

Scientific, Religious and Liturgical “Translation”

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
 Hebrew Union College
 Joel@Exc.Com

HUC-JIR, NY

	Religion	Science	Liturgy
WORDS	Each word has meaning. Even the spaces between the words have meaning, as indeed each letter has meaning.	Words are meaningless in isolation and can only be understood in context.	Words should affect the reader/listener.
	Words can be made to mean whatever we want.	Words have meanings to be discovered.	Words can be made to mean whatever we want.
AUTHORITY	Older ideas take precedence over newer ideas. (“The deader you are the smarter you are.”)	New ideas take precedence over older ideas. (“What did they know back then!”)	My ideas take precedence over their ideas. (“It’s my prayerbook!”)
AUTHORITIES	Rabbis, Rashi, etc. “Our texts.”	Scientists. “Any authentic text.”	Liturgists, poets.
METHOD	Researching our sources and tradition.	Researching the authors of the text, the languages they spoke, and the time in which they lived.	???
PURPOSE	???	Conveying the original intent of the author/text.	???