

SEFER YETZIRAH 1.5



משנה ה': עשר ספירות בלימה מדתן עשר שאין להם סוף
עומק ראשית ועומק אחרית עומק טוב ועומק רע עומק רום ועומק
תחת עומק מזרח ועומק מערב עומק צפון ועומק דרום אדון יחיד
אל מלך נאמן מושל בכולם ממעון קדשו עד עדי עד:

1.5: Ten sefirot of nothingness. Their measure is ten which have no end. A depth of beginning, a depth of end, a depth of good, a depth of evil a depth of above, a depth of east, a depth of west, a depth of north, a depth of south. The singular Master, God faithful King, dominates over them all from His holy dwelling until eternity of eternities.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

1.5: Ten sefirot/declarations of constraint. Their measure is ten, and to them there is no end. A profound depth of beginning and a profound depth of end. A profound depth of good and a profound depth of evil. A profound depth of height and a profound depth of below. A profound depth of east and a profound depth of west. A profound depth of north and a profound depth of south. And a unifying Master, God King of Faith, ruler of them all, from a holy dwelling, until forever of forever.

(Doc Benton translation)

In this passage we are presented with a vision of a 5-dimensional universe that incorporates three spatial dimensions, one temporal dimension, and one moral dimension. The number five is important in *Kabbalistic* theory in that we have five souls, five worlds, and in this passage, five dimensions. Each dimension, in turn, is characterized by two polar opposites, thus resulting in ten principles, and there is no end to the depths that may be explored along each of the five axes. The unifying principle that holds the dimensions together is *God*.

Furthermore, the poles of the five axes define thirty-two specific points of 5-dimensional space. Each point could be represented by five coordinates where for each coordinate position you have two choices, thus yielding $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 32$ choices in all, the same as the number of paths mentioned at the beginning of this work. To give an example, one point could be designated by the coordinates *(beginning, good, height, east, north)* and a second point could have the coordinates *(end, good, height, east, north)*. In all, thirty-two such coordinates can be defined.

And finally, notice, too, that the traditional closing for a blessing, *amen*, is in Hebrew an acronym for *Adonai melech neheman, God King of Faith*. In a similar manner, our consciousness, that part within us that is like *God*, is the King of the center that holds our universe of perception together.