

The Hebrew alphabet is a very different type of structure than is the English alphabet. This is true not only concerning the shape of the letters and the sounds associated with them, but in the very nature and concept of the letters themselves. In the Hebrew alphabet the letters are much more discrete entities than are the English letters. Each Hebrew letter has, associated with it, a number and a definition of its own, as well as a written shape and a spoken sound. In Hebrew we may well have a linking between a modern phonetic alphabet and the ideographic systems of the past.

Hebrew letters have not only their standard numbers and definitions, but also a great many Qabalistic attributions have been added through the centuries to each of these letters. The shape of these letters, when meditated upon, can bring about a realization of many of these more obscure attributions. This is one of the reasons why we do not restructure the entire Qabalah into English. We can and should know the meaning of each word we use, but to restructure the Qabalah into an English system would mean the loss of a great many very important keys to the operation of the Forces and Powers which the Hebrew letters represent.

Like most things in the Qabalah the Hebrew alphabet works from the inside out. This means that until you commit the alphabet to memory it will not do very much for you. The attributions given on the sheet of the Hebrew alphabet should be memorized and you should be able to locate the letters on the Paths of the Tree of Life. Thus when we speak of the Path of Shin you should know that Shin is the 31st Path running from Hod to Malkuth and that it is the Mother letter of Fire, that it means tooth, its value is 300 and that its Tarot Key is Atu XX. the Last Judgement. When you get to the point where these correspondences arise automatically in your mind the Hebrew alphabet will be a working tool in your Qabalistic armamentarium.

The Hebrews used their letters for numbers as well, therefore, every Hebrew word can be assigned a numerical value. There is a part of the Qabalah which deals extensively with the numerical value of words and this plays an important part in some of the practical work with the Tree of Life.

The Hebrew alphabet falls into four important categories of letters, these are: (1) The three Mother letters: Aleph, Mem and Shin which are attributed to the Elements of Air, Water and Fire respectively. Note that there is no Hebrew letter attributed to the Element of Earth. On the Tree of Life Earth is always attributed to the Sephirah Malkuth at the bottom of the Middle Pillar. (2) The seven Double letters: Beth, Gimel, Daleth, Kaph, Peh, Resh and Tau. These seven Double letters are attributed to the seven planets known to the ancient world. (3) The twelve Single letters: Heh, Vau, Zain, Cheth, Teth, Yod, Lamed, Nun, Samekh, Ayin, Tzaddi and Qoph. These twelve Single letters are attributed to the Signs of the Zodiac. (4) Lastly, we have five of the above letters which are written differently when they appear at the end of a word. These are: Kaph, Mem, Nun, Peh and Tzaddi. These are called final

letters and they may have a higher numerical value when they appear at the end of a word than they do when they are written in the body of a word. These final values are seldom used, however, even when the letter appears at the end of a word. It seems that the use of these higher values was reserved for times when a Qabalist wanted to obtain a high numerical value for a given word.

Hebrew is written right to left and the letters should be carefully drawn. It should be noted here that Hebrew is not self pronouncing like English; in modern Hebrew this has been taken care of by the use of vowel points showing the pronunciation of any given word, this is, however, a modern invention and the Hebrew of the Qabalah is all unpointed. Fortunately it is not necessary to learn Hebrew in order to be a Qabalist. There are only a comparatively few words and phrases which must be learned in Hebrew, the rest of the material is in English.

It is of vital importance that one commit to memory the exact shape of each of the Hebrew letters so that you can draw them and recognize them in print. Many of these letters look very much like other letters in the Hebrew alphabet and it is vitally important to be able to tell which letter is which. Each letter has, in addition to its real numerical value, an extended value. This extended value is simply the value of the letter when it is spelled out in Hebrew. For example: The letter Aleph is spelled: Aleph, Lamed, Peh. $(\text{Aleph} + \text{Lamed} + \text{Peh}) = (1 + 30 + 80) = 111$. Thus we say that the extended value of Aleph is 111. These extended values are not of immediate importance, but I feel that you should have them for reference should you wish to take up the study of Qabalistic Numerology. Do not confuse these extended values with the real values of the letters as given in the attribution chart. When the spelling of a given Hebrew letter ends in one of the five final letters two extended values will be given. The first of these will use the regular value for the final letter; the second will use the higher final value for the final letter.

