interacting with God on Mount Moriah. Upon learning that her son is dead, Sarah goes into shock, her soul leaves her body, <i>and she dies.</i>	וַתָּמָת
<i>Sarah</i> died	שָׂרָה
<i>in Kiryas</i>	בְּקִרְיָת
<i>Arba</i> (Four Giants), a particular parcel of land	אַרְבַּע
<i>that is</i> located in	הוּא
<i>Chevron</i> (Hebron). Chevron is a particular parcel of land situated	חֶבְרוֹן
<i>in the land</i> of	בְּאֶרֶץ
<i>Canaan</i> . Avraham was on his way home,	כְּנָעַן
<i>and</i> upon learning Sarah died, <i>came</i> from Beer Sheva to Kiryas Arba to reunite with his departed wife. While traveling from Beer Sheva to Kiryas Arba,	וַיָּבֹא
<i>Avraham</i> takes	אַבְרָהָם
<i>to mourning</i> for Sarah. Avraham is eager	לְסֹפֵד
<i>to</i> reunite with <i>Sarah</i> , whose death robbed him of the opportunity to recount the miraculous happenings he and Yitzchok experienced while interacting with God on Mount Moriah. In response to Sarah's death, the only thing Avraham could do is to mourn	לְשָׂרָה
<i>and to weep for her.</i>	וּלְבַכְתָּהּ

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

Genesis 23:3

Initially overwhelmed by Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) death, Avraham (f/k/a Avram) regains enough presence of mind to set about finding, acquiring and entombing Sarah within a yet-to-be-acquired burial site, <i>and</i> after <i>getting up</i> the next morning, sets about finding a burial site. After reuniting with Sarah,	וַיָּקָם
<i>Avraham</i> stands	אֲבְרָהָם
<i>over</i> her body, and after gazing upon her countenance, withdraws from the	מֵעַל
<i>face</i> of	פָּנָיו
<i>his dead</i> wife. Avraham is mindful of finding, acquiring, and entombing Sarah within a yet-to-be-acquired burial site, and after God gives him insight as to where to bury her, stands in front of	מֵתוֹ
<i>and speaks</i>	וַיְדַבֵּר
<i>to</i> the	אֵל
<i>children</i> of	בָּנָיו
<i>Cheis</i> (Heth). Avraham expresses interest in purchasing a parcel of their land in which to bury his deceased wife. The children of Cheis, upon meeting Avraham, hear him	חֵת
<i>saying</i> ,	לֵאמֹר

Genesis 23:4

"You may perceive yourselves as native to this land, but God, creator and owner of all the land on planet Earth, perceives everyone as <i>foreigners</i> . You were foreigners prior to settling upon your particular parcel of land	גֵר
<i>and</i> I was a foreigner prior to settling upon my particular parcel of land. Like you, I transitioned into a native <i>resident</i> of the land upon which I occupy. Lacking a parcel of land in which to entomb my departed wife,	וְתוֹשָׁב
<i>I</i> am in need of entering into land acquisition negotiations	אֲנִכִּי
<i>with you</i> . It is imperative that that one of your landowners	עִמָּכֶם
<i>sell</i>	תִּגְוֹ
<i>to me</i> a portion of their	לִי
<i>property</i> that I intend to use as a place of	אֶחָזֶזָה
<i>burial</i> for the lifeless body of my wife. If you believe as I believe, that God ordained that one day, I and my posterity shall take possession of this, your Canaanite land, then, by God's will, I am entitled to take possession of whatever parcel of Canaan land I desire without compensating its landowner. I am willing to pay, rather than exercising my God-given right to take possession of a parcel of your land. Rather than taking possession of a particular parcel of your native land, I am willing to offer silver as a means of entering into a land acquisition agreement	קֶבֶר
<i>with you</i> children of Cheis. I implore you to consult with one another as regards to the matter of my desire to acquire a particular parcel of your land that I intend to use to entomb my departed wife. Please decide quickly because custom dictates that I must entomb my departed wife as soon as possible. I have a parcel of land in mind that I would like to purchase, and if the landowner is amenable toward selling it to me, I will meet with, pay him for his land,	עִמָּכֶם
<i>and will</i> move Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) body from here to there and <i>bury</i>	וְאֶקְבְּרָהּ
<i>my dead</i> in my newly acquired parcel of land. If you determine that the owner of that particular parcel of your land I mentioned is amenable toward selling it to me, I implore you to arrange an introduction between the owner and myself. It is imperative that I	מֵתִי

