

FROM CLENCHED FIST TO OPEN HAND

תְּנִי בְּשֵׁם רַבִּי מֵאִיר : כְּשֶׁאָדָם בָּא לְעוֹלָם יָדָיו הֵן קְפוּצוֹת
כְּלוּמֵר כָּל הָעוֹלָם כְּלוֹ שְׁלִי הוּא וְאֲנִי נוֹחֵלוּ וְכִשְׁהוּא נִפְטָר מִן
הָעוֹלָם יָדָיו הֵן פְּשׁוּטוֹת כְּלוּמֵר לֹא נִחַלְתִּי מִן הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה
כְּלוּם.

It was taught in the name of Rabbi Meir: When one comes into the world his hands are clenched as if to say: the whole world is mine and I will inherit it. And when one takes leave of the world his hands are open as if to say: I have not taken from this world a single thing.

Ecclesiastes Rabbah on 5:14

תְּנִי	It was taught
בְּשֵׁם	in the name of
רַבִּי מֵאִיר :	Rabbi Meir:
כְּשֶׁאָדָם בָּא	When one comes
לְעוֹלָם	into the world
יָדָיו הֵן קְפוּצוֹת	his hands are clenched
כְּלוּמֵר :	as if to say:
כָּל הָעוֹלָם כְּלוֹ	the whole world
שְׁלִי הוּא	is mine
וְאֲנִי נוֹחֵלוּ.	and I will inherit it.
וְכִשְׁהוּא נִפְטָר	And when one takes leave
מִן הָעוֹלָם	of the world
יָדָיו הֵן פְּשׁוּטוֹת	his hands are open
כְּלוּמֵר	as if to say:
לֹא נִחַלְתִּי	I have not taken
מִן הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה	from this world
כְּלוּם.	a single thing.