One last point should be made concerning the value of the Hebrew letters. It will be noted that the value of the first ten letters increases by units, the value of the second ten letters increases by tens while the last four letters and the final values increase by increments of hundreds giving Tzaddi final the highest value of 900. This scale of numeration is continued by writing desired letters larger than the other letters in the text. Thus when we come across an out-sized Aleph, for example, we would give it a value of 1000, an out-sized Beth would equal 2000 while an extra large Cheth would equal 8000.

When writing the Hebrew letters two text lines should be considered: The bottom text line upon which the bottom line or base of most of the letters rest and the top text line, or the highest point of most of the Hebrew letters. Note that with the single exception of Mem final all of the final forms of the letters fall below the bottom text line.

Notes on the Hebrew Letters

Aleph



The first letter in the Hebrew alphabet is Aleph. Aleph is shaped somewhat like a swastika and it is not too easy to mistake for any of the other letters. On the Tree of Life the Path of Aleph runs from Kether to Chokmah. Aleph: (Aleph + Lamed + Peh) = 111 or 831.

Beth



The second letter is Beth. Note the broad line at the top tapering off on the right as it nears the base; note also that the base line projects slightly past the vertical line. On the Tree Beth is the Path between Kether and Binah. Beth: (Beth + Yod + Tau) = 412.

Gimel



Gimel, the third letter, is narrower than the previous letters, but of the same height. Notice the small rectangular base connects with the vertical line only at the upper corner. The Path of Gimel runs from Kether to Tiphareth. Gimel: (Gimel + Mem + Lamed) = 73.

Daleth



Daleth, the fourth letter, is the same width as Aleph and Beth. Note the thick upper line which projects slightly beyond the finer vertical line on the right. On the Tree the Path of Daleth runs between Chokmah and Binah. Daleth: (Daleth + Lamed + Tau) = 434.

Heh



Heh, the fifth letter, is the same width and height as Daleth. Note that the right-hand vertical line is a continuation of the thick upper line, but that the left-hand stroke of the letter is slightly separated from the upper horizontal line. On the Tree the Path of Heh runs between Chokmah and Tiphareth. Heh: (Heh + Heh) = 10.

Vau



Vau, the sixth letter, and Zain which follows it are narrow letters and should not be confused. Note that Vau has an almost straight upright which joins the top on the right-hand side. On the Tree the Path of Vau runs between Chokmah and Chesed. Vau: (Vau + Vau) = 12.

Zain ז

Zain, the seventh letter, has a more curved upright than that of Vau and this upright connects with the top stroke at the center. The Path of Zain runs between Binah and Tiphareth. Zain: (Zain + Yod + Nun) = 67 or 718.

Cheth ח

Cheth, the eighth letter, is pronounced Heth. Cheth looks very much like the letter Heh, but notice the slight projection of the upper line to the right and the fact that the left vertical line meets the upper line. On the Tree the Path of Cheth runs from Binah to Geburah. Cheth: (Cheth + Yod + Tau) = 418.

Teth ט

Teth, the ninth letter, looks like the serpent for which it stands symbolically. Teth is often confused with Mem, but notice that Teth is open at the top while Mem is open at the lower left corner. On the Tree the Path of Teth runs from Chesed to Geburah. Teth: (Teth + Yod + Tau) = 419.

Yod י

Yod, the tenth letter, is the basic flame form from which come many of the characteristic parts of other Hebrew letters. Yod is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet and it is written to come up to the top text line. The Path of Yod runs from Chesed to Tiphareth. Yod: (Yod + Vau + Daleth) = 20.

Kaph כ

Kaph final ך

Kaph is the eleventh letter in the Hebrew alphabet and the first of the letters which has a final form. Kaph looks very much like the letter Beth, but note that Kaph is formed from one continuous curve and there is no projection of the base line to the right. On the Tree the Path of Kaph runs from Chesed to Netzach. Kaph: (Kaph + Peh) = 100 or 820.

Lamed ל

Lamed, the twelfth letter, is somewhat taller than most of the letters. The thin uppermost line over the heavy horizontal line goes above the upper text line. On the Tree of Life the Path of Lamed runs from Geburah to Tiphareth. Lamed: (Lamed + Mem + Daleth) = 74.


Mem מ

Mem final ם

Mem, the thirteenth letter, is often mistaken for the letter Teth, but note that Mem is open at the lower left corner and closed at the top. Mem final looks very much like the letter Samekh but note that the base of Mem final

is squared off while the base of Samekh is under-cut. Mem final is sometimes written in an oblong fashion so as not to confuse it with Samekh. The Path of Mem runs from Geburah to Hod. Mem: (Mem + Yod + Mem) = 90 or 650.