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

remove my departed wife's body	
<i>from before me</i> and situate it in its final resting place."	מִלִּפְנֵי
Genesis 23:5	
Once informed of Avraham's (f/k/a Avram) desire to obtain a particular parcel of their land to use as a gravesite for his wife, the children of Cheis (Heth) are amenable toward accommodating his needs, <i>and</i> are intent upon replying to his request in the affirmative. Sarah's widowed husband is about to receive an <i>answer</i> from the	וַיַּעֲנוּ
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i>	חֵת
<i>with</i> regard to the request	אֵת
<i>Avraham</i> made to purchase a particular parcel of their land to entomb Sarah (f/k/a Sarai). The children of Cheis preface their response by	אֲבְרָהָם
<i>saying</i>	לֵאמֹר
<i>to him,</i>	לוֹ
Genesis 23:6	
" <i>Hear us</i>	שְׁמָעֵנוּ
<i>my lord</i> Avraham (f/k/a Avram),	אֲדֹנִי
<i>Prince</i> of the God known by the name of	נָשִׂיא
<i>Elokim</i> (Judge of the Universe). Knowing that	אֱלֹהִים
<i>you</i> have been living	אִתָּהּ
<i>among us</i> for quite some time, we are mindful of your immediate need to acquire a parcel of our land. We implore you to make haste to bury your dead	בְּתוֹכֵנוּ
<i>in the choicest</i> parcel of land in our possession. Please either avail yourself of any of	בְּמִבְחָר
<i>our tombs</i> or take possession of any parcel of land and use it to	קְבָרֵינוּ
<i>bury</i> your dead. Please let us know how you wish to proceed	קָבֵר
<i>with</i> burying	אֵת
<i>your dead</i> . Rest assured that there is not a	מִתְּךָ
<i>man</i> among us whose opinion differs	אִישׁ
<i>from ours</i> with respect to ceding ownership of a parcel of land for you to entomb your dead. Any man among us would consider it an honor to part	מִמָּוְנוּ
<i>with</i> a portion of his land to Avraham, Prince of Elokim. Satisfaction of a Chittite landowner will derive from donating a parcel of land for you to bury your dead will outweigh the satisfaction derived from selling it to you. The children of Cheis understand that upon acquiring a parcel of our land, Avraham will initially use it to entomb his wife, and after his passing, situate	אֵת
<i>his</i> body alongside hers inside the <i>tomb</i> . There is	קְבָרוֹ
<i>not</i> a man among us who would say that	לֹא
<i>he is willing to withhold</i>	יִקְלָהּ
<i>from you</i> a parcel of land that you desire to acquire and utilize as a place of entombment for your dead. I assure you that no one will prevent you	מִמָּדָּךְ
<i>from burying</i>	מִקְבֹּר
<i>your dead</i> in any parcel of land owned by the children of Cheis."	מִמָּדָּךְ
Genesis 23:7	
Avraham (f/k/a Avram) is pleased to hear the children of Cheis (Heth) are willing to apportion him a parcel of land to bury his dead, <i>and</i> after <i>he gets up</i> to address those willing to sell him a parcel of land to entomb Sarah (f/k/a Sarai),	וַיִּקָּם

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>Avraham</i> maintains an upright position	אַבְרָהָם
<i>and bows</i>	וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ
<i>to the people</i> . Avraham bows to thanks God for enabling him to encounter those amenable toward providing him with a parcel of their land to entomb Sarah. Knowing which parcel of land God wants him to acquire for entombing Sarah, Avraham sets about describing	לָעָם
<i>the</i> parcel of <i>land</i> he knows to contain a double cave ideal for entombing Sarah's body. Avraham expresses his desire to speak	הָאָרֶץ
<i>to the children</i> of	לְבָנָי
<i>Cheis</i> ,	חַת

