

Language of sexuality in Genesis: from intimate to crude

yada', "to know" (parallel to "make love", as intimate)

Now the man **knew** his woman Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain (4.1)

Cain **knew** his woman, and she conceived and bore Enoch (4.17)

Adam **knew** his woman again, and she bore a son and named him Seth (4.24)

bo' 'el, "to go into" (parallel to "have sex", as neutral)

Sarai said to Abram, "You see that YHWH has prevented me from bearing children; **go in to my maid-servant**; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." (16.2)

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my woman that I may go in to her"...But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (29.21, 23)

Then she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah; **go in to her**, that she may bear upon my knees and that I too may have children through her." (30.3)

Then Judah said to Onan, "**Go in to your brother's woman** and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." (38.8; again, 38.16)

shchb, "to lie" with (parallel to "screw" or similar, as crude)

"Come, let us make our father drink wine, and **we will lie with him**, so that we may preserve offspring through our father." (19.32; 7x in 19.32-35)

Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your woman, and you would have brought guilt upon us." (26.10)

Rachel said, "Then **he may lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes**." When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him, and said, "You must **go in to me**; for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So **he lay with her** that night. (30.15b-16)

When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the region, saw her, he seized her and **lay with her by force**. (34.2)

While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and **lay with Bilhah** his father's secondary woman; and Israel heard of it. (35.22)

And after a time his master's woman cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "**Lie with me**." (39.7; 4x in 39.7-14)

Note: the language gets cruder over time away from the Garden