

SEFER YETZIRAH 2.5



משנה ה': כיצד צרפן שקלן והמירן א' עם כולם וכולם עם א'
ב' עם כולם וכולם עם ב' וחוזרות חלילה ונמצאות ברל"א שערים
ונמצא כל היצור וכל הדבור יוצא משם אחד:

2.5: How? He permuted them, weighed them, and transformed them, Alef with them all and all of them with Alef, Bet with them all and all of them with Bet. They repeat in a cycle and exist in 231 Gates. It comes out that all that is formed and all that is spoken emanates from one Name.
(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

2:5 How? IT combined them, weighed them, and exchanged them. Aleph with all of them and all of them with aleph, bet with all of them and all of them with bet. Repeating in a cycle and existing in 231 gates and existence, all the formed and all the spoken, coming out from One Name.

(Doc Benton translation)

In this passage we encounter again the process of creation by *combining* basic elements, *weighing* them (i.e. defining their characteristics), and *exchanging* them, *transforming* them from one thing into another. Furthermore, the coding process is once again described. We can exchange *aleph* with any other letter, and any other letter with *aleph*, and as we mentioned previously, there are 231 combinations that can be formed from twenty-two letters where we select two at a time.

And finally, we are reminded at the end of this passage that everything comes from one single name. More specifically, from the unknowable *IT* come *three mother letters* (*aleph-mem-shin*) and from the *three mother letters* come the *three father letters* (*yud-hey-vav*) that are used in the name of *God* (*yud-hey-vav-hey*), and from these *father letters* also come the *six directions* and everything else in creation. One can make six permutations from three letters.