Genesis 23:8

<i>and begins speaking</i>	וַיְדַבֵּר
<i>to them</i> . The children of Cheis hear Avraham (f/k/a Avram)	אֹתָם
<i>saying</i> ,	לְאָמֹר
"If	אִם
<i>it is</i> truly your desire to assist me in this, my time of need, and your desire to help me emanates from	יֵשׁ
<i>within</i>	אֶת
<i>your soul</i> , allow me to purchase a particular parcel of your land that I intend to use	בְּנַפְשְׁךָ
<i>to bury</i> my dead. Grant me leave to bury my dead	לְקַבֵּר
<i>within</i> the confines of your territory and I will remove	אֶת
<i>my dead</i> wife	מִתִּי
<i>from before me</i> and situate her inside a cave owned by Ephron, son of Tzochar.	מִלִּפְנֵי
<i>Hear me</i> and know that it is imperative that I acquire quickly this particular parcel of land in which to bury my departed wife. If you are amenable toward facilitating my acquisition of a particular parcel of Ephron's land, I implore you to go forth, speak to Ephron	שְׁמַעֲנִי
<i>and intercede</i> on my behalf. It is imperative	וּפְגַעֲנִי
<i>for me</i> to acquire a particular parcel of Ephron's land. I am dependent	לִי
<i>upon Ephron</i> , the	בְּעֶפְרוֹן
<i>son</i> of	בְּנוֹ
<i>Tzochar</i> , to sell a parcel of his land I intend to use to entomb the body of my departed wife.	צָחָר

Genesis 23:9

Please determine if Ephron is willing to accept silver in exchange for his land, <i>and</i> before witnesses, <i>let him</i> accept my silver and <i>give</i> it	וַיִּתֵּן
<i>to me</i> . Tell Ephron I am interested in purchasing a particular parcel of his land and the cave that lies	לִי
<i>within</i> it. I intend to entomb Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) inside the	אֶת
<i>cave</i> known as	מַעְרַת
<i>'the Machpeilah'</i> . Tell Ephron that I wish to purchase	הַמַּכְפֵּילָה
<i>that</i> particular parcel of land belonging	אֵשֶׁר
<i>to him</i>	לוֹ
<i>that</i> has within its borders a cave located	אֵשֶׁר
<i>in</i> the <i>end</i> of	בְּקֵצָה
<i>his field</i> . Please inform Ephron that in exchange for his land, I will pay him	שִׁדְּהוּ

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>in silver</i> . The amount of silver I tender to Ephron is the equivalent of the	בְּכֶסֶף
<i>full</i> value of the land. If Ephron is amenable toward selling that particular parcel of his land, implore him to meet with me, and in the presence of witnesses, I will give him any amount of silver he deems as adequate compensation for my acquisition of this particular parcel of his land. Upon receipt of my silver, he will transfer ownership of the land to me, and upon taking possession, I	מְלֵא
<i>shall</i> situate Sarah inside the cave, and <i>give her</i> a final resting place commensurate with someone of her stature. I will own the land in perpetuity if Ephron sells that particular parcel of land	יִתְּנָהּ
<i>to me</i> . Owning the land in perpetuity will ensure Sarah's remains and eventually my own will, for all time, lie undisturbed	לִי
<i>among you</i> . I pray that the son of Tzochar is amenable toward selling to me a particular parcel of his land that I intend to use as a burial place for Sarah and eventually for myself. Let everyone know that it is my intent to acquire the Machpeilah Cave and use it	בְּתוֹכְכֶם
<i>to house</i> Sarah's body. My acquisition of the Machpeilah Cave will ensure Sarah and eventually my own mortal remains remain undisturbed for all time. The Machpeilah Cave shall also serve as a mausoleum for other members of my family. For now, Sarah's body shall be the only occupant entombed inside the Machpeilah Cave. My sole purpose in acquiring the Machpeilah Cave is to use it as a	לְאִחֻזָּה
<i>tomb</i> . ²²¹	קֶבֶר

