



Gematria - The Play of Holy Letters and Numbers

„For thousands of years, Jewish sages have taught that the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, the Aleph Beit, embody wonderful and miraculous powers. According to the earliest known book on Jewish mysticism, The Sefer Yetzirah (The Book of Creation), written more than fifteen centuries ago, God formed the entire universe through speaking aloud the twenty-two letters. Out of the nothingness of silence, with the vibration of God's cosmic utterances, all things spring to life. „God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light.““ (Richard Seidman: The oracle of Kabbalah).

According to Christian Kabbalah the universe was formed by sound vibration by the will of God. The holy letters symbolize this sound vibration. They are the building block of the universe analogous to the physical elements. The universe of Adam Kadmon which is the universe above Atzilut is formed by the 22 holy letters of the Hebrew alphabet and hints at this process. The Hebrew letters are archetypes. Each one expresses a specific primordial power. Each Hebrew letter is also a number, a symbol for special energies in creation and has a special position in the alphabet. For instance the letter Aleph, א, has the numerical value 1 and its literal meaning is „ox or bull“. Because of its first position it is also



called the master or leader of all the other letters. In this way it suggests the Holy One who is unique and is like the ox for man in former centuries the driving force, the life force in all of creation and the master of all.

The Zohar, the Book of Splendor, says about the letters: *“For when the world was created, it was the supernal letters that brought into being all the works of the lower world, literally after their pattern. Hence, whoever has a knowledge of them and is observant of them is beloved both on high and below.”*

The ten commandments in the Torah are also referred to as “the Ten Utterances”. The Zohar describes how the two tablets with the utterances were first created: *“When these letters came forth, they were all refined, carved precisely, sparkling, flashing. All of Israel saw the letters flying through space in every direction, engraving themselves on the tablets of stone.”*



Since the ancient Hebrew letters represent consonant sounds only, the vowels had to be added. Because of this each word or combination of letters can have a diversity of meanings.

"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-5)

Here the gospel of John speaks the truth that the energies of the Sefirot and the letters are all in Christ. It was Gods intention in the beginning of creation, that the human one comes into being and returns to union with God as the Messiah did. He was the first human being in this life wave here on earth who fulfilled God's intention perfectly . He became the first son of God and opened the way for us all to become sons and daughters of God, fulfilling something of this intention as well.



Together with creation the energies of the 22 letters come into being. They are everywhere in creation, around us and in us. Just like the physical elements are everywhere. Humankind has the power to affect the sacred letters. With the fall of Adam and Eve a process of involution begins. The energies of the letters are directed downward and outward. It is the beginning of the ignorance of our deep connection with the Holy One. But this step was necessary for our evolution.

It is said that Bezalel, the builder of the tabernacle in the wilderness, knew the art of combining the sacred letters. This allowed him to build this sanctuary for the Israelites in the wilderness. His knowledge arose from his communion with God. In our Christian Kabbalah it is clear that Adonai Yeshua had perfect knowledge of the holy letters. In the Gospel of John 2:19-21 we read *“19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.”* With these words Yeshua instructs us that our worship does not depend on a building outside from us, but that God is in us and that we are meant to become the



holy temple of God. This temple extends to all that we have here in this life: our homes and our material possessions. When we study the holy letter we are able to become conscious of their energies and direct them inward and upward, bringing forth something of our holy soul. It allows us to begin to build our holy temple.

The Holy Letters are Symbols for all Vibrations of the Light Continuum

Now we can have a closer look at the letters. You can find them in Tau Malachi's book "Gnosis of the Cosmic Christ", page 359. Here is a short overview:

Letter	Final Form	Names	Value	Value of Final Form	Meaning	Tarot Key
א		Aleph	1		Ox or Bull	Key 0: The Fool
ב		Bet	2		House	Key 1: The Magician