Nun 

Nun final 

Nun, the fourteenth letter, is easily mistaken for Gimel. Note, however, that the base and the upright form one continuous curve. Nun is also mistaken for Kaph but it is much narrower than Kaph. The final form of Nun is often mistaken for Vau, but Nun final is much longer than Vau and falls below the lower text line. On the Tree the Path of Nun runs between Tiphareth and Netzach. Nun: (Nun + Vau + Nun) = 106 or 756.


Samekh 

Samekh, the fifteenth letter, is easily mistaken for Mem final. Note, however, that the lower right corner of Samekh is rounded or under-cut, while that of Mem final is square. On the Tree the Path of Samekh runs from Tiphareth to Yesod. Samekh: (Samekh + Mem + Kaph) = 120 or 600.


Ayin 


Ayin, the sixteenth letter, is sometimes mistaken for Tzaddi. Note that the base of Ayin is on the diagonal and goes below the lower text line. On the Tree of Life the Path of Ayin runs between Tiphareth and Hod. Ayin: (Ayin + Yod + Nun) = 130 or 780.

Peh 

Peh final 

Peh, the seventeenth letter, runs between Netzach and Hod on the Tree. Peh: (Peh + Heh) = 85.

Tzaddi 

Tzaddi final 

Tzaddi, the eighteenth letter, is sometimes mistaken for Ayin. Note that in Tzaddi the bottom line is straight and then curves into a diagonal upright. On the Tree of Life the Path of Tzaddi runs between Netzach and Yesod. Tzaddi: (Tzaddi + Daleth + Yod) = 104.

Qoph 

Qoph, the nineteenth letter, is larger than most of the other letters and falls below the lower text line. On the Tree the Path of Qoph runs between Netzach and Malkuth. Qoph: (Qoph + Vau + Peh) = 186 or 906.

Resh 

Resh, the Twentieth letter, is sometimes mistaken for Daleth. Note, however, that the upright and the top line join in one continuous curve without any projection of the top line. On the Tree the Path of Resh runs between Hod and Yesod. Resh: (Resh + Yod + Shin) = 510.

Shin 

Shin, the twenty-first letter, is unlikely to be mistaken for any other letter. On the Tree of Life the Path of Shin runs from Hod to Malkuth. Shin: (Shin + Yod + Nun) = 360 or 1010.

Tau 










Tau, the twenty-second letter, is sometimes mistaken for Heh or Cheth, but notice that the left upright ends in a distinct foot and that it joins the heavy top line. It should be noted that the meaning of Tau is a special form of the cross called the Egyptian Tau Cross. On the Tree the Path of Tau runs between Yesod and Malkuth. Tau: (Tau + Vau) = 406.

SOME IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEBREW ALPHABET

Letter Name	Hebrew Script	Path No.	Kind	Symbol	Meaning	Value	ATU No.	Name of Tarot Trump
A Aleph	א	11	M	Air	Ox Plough	1	0	The Fool
B Beth	ב	12	D	Mercury	House	2	I	The Magus
G Gimel	ג	13	D	The Moon	Camel	3	II	The High Priestess
D Daleth	ד	14	D	Venus	Door	4	III	The Empress
H He	ה	15	S	Aries	Window	5	IV	The Emperor
O, U, V Vau	ו	16	S	Taurus	Nail	6	V	The Hierophant
Z Zayin	ז	17	S	Gemini	Sword Armour	7	VI	The Lovers
Ch Cheth	ח	18	S	Cancer	Fence Enclosure	8	VII	The Chariot
T Teth	ט	19	S	Leo	Serpent	9	VIII	Strength
Y Yod	י	20	S	Virgo	Hand	10	IX	The Hermit
K, Kh Kaph	כ	21	D	Jupiter	Palm of Hand	20 500	X	Wheel of Fortune
L Lamed	ל	22	S	Libra	Ox-goad	30	XI	Justice
M Mem	מ	23	M	Water	Water	40 600	XII	The Hanged Man
N Nun	נ	24	S	Scorpio	Fish	50 700	XIII	Death
S Samekh	ס	25	S	Sagittarius	Prop	60	XIV	Temperance
Aa, Ngh Ayin	ע	26	S	Capricorn	Eye	70	XV	The Devil
P, Ph Peh	פ	27	D	Mars	Mouth	80 800	XVI	The Blasted Tower
Tz Tzaddi	צ	28	S	Aquarius	Fish-hook	90 900	XVII	The Star
Q Qoph	ק	29	S	Pisces	Back of Head	100	XVIII	The Moon
R Resh	ר	30	D	Sun	Head	200	XIX	The Sun
Sh Shin	ש	31	M	Fire	Tooth	300	XX	Last Judgment
T, Th Tau	ת	32	D	Saturn	Tau (Egyptian)	400	XXI	The Universe










