

Glossary Kabbalistic of Terms

Abyss: refers to the Sefirah Knowledge/First on the Fallen Tree; also called “Face of the Deep.”

Acharit (Hebrew: The Last): the fourth and final Celestial Head of Moshiach L’YHWH corresponding to the filter of the letter Tav.

Adam Kadmon: anthropomorphic allusion to Vast Face as the Celestial Man “created (i.e. World of B’riyah) in the image of *Elohim*”; depicted in Merkabah literature as riding upon the Celestial Chariot, or seated upon the Throne of *El Shaddai*. Adam, as the archetype of the first man in the Garden of Eden, reflects the male aspect of Small Face in the Lower World of Yetzirah, with Chawah (Eve) representing the feminine aspect of Small Face as the energy of consciousness. With the allusion of the eating of the apple of the knowledge of good and evil, the action drops down into the World of Asiyah, and consciousness becomes dualistic.

Adonai (Hebrew: My Master): a principal Name of Small Face in the Kabbalah.

Affirmation of Unity: refers to the proclamations of the absolute unity of existence at the foundation of Judaism. In Judaism, it is the verse in the *Torah* known as the “*Shema*.”

Alef of Unity: Small Face; the Word of Elohim manifest in Sefirah Knowledge/First and unmanifest in the negatively-existent roots of the Tree.

Alef Worlds: unmanifest witness states of Vast Face in Sefirah Crown/Above.

Angelic Tree Language: an array of Fallen and Perfect Trees of Life sourced in the *Sefer HaShmoth*, so-named because angels are said to see humans as “walking Trees”; also called Enochian Tree Language.

Asiyah (World of Activity, Making): the fourth and densest of the four Kabbalistic worlds, rooted in the Sefirah Knowledge/First and associated with the Nefesh.

Atiq (Hebrew: Hidden One): a prominent Name of Vast Face in the Kabbalah.

Atziluth (World of Emanation): the first and most sublime of the four Kabbalistic worlds, rooted in the Sefirah Crown/Above and the letter Yod in the Name YHWH, and associated with the Neshamah; also called the Supernal World.

Avir (Hebrew: Air, Atmosphere): element corresponding to the Mother Letter Alef, and with the “Father” Space.

Avodah (Hebrew: Worship, Prayer): directed prayer.

Ayn (Hebrew: Nothing): deepest of the three negatively-existent roots of the Tree of Life.

Ayn Sof (Hebrew: Endless): second of the three negatively-existent roots of the Tree of Life.

Ayn Sof Or (Hebrew: Endless Light or Light of the Endless): third of the three negatively-existent roots of the Tree of Life.

B’rakha (Hebrew: Blessing): direct spiritual transmission in the Kabbalah.

B’rith Yachid (Hebrew: Covenant of Unity): an appellation of Small Face in the World of Atziluth in the center of the Inner Court of the three-dimensional Perfect Tree in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

B’riyah (Hebrew: World of Creation): second of the four Kabbalistic worlds, a formless world of vibrational signatures. Rooted in the supernal Sefirah Wisdom/East and the Upper Heh in the Name YHWH.

Bar Mitzvah (Hebrew: “Son of Righteous Action”): Yisraelite rite of passage generally occurring at age 13, when a youth intones the blessings and reads from the *Torah* for the first time before the congregation; said to be “nachus” (i.e. a gift from the youth to his/her parents).

Battle: a meditation image from the *Sefer Yetzirah* depicting a state of tension between the two aspects of each Double Letter, and between six pairs of Simple Letters.

Beard of Small Face: an image which comes from the *Sifra Detzniyutha* involving nine strands of convoluting Names emanating from the letter Alef.

Beard of Vast Face: an image which comes from the *Sifra Detzneyutha* involving nine strands of convoluting Names emanating from the letter Ayin.

Beyt Worlds: worlds of manifestation in Small Face.

Binah (Hebrew: Understanding): Zoharic name for the third Sefirah at the top of the Column of the Left on the Tree, supernal root of the World of Yetzirah; also called Sefirah North in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Borders: a descriptive term for the Simple Letters in the *Sefer Yetzirah* as the peripheral gates that connect the Directional Sefiroth to one another.

Central Column: the middle pillar of the Tree of Life, described as a clear mirror in which the two side columns are polar reflections.