Letter	Final Form	Names	Value	Value of Final Form	Meaning	Tarot Key
ג		Gimel	3		Camel	Key 2: The High Priestess
ד		Dalet	4		Door	Key 3: The Empress
ה		Heh	5		Window	Key 4: The Emperor
ו		Vau	6		Nail or Hook	Key 5: The Hierophant
ז		Zayin	7		Sword	Key 6: The Lovers
ח		Het	8		Fence	Key 7: The Chariot
ט		Tet	9		Snake	Key 8: Strength
י		Yod	10		Hand	Key 9: The Hermit
כ	ך	Kaph	20	500	Grasping hand	Key 10: The Wheel of Fortune
ל		Lamed	30		Ox-goad	Key 11: Justice
מ	ם	Mem	40	600	Water	Key 12: The Hanged Man

Letter	Final Form	Names	Value	Value of Final Form	Meaning	Tarot Key
נ	ן	Nun	50	700	Fish	Key 13: Death
ס		Samek	60		Tent peg or prop	Key 14: Temperance
ע		Ayin	70		Eye	Key 15: The Devil
פ	ף	Peh	80	800	Mouth	Key 16: The Tower
צ	ץ	Tzaddi	90	900	Fishhook	Key 17: The Star
ק		Qoph	100		Back of the head	Key 18: The Moon
ר		Resh	200		Face	Key 19: The Sun
ש		Shin	300		Tooth or Fang	Key 20: Judgement
ת		Tau	400		Mark or Cross	Key 21: The World



The Letters

The order of the letters is fixed and has importance. The alphabet starts with Aleph א, which is the number 1. Oneness is the very nature of the Holy One, who is the beginning of everything. If we look at the shape of the letter closely, we can see א as consisting of the letter Vaw, 6, and two Yods, 10 + 10. This adds up to 26, the numerical value of Yahweh, Yod-He-Vaw-He, the great name of God, which is also Chokmah of Atzilut.

Words that start with the same letter may have similar energies. Think for example of the words for unity = Achad and love = Ahava. One is not possible without the other.

Numerical Values

Each letter has one or more numerical values. Words that have the same numerical values represent similar energies. The word for serpent, nechash has the numerical value 358. The word Messiah also has the numerical value 358. This suggests the same power, which is our desire energy. In the serpent



in Genesis it is directed downward and outward. In the Messiah it is directed inward and upward. In the Messiah the serpent power is uplifted.

Another example for the importance of numerical values is again the great name of God, Yahweh. As has been said earlier its numerical value adds up to 26. It is said in the Sophian tradition that the soul of the Messiah incarnated in 26 world systems before incarnating on earth. This suggests the fullness of experience of this soul in Yahweh, Abba, the father. The soul of the Messiah had reached enlightenment even before it entered this world system. Only such a great soul was ready to become the opener of the way here on earth in the Christian light stream.

Literal meaning

Each letter has a literal meaning. We can take Bet, ב, as an example. Its literal meaning is “house”. Richard Seidman wrote in the “Oracle of Kabbalah”: *“Beit means 'house of' and beiyit, its cousin with the same Hebrew root, means 'house' or home.” Beit is the first letter of the word brakha, “blessing.”*



