

A PARADE OF WORDS ON THE SAME ROOT: lust, license, leave (as permissive), deliberate, deliver, relieve, relieve, eclipse, ellipse, leisure (to do as one "lists"), licit, loose, delinquent, derelict, relinquish, listless.

When in my Sunday course 4Mar79 Gil Kovacs said he believed these two words are on the same root, I said "I don't believe it, because it's too good to be true; and I've learned to be suspicious of my own tendency to pop etymology, desire creating in fantasy links which do not exist in reality--i.e., objectively, scientifically; so let's check it out." Well, now I've checked it out, and this thinksheet is a confession (1) of proper pride that I was scholar enough to be suspicious [an intellectual virtue] and (2) of the humility to admit my ignorance [a moral virtue]. But on the assumption that you are not so much interested in my virtues as in the facts vis-a-vis radical(="root") linkage between "love" and "believe":

1. Gil models for us all what I call in this thinksheet's title "etymological meditation," going down into the root of words and there meditating in their and your own depths. Since he had my course in "The Roots of the Roots," he's acquired real skill at this praxis; so I am chagrined that I did not "believe" him when he suggested the common-rootedness of "believe" and "love." His primary resources are (1) OXFORD ENG. DICT. ON HIST. PRINCIPLES (which he got for \$20 by joining the Book-of-the-Month Club) and (2) STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE OF THE BIBLE (which gives you the roots of the Bible's words: Hebrew-Aramaic-Greek). [See also SKEET'S ETYM. DICT. OF THE ENG. LG.]

2. Now, if you start this search with the usual dictionaries, you'll not find a root common to "believe" and "love." They may not be concerned with etymology at all, or only with first-level or first- and second-level rootage. Probe deeper!

3. Some rules for etymologizing: (1) When in ordinary dictionaries you find no connection, do not assume no connection exists; (2) When a connection is suggested, tentatively assume it's proved [tentatively, for few etymologies are absolutely proved]; (3) Do not let yourself fall into cynicism over the truth that etymology is more art than science, for this is true of most of what we value in life, and a learned guess is usually to be preferred to an ignorant guess; (4) Use your own knowledge and imagination heuristically, as an insect does its feelers, to try to make connections where none of your sources suggest them [e.g., I surmise below that the Hebrew for "heart" is from a root common to both "loving" and "believing," and one root of my surmise is the fact that we are finding more and more connections between the Semitic languages and the Aryan (= "Indo-European") languages (=Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Teutonic [including English])].

4. For the following visual, the only resourcebook I used in addition to the above-mentioned is the two vol. PRINCIPLES OF GREEK ETYMOLOGY by Georg Curtius (London:Jn. Murray, 1886)....The notes' numbers correspond with the numbers on the columns.

Aryan	Hebrew	Greek	Latin	Church Slavonic	Teutonic	English
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LUB <sup>H</sup> (=V) be confused, feel desire or longing, hold dear, love	LEB <sup>H</sup> heart as the most interior (fat-enclosed!), center (of willing, feeling, thinking)	LIP strive, desire, urge, lust (E)LEUTH(ER) free	LUB LJUB (suffixes) freedom in LIB [lib-ido, w. is also lust], praise in lau-s	LJUB (suffixes)	LJUB (Gothic) dear, loved, be>loved (so Modern German (GE)LAUB; LOB, praise (and OHG [MOTO]LUBA, affection)	A-S LUF(IAN) Modern Eng. LIEF desire (BE)LIEV(E) lend cre- dence to, trust-- (BE)LIEF

NOTES: 4. LAU-S also includes affirmation. Oscan (relat. to Lat.) has, for "community," (L)UV-FREIS (free in!)....5. The suffixes render these meanings: caring, being friendly (Gk. phil.), and self-giving (Gk. agap.)....Now make your own "heart" connections, such as (1) Believing makes it so to the extent that love shapes reality; (2) Betrayal is the worst sin because it violates the love on which belief and trust rest and from which they derive; (3) We become like what/whom we love-and-so-trust-and-believe; (4) Freedom is neither lust nor license but rather the soul-and-society condition of which love-trust-belief is the soil; lose the latter and freedom withers.