Genesis 23:10

Upon learning that Ephron the Chittite (Hittite) owns a particular parcel of land that he is intent upon acquiring and utilizing as a burial plot for Sarah (f/k/a Sarai), Avraham (f/k/a Avram) is determined to meet with and negotiate a purchase price acceptable to Ephron. Accompanied by the Chittites, Avraham journeys to <i>and</i> sees <i>Ephron</i>	וַעֲפְרוֹן
<i>sitting</i> alone. Moments later, Ephron finds himself	יֹשֵׁב
<i>in</i> the <i>midst</i> of Avraham and the	בְּתוֹךְ
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i> . Language difference bars Avraham and Ephron from communicating with one another. Someone has the wherewithal to interject a translator into their midst. The translator introduces Avraham and Ephron to one another and explains to Ephron that Avraham desires to purchase a particular parcel of his land. Prior to the initiation of negotiations, the Chittites, believing Ephron's lowly societal stature precludes him from interacting directly with Avraham whom they perceive as a prince of God, appoint him to the highest official position within their societal hierarchy. Ephron realizes Avraham is desperate to purchase a parcel of his land,	חֵת
<i>and</i> he <i>replies to</i> Avraham in a manner calculated to reap a windfall profit.	וַיַּעַן
<i>Ephron</i>	עֲפְרוֹן
<i>the Chittite</i> , intent upon reaping a windfall profit from doing business	הַחִתִּי
<i>with</i>	אִתּוֹ
<i>Avraham</i> , is willing to forego selling his land until Avraham agrees to pay him an	אֶבְרָהָם

²²¹ Only Avraham (f/k/a Avram) knows of the secret of the Machpeilah Cave's entombment of the bodies of Adam (the first man with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to his body) and Chavah (Eve) (the first woman with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to her body)).

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

exorbitant price. Ephron initiates land negotiations in the presence of witnesses participating	
<i>in</i> the <i>hearing</i> of the matter regarding Avraham's desire to acquire a particular parcel of his land. Witnesses to land transaction negotiations between Avraham and Ephron seize upon an opportunity to pay their last respects to Sarah. Many of the	בְּאָזְנִי
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i> witnessing Avraham's attempt to acquire a parcel of land from Ephron, pay their last respects to Sarah before her entombment inside a cave they hope Ephron will sell to Avraham. Paying their last respects to Sarah is the primary reason	חַת
<i>for all</i> the	לְכָל
<i>ones coming through</i> the	כָּאֵי
<i>gate</i> of	שַׁעַר
<i>his</i> (Ephron's) <i>city</i> . In the presence of many witnesses, Ephron proclaims his willingness to give Avraham, without compensation, that particular parcel of land, but rather than accepting Ephron's parcel of land as a gift, Avraham expresses his desire to purchase it with silver. Taken aback by Avraham's rejection of his offer to accept his land without compensation, Ephron implores him to reconsider, and conveys his request by	עִירוֹ
<i>saying</i> , "As regards to accepting remuneration for my property, I say	לְאָמַר
Genesis 23:11	
'No!' I implore	לֹא
<i>My lord</i> Avraham (f/k/a Avram) to	אֲדֹנִי
<i>hear me</i> explain why I cannot accept payment for that particular parcel of my land. You expressed the need to acquire ownership of my cave to entomb the body of your wife. In addition to giving you the cave, I am willing to give you the land surrounding it to serve as a buffer between the living and the dead. You may take immediate possession of the cave and	שְׁמַעֲנִי
<i>the field</i> surrounding it because	הַשָּׂדֶה
<i>I give it</i>	נָתַתִּי
<i>to you</i> . Please take possession of the field	לָךְ
<i>and the cave</i>	וְהַמְעָרָה
<i>that</i> is	אֲשֶׁר
<i>inside it</i> . I recognize the importance of entombing your wife inside the Machpeilah Cave, and am willing to give it	בוֹ
<i>to you</i> . As everyone is my witness, I implore you to take immediate possession of the land. Rather than taking on the form of silver, my compensation will take on the form of satisfaction from providing Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) a proper burial place. I will derive satisfaction from ceding ownership of a particular parcel of my property to Avraham. Everyone will know that	לָךְ
<i>I gave her</i> (Sarah's) husband the means by which to bury her proper. As for the manner of my compensation for transferring ownership of the land to you, I am of the opinion that satisfaction, rather than silver is the coin of the realm, and as such, reject any amount of silver you are intent upon giving me for my land.	נָתַתִּיהָ
<i>Before</i> the <i>eyes</i> of the	לְעֵינֵי
<i>children</i> of Cheis and before	בְּנֵי
<i>my people</i> , I declare my willingness to forego compensation and confer ownership of this particular parcel of land to you, my lord Avraham. I want people to know that	עַמִּי

