

Genesis 1: 26-28

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (King James Version)

Genesis 2: 21-23

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² **And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.**

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. (King James Version)

בְּרֵאשִׁית רַבָּה (וִילְנָא) פְּרָשָׁה ח : א

אָמַר רַבִּי יִרְמְיָה בֶּן אֶלְעָזָר בְּשֵׁעָה שֶׁבָּרָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת אָדָם הָרִאשׁוֹן אַנְדְּרוֹגִינוֹס בְּרֵאשׁוֹ הָדָא הוּא דְכִתִּיב זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בְּרֵאשׁוֹ. אָמַר רַבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחֲמָן בְּשֵׁעָה שֶׁבָּרָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת אָדָם הָרִאשׁוֹן דִּיּוּ פְּרִצוּפִים בְּרֵאשׁוֹ, וְנִסְרוּ וְעָשְׂאוּ גְבִיִּים גַּב לְכָאן וְגַב לְכָאן. אֵיתִיבּוּן לִיהּ וְהִקְתִּיב וַיִּקַּח אֶחָת מִצַּלְעֹתָיו אָמַר לְהוֹן מִתְרִין סְטְרוּהִי הֵיךְ מַה דְּאֵת אָמַר וּלְצַלַּע הַמִּשְׁכָּן דְּמִתְרַגְמִינָן וְלִסְטֵר מִשְׁכָּנָא וְגוֹ.

Rabbi Jeremiah son of Elazar said: When the Holy One, blessed be He, created the first human, He created him a hermaphrodite [Greek: *androgynos*], for it is said, “*male and female He created them (Genesis 5:2).*”

Rabbi Samuel son of Nachman said: When the Holy One, blessed be He, created the first human, He created him “double-faced.” Then He split him and made him of two backs, one for this one and one for that one. The other rabbis challenged his view and asked him: But is it not written [in the Torah], “*And God took one of his ribs?*” (*Genesis 2:21*) [Note: the biblical Hebrew word for “rib” in this sentence is *tzela*.]

He replied to them: [No, *tzela* in this verse is not to be understood to mean that God took one of his "ribs," but that He took one] of his two *sides* [the word *tzela* appears here translated into the Aramaic word *sitra*, "side"].

[Why should we read the Hebrew word *tzela* as the Aramaic word *sitra*? Because elsewhere, Scripture] says, “. . . and for the *tzela* of the Tabernacle” (*Exodus 26:20*), and in that instance the Targum translates *tzela* to mean, the "side" (*sitra*) of the Tabernacle.

Greek Mythology as Described in Plato's Writings

In his dialogue *The Symposium*, Plato has Aristophanes present a story about soulmates. Aristophanes states that humans originally had four arms, four legs, and a single head made of two faces. He continues that there were three genders: man, woman and the "Androgynous". Each with two sets of genitalia with the Androgynous having both male and female genitalia.

The men were children of the sun, the women were children of the earth and the Androgynous were children of the moon, which was born of the sun and earth.

It is said that humans had great strength at the time and threatened to conquer the gods. The gods were then faced with the prospect of destroying the humans with lightning as they had done with the Titans but then they would lose the tributes given to the gods by humans. Zeus developed a creative solution by splitting humans in half as punishment for humanity's pride and doubling the number of humans who would give tribute to the gods.

These split humans were in utter misery to the point where they would not eat and would perish so Apollo had sewn them up and reconstituted their bodies with the navel being the only remnant harkening back to their original form. Each human would then only have one set of genitalia and would forever long for his/her other half; the other half of his/her soul. It is said that when the two find each other, there is an unspoken understanding of one another, that they feel unified and would lie with each other in unity and would know no greater joy than that.

