

# SEFER YETZIRAH 1.9



**משנה ט': עשר ספירות בלימה אחת רוח אלהים חיים ברוך ומבורך שמו של חי העולמים קול ורוח ודבור והוא רוח הקודש:**

1.9: Ten sefirot of nothingness. One is the breath of the Living God, blessed and benedicted in the Name of the Life of the Worlds, the voice of breath and speech. And this is the Holy Breath.

*(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)*

1.9: Ten sefirot/declarations of constraint. One: Spirit/breath of the Living Elohim (God). Praised and blessed is ITS name, containing the Life of the Worlds, voice and breath and words, and the spirit of the holy.

*(Doc Benton translation)*

In Hebrew, the word for *spirit* is the same as the word for *breath*, and in this passage we read that it all begins not with matter, but with spirit. Furthermore, this spirit is the life behind all that is created, and with voice and words the universe, the *name of God (Elohim)*, is created. And additionally, this passage also starts an enumeration and identification of the ten *sefirot* that is ultimately quite different from what one finds in later *Kabbalah*.