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>I gave her</i> (Sarah's) husband a parcel of land to bury her proper. I publicly declare my willingness to give my land	נְתַתִּיקָהּ
<i>to you.</i> I implore you to declare this land acquisition matter concluded, take immediate possession of the cave and the field and use the cave to	לָךְ
<i>bury</i>	קָבֵר
<i>your dead."</i>	מֵתְךָ

Genesis 23:12

Prior to responding to Ephron's offer to take possession of a particular parcel of his land, Avraham (f/k/a Avram), desires to thank God for enabling him find the ideal final resting place for Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) body, <i>and bows</i> unto Him. Avraham bows unto and thanks God for making Ephron amenable toward allowing him to take possession of and use that particular parcel of his land to entomb Sarah. The appearance of	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶהוּ
<i>Avraham</i> bowing	אֲבְרָהָם
<i>before</i> Ephron and the	לִפְנֵי
<i>people</i> of	עַם
<i>the land</i> in close proximity to the land he desires to acquire is misinterpreted as a gestural homage to them, but in fact, is a gestural homage to God. Avraham knows that if he accepts Ephron's land as a gift, future generations knowing he paid nothing for the land will be inclined toward taking it back from his progeny. Avraham is mindful of owning in perpetuity the land he seeks to acquire from Ephron,	הָאֲרֶץ

Genesis 23:13

<i>and speaks</i>	וַיְדַבֵּר
<i>to</i>	אֵל
<i>Ephron</i> in a voice loud enough for everyone	עֶפְרוֹן
<i>within hearing range of the</i>	בְּאָזְנוֹי
<i>people</i> of	עַם
<i>the land</i> where Ephron resides. Avraham initiates communication with Ephron by	הָאֲרֶץ
<i>saying</i> , "I know that, in your mind, you believe I am amenable toward accepting your land as a gift,	לֵאמֹר
<i>but</i>	אֲךֹ
<i>if</i> you understood what I was saying, you would have realized that I had already made up my mind to acquire your land in exchange for silver. If	אִם
<i>you</i>	אַתָּה
<i>will</i>	לִי
<i>listen to me</i> , please understand that there is no way I can accept your parcel of land as a gift. I say to you and everyone around me that I have already decided that	שְׁמַעֲנִי
<i>I am giving</i> you, the owner of the particular parcel of land I wish to acquire, an amount in	נְתַתִּי
<i>silver</i> that you heretofore expressed is the amount you believe	כֶּסֶף
<i>the field</i> is worth. I will take possession of the field and the cave if you	הַשָּׂדֶה
<i>take</i>	קָח
<i>from me</i> an amount of silver equivalent to that which you believe your land is worth. Accepting my silver in exchange for your land will bring about a conclusion to our land transaction business,	מִמֶּנִּי
<i>and I will bury</i> Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) inside the cave. Upon my death, my heirs shall situate my body alongside Sarah inside the Machpeilah Cave. I intend to populate the burial	וְאֶקְבְּרָהּ

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

cave	
<i>with</i>	אֶת
<i>with my dead</i> relations. Acquisition of the land entitles me to bury anyone inside	מִתִּי
<i>there</i> (the cave)."	שָׁמָּה