Chasidim: mystically oriented sect of Rabbinical Jews tracing its origin to Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, known as the “Baal Shem Tov.”

Chayah (Hebrew: Holy Being, pl. Chayot): angelic allusion corresponding to the action of the six Directional Sefiroth on the Chariot Shaddai Tree.

Clear Mirror: non-mediated perception of and communication with Divinity; a term for the Central Column of the Tree of Life.

Cloudy Mirror: Zoharic term referring to a level of psychic mediation.

Column of the Right: masculine side pillar of the flat version of the Tree of Life, one of two polar opposite reflections in the clear mirror of the Central Column.

Column of the Left: feminine side pillar of the flat version of the Tree of Life, one of two polar opposite reflections in the clear mirror of the Central Column.

Composite Tree: Fallen Tree upon which has been placed all of the gate patterns from all the different paths of ascension; not in itself a working path.

Da’ath (Hebrew: Knowledge, Realization): Sefirah at the throat center on the Kabbalistic Tree.

Devekut (Hebrew: Cleaving, Adhering): Kabbalistic meditation.

Directional Sefiroth: the six Sefiroth assigned to the six directions of above, below, east, west, north, and south in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Double Letters: term for the seven Hebrew letters which have two different pronunciations and aspects that are portrayed in a state of polar tension in the image of “The Wall” in the *Sefer Yetzirah*. These letters link the Directional Sefiroth to the Inner Court of the Tree.

Elohim (Hebrew: Mighty One): creative aspect of Small Face. The term is both singular and plural.

Esh (Hebrew: Fire): element corresponding to the Mother Letter Shin, the father Energy, and a name for the second Sefirah on the Column of the Left in the flat version of the Tree in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Etz HaChayyim (Hebrew: Tree of Life): a map of consciousness through the four Kabbalistic worlds, comprised of ten spheres connected by a total of twenty-two gates, and rooted in a negatively-existent substratum. A book dictated by Rabbi Yitzhak Luria to his student Chayyim Vital.

Everlasting Arms: a descriptive term for the Simple Letters in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Eye of Hashmal: term for Vast Face in the *Idra Rabba*.

Ezra Hebrew: the alphabet devised in the fifth century BCE and attributed to Ezra, which replaced the original Sinatic Hebrew alphabet as the script in which the *TaNak* is written.

Face-to-Face: a phrase in the *Sifra Detzneyutha* describing the condition whereby Small Face turns inward to Vast Face and the Small Face universe disappears.

Fallen Tree: in Angelic Tree Language, a form of the Tree of Life in which the Sefirah Knowledge/First is invisible as an Abyss, and appears to have “fallen” into position as the Sefirah Kingdom.

Fall of Adam: fall from unitive to dualistic consciousness, the fall of the Sefirah Knowledge/First into position as the Sefirah Kingdom.

Galgolim (Hebrew: Wheels): Kabbalistic term the rotation (or migration) of the Geviah through successive physical bodies (Nefesh) in the World of Asiyah.

Gan Eden (Hebrew: Garden of Eden): an archetype and an idyllic place in Sefirah Beauty/The Last in the World of Yetzirah.

Gan Eden Alphabet: the source alphabet in the astral World of Yetzirah from which differentiate both the Hebrew and Sanskrit alphabets in the World of Asiyah.

Gate: a passageway associated with one of the Hebrew letters that connects one Sefirah to another on the Tree of Life.

Gate of the Alef: letter-gate that crosses the Abyss of the invisible Sefirah Knowledge/First on the Fallen Tree, and which connects the Sefirah Beauty/The Last to the visible Sefirah Knowledge/First on the Perfect Tree and “straight is gate and narrow is the way” in the *Peshitta*.

Gate of the Beyt: the letter-gate into the World of B’riyah, and the Beyt Worlds that falls when Sefirah Knowledge/First becomes Sefirah Kingdom. This gate connects Sefirah Kingdom to Sefirah Foundation/Below on the Fallen Tree, and Sefirah Knowledge/First to Sefirah Crown/Above on the Perfect Tree.

Gate of the Gimel: letter-gate that connects Sefirah Foundation/Below to Sefirah Beauty/The Last along the Central Column; described as the mirror of the “Watcher on the Threshold.”

Gemara (Hebrew: Traditions): dialectics regarding the interpretations of the written law in the *Mishnah*, subsequently redacted into the *Talmud*.

Gematria (Hebrew): a type of Kabbalistic numerology.