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ALEPH	BEITH or VEITH.	GHIMEL	DALLET	HAY	VAV or WAW	ZAYN	HHAYT	TAYT.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9










TENS..

UNITS. ↑

								
YOD	KAF or KHAF.	LAMED	MEM	NOUN	SAMMEKH	AYN	PAY or PHAY	TSADDE.
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90

HUNDREDS. ↓

THE FINALS...

								
QOF	RAYSH	SHEEN	TAV	KHAF final	MEM final	NOUN final	PHAY final	TSADDE final.
100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900

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WELLS OF POWER

Sign	Name in Hebrew	Divine Name	Archangel	Angel	Angel ruling the House corresponding	Decan	Angel ruling Decan	Angel ruling Quinance
♋	מלה	יהוה	מלכיראל	שרהיאל	איאל	♂	זור	והואל
						☉	כההמי	דניאל
						♀	ספנדר	חחשית
♌	שור	יהוה	אסמודאל	ארזיאל	טואל	♁	בנדמדוי	עמסיה
						☾	סנהראי	ננאיל
						♋	יסננון	ניתאל
♍	תאומים	יוהח	אסכריאל	סריאל	ניאל	♎	סגרש	סכהיה
						♏	סגרש	טויאל
						♐	שהדני	נמסיה
						♑	כיתור	יאלאל
						♒		תרחאל
						♓		מצראל
								ומבאל
								יההאל
								ענואל
								מחיאל
								דמכיה
								מנקאל

Sign	Name in Hebrew	Divine Name	Archangel	Angel	Angel ruling the House corresponding	Decan	Angel ruling Decan	Angel ruling Quinance
♎	סרטן	הוהי	סוריאל	פכיאל	כעאל	♀	סטרואש	איאל
						♁	רהדע	חבויה
						☾	אלינכיר	ראהאל
♏	אויח	הויה	ורכיאל	שרמיאל	עזאל	♋	לופנהר	יכמיה
						♌	זחעי	הויאל
						♍	סהיכה	מומיה
♐	כתולה	ההוי	הסליאל	שלתיאל	ויאל	♎	אננאורה	והויה
						♏	ראיהיה	יליאל
						♐	מספר	מיטאל
								עלסיה
								סהשיה
								ללהאל
								אכיאח
								כהתאל
								הויאל
								אלדיח
								לאויה
								חהעיה

Sign	Name in Hebrew	Divine Name	Archangel	Angel	Angel ruling the House corresponding	Decan	Angel ruling Decan	Angel ruling Quinance
♋	סאונים	והיה	זוריאל	חדקיאל	יהאל	☾	טרסני	יולאל
						♃	סהרנץ	מכהאל
						♄	שחדר	הריאל
♌	עקרב	והתי	ברכיאל	סאיציאל	מוסול	♂	כמוץ	הקסית
						☉	נינדוהר	לאויח
						♀	נתרודיאל	כליאל
♍	קשת	ויהה	אדוכיאל	ססקיאל	סויעסאל	♃	משרית	לוויח
						☾	והרין	פחליח
						♃	אבוהא	נלכאל

Sign	Name in Hebrew	Divine Name	Archangel	Angel	Angel ruling the House corresponding	Decan	Angel ruling Decan	Angel ruling Quinance
♎	נדוי	היהו	הנאל	סריטיאל	כשניעיה	♄	מסנין	לככאל
						♂	יסיסיה	ושריה
						☉	יסנדיברודיאל	יחויח
♏	דלי	היוה	כאמבריאל	צכמקיאל	אנסואל	♀	סספס	להחיה
						♀	אכדרון	כוקיח
						☾	נרודיאל	פנדאל
♐	דנים	ההיו	אמניציאל	וכביאל	פשיאל	♃	כהלמי	אניאל
						♄	אורון	חעסיה
						♂	סטריף	רהעאל