Genesis 23:14

Taken aback by Avraham's (f/k/a Avram) refusal to accept the land as a gift, Ephron implores him to reconsider, <i>and answers</i> Avraham in the following manner:	וַיַּעַן
<i>Ephron</i> , desiring to conclude his land transaction	עֶפְרוֹן
<i>with</i>	אֶת
<i>Avraham</i> ,	אַבְרָהָם
<i>says</i>	לְאָמֹר
<i>to him</i> ,	לּוֹ

Genesis 23:15

" <i>My lord</i> Avraham (f/k/a Avram),	אֲדֹנָי
<i>hear me!</i> You stood in my presence while I stated that the	שָׁמַעְנִי
<i>land</i> you are interested in acquiring is worth	אַרְצִי
<i>four</i>	אַרְבַּע
<i>hundred</i>	מֵאָה
<i>shekels</i> of	שֶׁקֶל
<i>silver</i> . Given the timeliness of your need to acquire the land to use to bury your dead, I implore you to delay further negotiations	כֶּסֶף
<i>between me</i>	בֵּינִי
<i>and between you</i> until after your wife's burial.	וּבִינְךָ
<i>What</i> is the point of wasting time discussing the financial aspect of transferring ownership of land when it bars the path of a grieving man in dire need of burying his dead?	מָה
<i>Is it</i> not imperative that you tarry no longer on the financial aspect of your land acquisition	הֲוֵא
<i>and for you</i> to immediately proceed toward burying	וְאַתָּה
<i>your dead</i> inside the cave you intend to use as a	מִתְדָּ
<i>tomb?</i> "	קֶבֶר

Genesis 23:16

Prior to witnessing Ephron imploring him to take immediate possession of the land, bury Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) and complete the land acquisition deal, Avraham (f/k/a Avram) witnesses Ephron citing the value of his land. Avraham determined that Ephron, in spite of expressing his desire to give him the land, wants remuneration, <i>and</i> after <i>hearing</i> the amount cited by Ephron as regards to the value of his property, is determined to compensate him for a parcel of his land.	וַיִּשְׁמַע
<i>Avraham</i> summons his servants to bring forth his silver and begins	אַבְרָהָם
<i>to</i> render payment unto	אֶל
<i>Ephron</i> . Avraham set up a weighing scale,	עֶפְרוֹן
<i>and</i> in front of Ephron and witnesses, <i>weighs out</i> 400 silver shekels. In full view of the public,	וַיִּשְׁקֹל
<i>Avraham</i> weighs out 400 silver shekels	אַבְרָהָם
<i>to</i> give to <i>Ephron</i> in exchange for that particular parcel of his land that will serve as a mausoleum for Sarah's body. After hearing Ephron equate 400 shekels of silver	לְעֶפְרוֹן

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>with</i> the value of that particular parcel of land, Avraham weighs out	אֶת
<i>the</i> 400 shekels of <i>silver</i>	הַכֶּסֶף
<i>that</i>	אֲשֶׁר
<i>he</i> (Ephron) <i>had spoken</i> about	דָּבָר
<i>within hearing</i> range of the	בְּאָזְנִי
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i> (Heth).	חֵת
<i>Four</i>	אַרְבַּע
<i>hundred</i>	מֵאוֹת
<i>shekels</i> of	שֶׁקֶל
<i>silver</i>	כֶּסֶף
<i>passed</i> from Avraham's possession	עָבַר
<i>to</i> Ephron, the <i>merchant</i> and owner of the land Avraham sought to acquire. After tendering 400 shekels of silver to Ephron, Avraham drafts a land acquisition document that he and Ephron sign in the presence of witnesses. If ownership of this particular parcel of land ever comes into question, the land acquisition document signed by Avraham and Ephron will serve to contest any post-sale claims questioning Avraham's ownership of the property. ²²²	לְסִפְרָה