Geviyah (Hebrew): name of the shell of embodied existence corresponding to the astral World of Yetzirah.

Halacha (Hebrew: Adopted Opinions, Religious Rules): traditional interpretations and applications of the written law, specifically the *Torah*.

HaShem (Hebrew: “The Name”): a shortened form of Shem HaMeforesh (lit. “Name of Brilliant Fire”), an appellation for the Name YHWH.

Heads of Moshiach: four aspects of Messiah L’YHWH corresponding respectively to the four Sefiroth of the Inner Court of the Tree, and to the three Mother Letters and the Tav of the Holy Temple.

Hitbonenuth (Hebrew): Chasidic contemplative practice of directed concentration.

Hochmah (Hebrew: Wisdom): a supernal Sefirah at the top of the Column of the Right on the Tree of Life; supernal root of the World of B’riyah. Corresponds to Upper Heh in Name YHWH.

Holy Temple: a synonym for the Double Letter Tav and the Inner Court Sefirah Last in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Idra Rabba Qadusha (Hebrew: Greater Holy Assembly): name of one of the three core texts of the *Sefer HaZohar*, and a term for all ten Sefiroth of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life.

Idra Zuta Qadusha (Hebrew: Lesser Holy Assembly): name of one of the three core texts of the *Sefer HaZohar*, and a term for the seven upper Sefiroth of the Tree.

Inner Court: a term for the four Sefiroth at the center of the three-dimensional form of the Tree of Life, two of which move into the side columns on the flat version of the Tree.

Kalah (Hebrew: Bride): a synonym for Shechinah as the Bride of the Lord YHWH on Shabbat.

Kav (Hebrew: Line of Light): synonym for the Central Column in the Lurianic description of the emanation of the Tree in the *Etz HaChayyim*.

Kavanah (Hebrew: Intention): focused intention within the context of spiritual practice.

Kerubim (Hebrew): high class of angels who guard the Throne of Shaddai in the Merkabah Tree.

Keter (Hebrew: Crown): the uppermost Sefirah on the Tree of Life. Corresponds to the center on the top of the head.

Ketuvim (Hebrew: Writings): the books which comprise the Writings in the *TaNak*.

Kohan (Hebrew: Priest): a member of the Israelite priesthood who enacted the rituals in the Temples of Jerusalem.

Leviathan (Hebrew: Behemoth): fence of Vast Face portrayed as a snake-devouring-its-tail around the circumference of the Tzimtzum.

Lo (Hebrew: NOT): a synonym for the Ayn, referring to the negatively-existent Mysterious Unknown at the Roots of All Things.

Ma'aseh Bereshith (Hebrew: Work of Creation): Kabbalistic secrets regarding the generation of the Creation by the Divine.

Ma'aseh Merkabah (Hebrew: Work of the Chariot): Kabbalistic secrets regarding the Tree of Life as the Divine Chariot; also, a general term for esoteric speculations.

Moshiach (Hebrew: Anointed One): at the level of Vast Face, the Celestial Heads of Small Face by which the Creation is manifested, maintained, and dissolved. At the level of Small Face, the play of the Divine in human form as World Teacher to renew the spiritual transmission of the absolute unity of the Divine and the primacy of love, discrimination, and selfless service as the means for spiritual awakening.

Malkut (Hebrew: Kingdom): name for the lowest Sefirah on the Kabbalistic Fallen Tree. The fallen form of the Sefirah Knowledge/First, and the waking state in most humans. This Sefirah is associated with the Shechinah in exile.

Mayim (Hebrew): the element of water corresponding to the Mother Letter Mem.

Mazel (Hebrew: Fate): the law of cause and effect.

Menorah (Hebrew): candle holder used during the eight days of Chanukah, symbolizing the Tree of Life.

Merkabah (Hebrew: Chariot): an allusion to the Tree of Life in general, and especially the Sefiroth of the Inner Court.

Metatron (Hebrew): name given to Moshiach, the Son of Yah.

Mishnah (Hebrew: Oral Teaching): a collection of oral laws redacted in the two versions of the *Talmud*.

Mitzvah (Hebrew): meritorious deeds, righteous acts for a religious purpose in accordance with the precepts of the *Torah*.

Mother Letters: a designation for the three letters Alef, Mem, and Shin in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Nevi'im (Hebrew: Prophets): the books containing the writings of the Prophets in the *TaNak*.

