**Maharal, *Yevamot* 64b, p. 142, s.v. *Avraham V’Sarah***

**Abraham and Sarah were *tumtumim*** [people of indeterminate sex because the reproductive organs are covered over and sealed up] **etc.** The meaning of this is as follows: A person who begets offspring is considered open, as he is open for seed to emerge from him; whereas Abraham and Sarah were *tumtumim* as they were not open to beget offspring. This is due the reason explained above, i.e. because Abraham and Sarah, who were the beginning of the Israelites more than the other Patriarchs, as they were the first of the Patriarchs, just as the Patriarchs are the absolute beginning, and therefore we specifically conclude with Abraham, as he is the beginning even relative to the other Patriarchs. Therefore, Abraham and Sarah were the beginning of everything. And because Abraham and Sarah were the beginning, they were not like other creatures. For the other creatures are created since the beginning of the six days of creation such that they beget offspring and are open for begetting offspring. However, the Israelite nation emerged from Abraham and Sarah, and this was something new. And it is known that God brings everything into being, and the fact that Abraham and Sarah were the beginning of the Israelite nation was something unique which had to be brought into being. Therefore, Abraham and Sarah were *tumtumim*, meaning that which is not actualized is considered sealed up, as it must be brought into being from its state of being sealed up. It is God Who brought it into being. And this is more than barren, for one who is barren did not beget offspring; whereas a *tumtum* is not capable of begetting offspring whatsoever, until God brought it into being.

**Maharal, *Yevamot* 64b, p. 143, s.v. *V’Rebbe Yirmiyah***

**And Rabbi Yirmiyah added that Sarah was an** ***Aylonit* [a woman with masculine traits]…** In addition, you should know that the man, the male, is the start. The female is not the start, but rather she is in the end and is only the complement of the male; and the completion [of something] is in the end. And since Sarah is entirely a beginning, as she is the beginning of the Matriarchs, she has the status of a beginning, and the male is the beginning; therefore, Sarah has the status of a male rather than a female. For this reason, they said that Sarah was an *Aylonit*, for a ram [*ayil*] is a male who does not give birth, and Sarah had this male aspect. And since a man and woman correspond to form and matter, as is known, and form is not effected whereas matter is; therefore, he said that Sarah was an *Aylonit*, which has the connotation of hardness and not being effected, like matter which is effected, and this was the case with Sarah. And this is all a function of the fact that she was the beginning, and the beginning relates to form, as opposed to matter which relates to the end. Therefore, Sarah was an *Aylonit* as she related to form. Understand these matters well.

(65b) And R. Ila’a said in the name of R. Elazar b. R. Simeon: Just as it is obligatory for one to say that which will be listened to etc.