Genesis 23:17

After giving Ephron 400 shekels of silver in exchange for a parcel of Ephron's land, Avraham (f/k/a Avram) focuses his attention on entombing Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) inside the cave situated upon his newly acquired parcel of land. Only God and Avraham know that Adam (the first man with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to his body), and Chavah (Eve) (the first woman with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to her body) are entombed in the cave situated on Ephron's property. God ascribed holiness to the land Avraham acquired from Ephron because Adam and Chavah's bodies are interred inside the cave <i>and it</i> (the cave) <i>will become</i> further <i>elevated</i> in holiness when Sarah's body is entombed inside the Machpeilah Cave surrounded by a	וַיָּקָם
<i>field</i> formerly owned by	שָׂדֵה
<i>Ephron</i> . Avraham knew it was imperative for him to acquire	עֶפְרוֹן
<i>that</i> particular parcel of land and entomb Sarah's body	אֲשֶׁר
<i>inside</i> the <i>Machpeilah</i> Cave	בְּמַכְפֵּילָה
<i>that</i> stood	אֲשֶׁר
<i>facing</i> a city called	לִפְנֵי
<i>Mamrei</i> . Avraham words the land deed between him and Ephron in a manner calculated to ensure that he and his posterity maintain perpetual ownership of	מִמְרֵא
<i>the field</i>	הַשָּׂדֵה
<i>and the cave</i>	וְהַמְעָרָה
<i>that</i> lie	אֲשֶׁר
<i>within it</i> ,	בּוֹ
<i>and every</i> one of the	וְכָל
<i>trees</i>	הָעֵץ

²²² Avraham's (f/k/a Avram) silver shekels are 2,500 times heavier than the Chittite silver shekels. Avraham paid the equivalent of one million Chittite silver shekels for a parcel of Ephron's land valued by Ephron at 400 Chittite silver shekels.

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>that</i> are	אֲשֶׁר
<i>in the field</i> . Avraham owns in perpetuity	בְּשָׂדָה
<i>that</i> particular parcel of land formerly owned by Ephron, including the cave situated	אֲשֶׁר
<i>in</i> the midst of <i>all</i> the land contained within	בְּכָל
<i>its borders</i> . Avraham makes sure that the terms of his purchase of Ephron's land clearly state that he owns the Machpeilah Cave, the land	גְּבֻלוֹ
<i>around</i> the cave, and everything situated upon the land.	סְבִיב

Genesis 23:18

There are many witnesses to the negotiation, sale and transfer of ownership of a particular parcel of Ephron's land to Avraham (f/k/a Avram). The negotiations end. The price for the land agreed upon by both parties. The land deed signed by both parties in the presence of witnesses and the 400 shekels of silver weighed out and given to Ephron. The aforementioned activities served as incontrovertible evidence of the valid transfer of ownership of Ephron's field <i>to Avraham</i> . ²²³ God revealing to Avraham the ideal place to entomb Sarah (f/k/a Sarai) is inside the Machpeilah Cave is what incentivized him to purchase that particular parcel of Ephron's land. God also revealed to Avraham the holiness of Sarah's burial site by informing him that the Machpeilah Cave contained the remains of Adam, the first man (with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to his body), and Chavah (Eve), the first woman (with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to her body). God enabled Avraham	לְאַבְרָהָם
<i>to purchase</i> Ephron's land	לְמַקְנָה
<i>in the presence of</i> and approval by the	לְעֵינָי
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i> (Heth). Those situated	חֵת
<i>in every</i> part of the immediate vicinity during his negotiation for and acquisition of that particular parcel of Ephron's land, and those	בְּכָל
<i>coming</i> through the	בָּאִי
<i>gate</i> of	שַׁעַר
<i>his</i> (Ephron's) <i>city</i> , witnessed Avraham paying for and acquiring that particular parcel of land belonging to Ephron.	עִירוֹ

Genesis 23:19

No impediments remain toward barring Avraham (f/k/a Avram) from entombing Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) body, <i>and after</i> acquiring	וְאַחֲרָי
<i>this</i> property from Ephron, Avraham takes her body to and	כֵּן
<i>buries</i> her inside the Machpeilah Cave. Of the many coming to pay their last respects, most notable are Noach's (Noach) son Sheim (Shem), Sheim's son Eiver (Eber), Avimelech, king of Gerar, and Avraham's friends Aneir, Eshkol and Mamre.	קָבַר