Nar (Hebrew: "The Youth"): a name for Metatron.

Nefesh (Hebrew): the physical shell of embodied existence in the World of Asiyah.

Neshamah (Hebrew: Soul): the shell of embodied existence in the World of Atziluth.

Neshamah HaNeshamah (Hebrew: Soul of the Soul): negatively-existent shell corresponding to consciousness in the roots of the Tree.

Ofanim (Hebrew): high class of angles on the Merkabah Tree of Chariot Shaddai.

Olam (Hebrew: World): one of four planes of existence in the Kabbalah.

Omehq (Hebrew: Depth): appellation for the Atziluthic Sefiroth in the *Sefer Yetzirah* e.g. Depth of First, Depth of Last.

Open Gate: appellation for the Central Column of the Tree in general, and the Gate of the Gimel in particular.

Organ of the Tongue: a term for the Alef of Unity, and the root of Small Face in the throat center of the Sefirah Knowledge/First in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Organ of Nakedness: a term for the Ayin of Vast Face in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Paniel (Hebrew: Face of El): name of Vast Face, the angel with whom Ya'akov wrestled in the *Torah*.

Partzufim (Hebrew: Veils, Curtains, Faces): a term prominent in Lurianic teachings for Vast Face, Ancient Father, Ancient Mother, Small Face, and the Shekinah. Correspond to the letters in the Name YHWH and the four Kabbalistic worlds.

Parush (Hebrew: Withdraw): root of the word Pharisee i.e. one who withdraws from the world in pious isolation.

Pesach (Hebrew: Passover): a ritual delineated in *Torah HaShmoth* that, in its exoteric aspect, portrays the night the Angel of Death "passed over" i.e. spared the first-born children of the Yisraelites preceding the release from Egyptian slavery.

Pharisees (Hebrew): Rabbinical Jewish sect that opposed the priesthood and the Sadducees and eventually assimilated orthodox authority after the Diaspora. The Pharisees maintained that, in addition to the written *Torah*, Elohim had handed down an oral tradition at Mount Sinai. They believed that the soul was immortal and that all actions in this world affected the person's future in the World to Come.

Qlifah (Hebrew: Shell, pl. Qlifoth): shell of embodied existence corresponding to a respective Kabbalistic world or plane of existence.

Reshith (Hebrew: The First): one of the four Celestial Heads of Messiah associated with the manifestation of the Small Face universe; name for the throat Sefirah in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Ruach (Hebrew: Spirit, Vital Energy): term used in the *Sefer Yetzirah* to denote both the pervasive consciousness of Elohim.

Ruach HaKodesh (Hebrew: Holy Spirit): the shell of embodied existence corresponding to the World of B'riyah.

Sadducees (Hebrew): one of the groups who vied for power during the Hasmonean period. They viewed the priests as the only authoritative representatives of Jewish law, did not believe in the immortality of the soul, and denied that there was a divine reward/punishment system in a life after this life.

Sefer Yetzirah (Hebrew: Book of Formation): book on the mystical significance of the Hebrew letters written by Abraham.

Sefer HaZohar (Hebrew: Book of Splendor): name of a five volume exegesis on the *Torah*.

Sefirah (Hebrew: Sphere, pl. Sefiroth): one of ten stations on the Kabbalistic Tree of Life.

Septuagint: Greek translation of the *TaNak*.

Shabbat (Hebrew: Sabbath): the wedding day of YHWH and the Shechinah; the day of rest and celebration.

Shechinah (Hebrew: Divine Presence, Neighborhood): a central Name for the feminine aspect as the energy of consciousness of YHWH, associated with the Lower Heh in the Name YHWH and the Sefirah Kingdom.

Shell of Terror: a term for the experience of “getting close to the Throne” i.e. to the awesome power of Small Face, when moving through the Gate of the Alef toward the Abyss of the invisible Sefirah Knowledge/First.

Shem HaMeforesh (Hebrew: “Name of Brilliant Fire”): an appellation of the Name YHWH, reflecting its appearance as dancing letters of fire.

Sheol (Hebrew): a central name for Kabbalistic hells.

Shevarit HaKelim (Hebrew: “Shattering of the Vessels”): a central tenet in Lurianic Kabbalah which says that at the moment of Creation, there was an explosion which shattered the Totality into holy sparks which will reunite over time.

