

The word for “test” is the Qal active participle of the verb בָּחַן (*bachan*): and it means to test for functionality.

The translators of the New American Standard and New International Versions, and the New English Translation chose the word “mind” to translate the word *kilyah* whereas those for King James Version used the word “reins.” Here’s why:

**Reins, noun plural [Latin *rēnēs*, the plural of *rēn*, kidney.] 1. The kidneys, region of the kidneys, or loins. 2. The seat of the affectations and passions, formally supposed to lie in the region of the kidneys, or loins. 3. The emotions or affectations.<sup>1</sup>**

In the Lord’s supervision of the human soul, He engages in an ongoing evaluation of its thought processes with particular interest in the *lev* or *kardía* and *kilyah* or emotions.

The Lord is constantly testing the “reins.” The Hebrew word is *kilyah*. The word is in the feminine gender, and anything that is feminine is designed to be a responder. So the reins are designated to be responders of the soul.

Most dictionaries and lexicons will define “reins” as the “kidneys.” But the word *kilyah* means more than just the kidneys. Every normal person has two kidneys, and on top of each kidney is an adrenal gland. Adrenal glands secrete at least two hormones, one of which is adrenalin. This is an emotional hormone, used to stimulate you for “fright, flight, and fight.” The whole system is protected by a fat pad, which surrounds the kidneys and the adrenals. So *kilyah* actually refers to the fat pad; but by analogy it refers to the emotions. There is a very close relationship between the physiological functions of the glands in the fat pads and the emotions of the soul.

The *kardía* is dominant in the mentality of the soul and is analogous to the right man; while the emotions, as the responder and appreciator of the soul, are comparable to the right woman. Just as the right man initiates love to the right woman and she responds to his initiation, so the *kardía* initiates to the emotions. The question is, do the emotions respond, or do they dictate and nag the *kardía*? This question must constantly be answered to determine capacity for life.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged*, 2d ed., (Cleveland: The World Publishing Co., 1962), s.v. “reins.”

<sup>2</sup> Thieme, *Emotional Revolt of the Soul*, 7–8.

In the early church, intellectual arrogance was expressed by Neoplatonism and Gnosticism.

Neoplatonism is defined as:

Modified Platonism to accord with Aristotelian, post-Aristotelian, and eastern conceptions that conceives of the world as an emanation from an ultimate indivisible being with whom the soul is capable of being reunited in trance or ecstasy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed., s.v. "Neoplatonism."