

SEFER YETZIRAH 3.4



**משנה ד': שלש אמוש אמ"ש בעולם אויר מים אש שמים
נבראו מאש וארץ נבראת ממים ואויר מרוח מכריע בינתים:**

3.4: Three Mothers, AMSh, in the Universe are air, water, fire. Heaven was created from fire Earth was created from water And air from Breath decides between them.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

3:4 Three mothers aleph-mem-shin in the world, air, water, fire. Heaven was created from fire, and earth was created from water, and air from spirit/breath decides between them.

(Doc Benton translation)

The pattern of three is now extended to *heaven* and *earth* and the *air* in between. This arrangement will be seen again in an upcoming passage where we will find the same pattern in human beings with *fire* above and *water* below and *air* in between. We could also make sense of this pattern directly by noting that the majority of the earth is covered with *water*, above that is the atmosphere or *air*, and the light of the stars would suggest *fire* even to the ancients. And this completes, in this passage, the decomposition of space via the pattern of three.