Sh'ir Qoma (Hebrew: “Measure of the Divine Body”): synonym for the Yosher form of the Name YHWH; name of a section in the *Sefer Razi'el HaGadol*.

Simple Letters: the twelve Hebrew letters that link the Directional Sefiroth to one another in the *Sefer Yetzirah*.

Sinatic Hebrew: original Hebrew alphabet that appeared circa nineteenth century BCE.

Small Face: God with attributes; active aspect of the Ayn that manifests, preserves, and dissolves universes; in Hebrew, Ze'ir Afim or Ze'ir Anafin.

Sunset: a meditation image in the *Sefer Yetzirah*, which includes all of the correlations for the 22 letters of the alphabet contained in the text.

Talmud (Hebrew): two sets of books, one called *Talmud Babli* and the other *Talmud Yerushalmi*, which contain the redactions of the halachic dialectics of the early rabbis

TaNak (Hebrew): acronym for *Torah* (The Law), *Nevi'im* (Prophets), and *Ketuvim* (Writings).

Tefillin (Hebrew: Phylacteries): two sets of small boxes within which there are partitions containing small scrolls bearing verses from the Torah, and most notably, the Shema. Yisraelites affix the tefillin to their foreheads and left arms several times daily within the context of daily prayers.

Torah (Hebrew: Instruction): the Scriptures.

Torah Qadmah (Hebrew: Eternal *Torah*): unmanifest, supernal Torah in the Upper Worlds.

Tree of Perfection (also Perfect Tree): several types of Trees in Angelic Tree Language in which the Sefirah Knowledge/First is visible, and in which there is no Sefirah Kingdom.

Trigram: glyph composed of three solid or broken lines. The eight permutations of the solid and broken lines correlate to the Directional Sefiroth plus two of the Sefiroth from the Inner Court (Water and Fire) on the Kabbalistic Tree of Life

Tzaddik (Hebrew: Saint, pl. Tzedukim): an awakened servant of YHWH who has ascended the Tree via the Path of the Saint. A Kabbalistic tradition says that “36 Righteous Tzedukim” are the foundation of the world.

Tzimtzum (Hebrew: Contraction): an envacuous circular area from which the Light of the Endless has been withdrawn, wherein the Tree of Life is emanated and the Small Face universe is manifested; a central idea of Lurianic cosmology derived from the *Sefer HaZohar* and presented in the *Etz HaChayyim*.

Upper Light: synonym for the Ayn Sof Or (Light of the Endless) in the *Etz HaChayyim*.

Vast Face: Elohim without attributes; inactive aspect of the Ayn in the Mystical Kabbalah; in Hebrew, Arikh Afim or Arikh Anafin.

Wall: a meditation image in the *Sefer Yetzirah* involving all possible permutations of pairs of Hebrew letters in forward and reverse order, yielding a total of 462 combinations.

Way of the Angels of Destruction: a Working Tree that involves the exclusive use of the Column of the Left.

Way of the Angels of Elohim: a Working Tree that involves the exclusive use of the Column of the Right.

Way of Messiah: a Working Tree which requires an overwhelming love and one-pointed devotion for a form of Messiah or the *Torah*. In ascending the Central Column, when the heart Sefirah Beauty/Last awakens, the entire Tree lights up.

Way of YHWH Eloheinu: a Working Tree that involves the exclusive use of the Central Column.

Weight: collective term used by the *Sifra Detzneyutha* for the balanced tension among all the Sefiroth on the Tree of Life.

Working Tree: a synonym for the Fallen Tree in Angelic Tree Language; a specific way that the Tree is ascended.

Yechidah (Hebrew: Unity): term for the negatively-existent roots of the Tree; alternative name for the Neshamah HaNeshamah.

Yetzirah (Hebrew: Formation): one of the four Kabbalistic worlds, rooted in the supernal Sefirah Understanding/North; the astral plane; the yang aspect of the Name YHWH in the Lower Worlds. Corresponds to the letter Vav in the Name YHWH.

YHWH (Hebrew: “He/She/It will be”): the principal Name of Small Face in the Mystical Kabbalah, and the holiest Divine Name in the Scriptures.

Yosher (Hebrew: Upright): vertical, highly anthropomorphic version of the Name YHWH.

Zakhor (Hebrew: Remembrance): the Kabbalistic practice of the repetition of Divine Names.