

"steadfastness, fidelity, steadiness," "upbringing," "support," "indeed," "fixed provision," "truth," "reliability, sureness," "stability, continuance," "peace," "architect."

stem 'MM' = "be wide, roomy"; hence, "womb," "mother" [... "mother-city," "precede," "foundation," "holder, container" [... "tribe, people," "confirm, support," "nourish," "foster-," "nurse," "pillars," "faithful," "secure," "firm," "lasting," "confirmed, established, sure," "verified," "true," "stand firm," "trust, believe," "trust in" or "that" or "to do" [= "allow"], "verily, truly," "master-workman,"

AIM: To display (1) the rooting of roots in root-experiences, the basal human happenings that determine surviving/thriving, and (2) the splaying out of root-meanings into various tropical [lit., "turning"] dimensions.

1. Tippy was trembling as I was using pliers to put his 1976 dogtag on his collar without taking the collar off. Unaccustomedly, I was silent; and Loree said, "Talk gently to him, and he'll stop trembling." I did, and he did. He has to hump along through life with almost no upper coil--only 1 oz!--so he's a paradigm of feelings-dependency. Between ominous silence of what he conceives as overattention, and being yelled at, he covets the "still, small voice." Like all other mammals, including me, he never outgrows his need for humming--"stroking."

2. This roots-thinksheet is about being hummed to, and its personal-historical-cosmic consequences. If a child is yelled at before, or more than, being hummed to, in adolescence and adulthood humming substitutes will have to be found--some merely wasteful, some harmful, some creative.

3. There are two hums. The front hum ["NNNNN"] is for projective humming, as in accompanying a musical instrument; the back or natural hum is "MMMM," from 1719 on meaning strong or double ale because of the noise you make with too much of. From 1602 on, "to sing with closed lips"--a lullaby [echoic, imitative, onomatopoeic "LLL"] is the same, but (1) to a baby and (2) with open lips on another liquid. ["To make things hum" leads us astray: echoic for machines when we turn ourselves into, and echoic of machines when they sound like insects and hummingbirds.]

4. This here diagram [no, that's good English, here!] shows what comes, in the Semitic languages [including, of course, Hebrew], of the "MMMMMM" when it is "languaged," i.e. used to convey linguistic-syntactic [instead of just musical-melodic] sememes [meanings]. But first let's note what comes of it in I-E [Indo-European, the thousand languages of which English is one], specifically in Sanskrit, the earliest known I-E language and the basic language of the religions of India [Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism]. The mother's humming to the nursing child --the single indubitable interpersonal assignment by God to our species--becomes the holy or sacred syllable, "OM". [on the diagram, line 5].

ENGLISH		HEBREW		
EM		1	א	מ
A	EN	2	א	נ
E	UMAH	3	א	מ
E	ETH	4	א	ת
O	3'2	5		

5. If Hebrew-Israelite-Jewish religion favored--instead of, in fact, discouraging--syllable repetition in devotional meditation, our Semitic root "EM" would be used as the Eastern hemisphere, and Indus-Ganges flooding into the Western hemisphere, uses "OM." [Technically, "EM" should be written "M," the aleph, silent, being written as apostrophe in English.]

6. Line 2 shows the chief English word to use the Semitic root. We sang it in church this morning: "Let the Amen / Sound from His people again...." In NT, Jesus is God's "Amen!" [2Cor.1, Rev.3]. The breast-feeding baby makes "Yes!" noises of contentment,

7. and line 3 is the first-dimension trope of this: "trust" [lower coil], "belief" [upper coil], "faith" [whole skinbag], and therefore "religion" as confidence in the beneficent divine potential and the life-consequences thereof....Line 4 is the second-dimension trope of this: "truth," the cosmic-moral ground of trust, trustworthiness, life-affirmation ["Yes!"] against doubt and death....For the explosion into English of this root on pp.51-4 of BDB [Brown, Driver, Briggs Lexicon], see left margin.