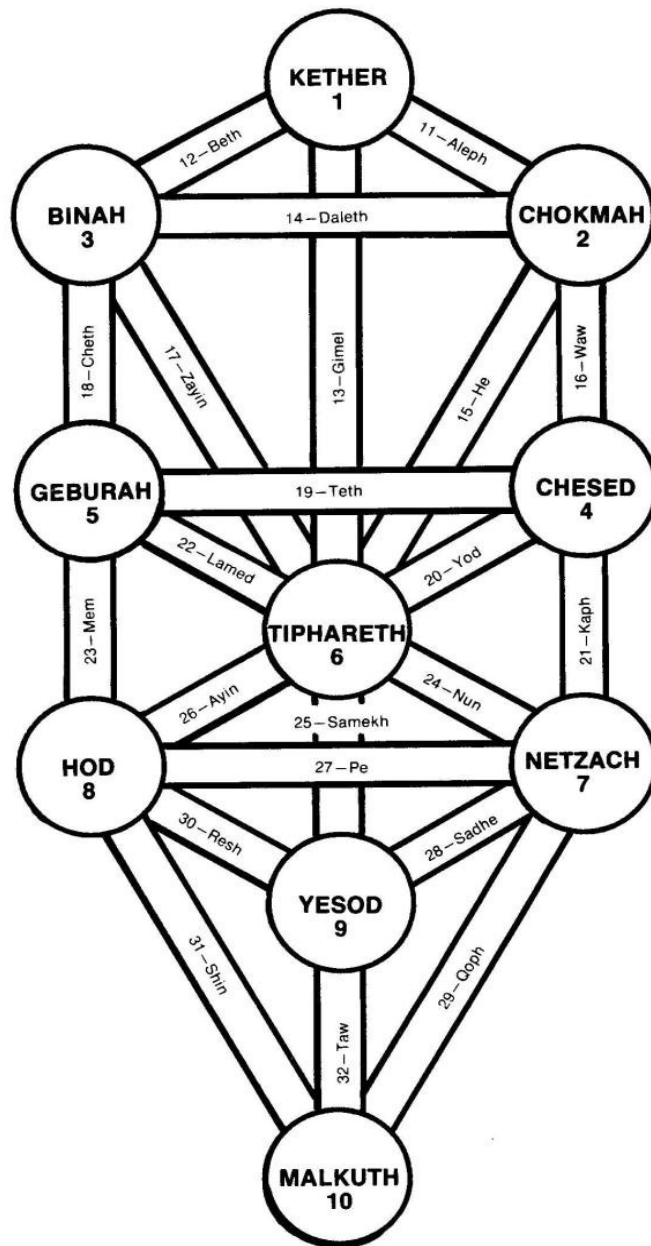
Beit, written large, is the very first letter of the Torah, bereishit - "In the beginning". The whole Torah thus begins with the energy of blessing and the shelter of a home."

The Tarot keys

To each Hebrew letter a Tarot key is attributed. It can be very good to meditate on the Tarot keys and learn about the energies of the letters in this way. For instance, the Tarot key 0, the fool, is attributed to א. The number of the key, 0, suggests something of the Ain nature of God.

The 32 path of Wisdom

In *The Sefer Yetzirah (The Book of Creation)*, the 10 sefirot and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet form the 32 path of wisdom. The first 10 paths are the sefirot themselves. The letters denote the paths that connect the sefirot. Each path hints at something of the energy of that specific Hebrew letter.





The Letter Aleph א - ox, the number 1, also wind, breath, mind, spirit

If we look at the 32 path of wisdom on the tree of life, א is the path between Kether and Chokmah. This points to an association with the life force. The literal meaning of א is ox or bull. Oxen were the most important animal in husbandry for many ages. They pulled the plow and carts. They were also a symbol of wealth. This again suggests the life force. The Hebrew word for life force, breath, spirit is Ruach. In the Sefer Yetzirah, the book of creation, Ruach is attributed to the letter Aleph.

א denotes God's oneness with its numerical value of one. The words for one, אחד, begins with it and so it stand for the central teaching of Judaism, the oneness of God. As the first letter in the alphabet it also stands for God's sovereignty. It is seen as more than the first letter. It is seen as the leader and master of the alphabet. It is the prime factor in the combinations and constellations of letters that form the elements of creation. The ten commandments start with this letter, beginning the word Anoki, I.



א has many mysteries. It shares the same root as eleph, 1000. 1000 denotes also a vastly large, innumerable quantity. With this the letter hints at the oneness and the numberlessness of God at the same time. The name for the sefirah Binah, Elohim, implies the one becoming many as well.

The letter א has no sound. This denotes Ain, the no-thingness from which everything is born.

How can we unite no-thingness, oneness and numberlessness in our lives? א provides the answer to this question. It is said to resemble the yoke of an ox. This reminds of Lord Yeshua's saying: "28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-29) As Tau Malachi shared recently, the way to unite these apparent opposites is in spiritual community, sacred ceremony, prayer and meditation, contemplation and in good works.