²²³ To ensure perpetual ownership of the land he is about to acquire, Avraham (f/k/a Avram) has a deed drawn up and signs it in the presence of witnesses. In the future, when it is time to entomb Avraham's grandson Yaakov (Jacob) a/k/a Yisrael (Israel), son of Yitzchok (Isaac) inside the Machpeilah Cave, Eisov (Esau) contests the pending burial of his twin brother Yaakov inside the Machpeilah Cave. As a means of proving to Eisov that Yaakov is entitled to burial inside the Machpeilah cave, Yaakov's son Yoseif (Joseph) dispatches one of his brothers to retrieve Avraham's land deed from Egypt, but prior to his return, one of Yaakov's progeny (Chushim, son of Dan) kills Eisov.

An Anatomically Correct Translation of Genesis

<i>Avraham</i> spends his last moment	אַבְרָהָם
<i>with</i>	אֶת
<i>Sarah</i> , and leaves	שָׂרָה
<i>his wife</i> behind	אִשְׁתּוֹ
<i>inside</i> the	אֶל
<i>cave</i> surrounded by the	מְעֵרָת
<i>field</i> he purchased from Ephron. One would know he is situated inside	שָׂדֶה
<i>the Machpeilah</i> Cave	הַמְּכַפֵּלָה
<i>by</i> looking out of the opening and seeing the	עַל
<i>face</i> of a particular parcel of land upon which stood a city by the name of	פָּנֵי
<i>Mamre</i> . After Avraham inters his wife inside the Machpeilah Cave,	מָמְרָא
<i>he</i> returns to and resumes living in	הוּא
<i>Chevron</i> (Hebron), a particular parcel of land situated	חֶבְרוֹן
<i>in</i> the <i>land</i> of	בְּאֶרֶץ
<i>Canaan</i> . ²²⁴	כְּנָעַן

Genesis 23:20

Everyone knew that Avraham (f/k/a Avram) paid for and owned in perpetuity that particular parcel of land formerly owned by Ephron. Everyone understood that Avraham purchased Ephron's land to entomb Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) body in the cave situated within it. In the eyes of God, the cave is holy because it contains Adam and Chavah's (Eve) remains, <i>and</i> after Sarah's entombment within <i>it</i> , <i>becomes</i> further <i>elevated</i> in holiness. Acquiring	וַיָּקֻם
<i>the field</i>	הַשָּׂדֶה
<i>and the cave</i>	וְהַמְּעֵרָה
<i>that</i> lies within the confines of the property is the means by which Avraham entombs Sarah	אֲשֶׁר
<i>within it</i> (the cave). God knows of Avraham's need to acquire a burial site to entomb Sarah and gives insight	בּוֹ
<i>to Avraham</i> that incentivizes him	לְאַבְרָהָם
<i>to</i> purchase and take <i>possession of</i> this particular parcel of land and the cave situated upon it, and to utilize the cave, as he had publicly proclaimed, as a private	לְאַחֲזֹת
<i>tomb</i> to provide a final resting place for Sarah. Prior to possessing this particular parcel of Chittite land, Avraham expresses his desire to acquire and utilize it as a burial place for Sarah. Not keen on the idea of allowing foreigners to acquire and use their land as a burial site, the Chittites (Hittites) make an exception for Avraham. Avraham receives approval	קָבֵר
<i>from</i> the	מֵאֵת
<i>children</i> of	בְּנֵי
<i>Cheis</i> (Heth) to acquire that particular parcel of Ephron's property.	חֵת

²²⁴ There is speculation that the Machpeilah Cave is two-tiered (hence the meaning of the Hebrew word 'Machpeilah' is 'doubling'). One level of this cave purportedly contains the bodies of Adam (the first man with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to his body) and Chavah (Eve) (the first woman with an eternal, not-of-this-earth soul tethered to her body). After situating Sarah's (f/k/a Sarai) body in the cave's unoccupied level, Avraham (f/k/a Avram) following his death, resolves to rest alongside her.