

SEFER YETZIRAH 3.8



משנה ח': (בבא ב') המליך אות מ' במים וקשר לו כתר
וצרפן זה בזה וצר בהם ארץ בעולם וקור בשנה ובטן בנפש זכר
במא"ש ונקבה במש"א:

3.8: He made Mem king over water And He bound a crown to it And He combined one with another And with them He formed Earth in the Universe Cold in the Year And the belly in the Soul: The male with MASH And the female with MShA.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

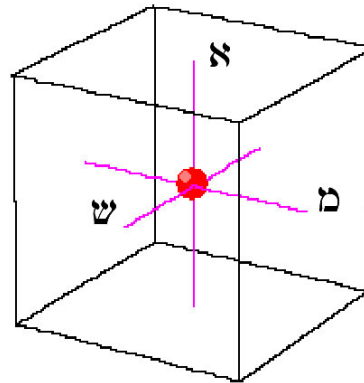
3:8 *IT made ruler the letter mem in water and connected to it a surrounding circle and combined this with this and formed with them earth in the world and cold in the year and abdomen in the person, male with mem-aleph-shin and female with mem-shin-aleph.*

(Doc Benton translation)

In spatial terms, the letter *mem* corresponds to the watery earth, in temporal terms it corresponds to the cold winter, and in the person it corresponds to the fluids in the belly. We also associate *east* with *male* (*daytime*) and *west* with *female* (*nighttime*).

Also, we can now, by replacing *yud* with *aleph* & *hey* with *mem* & *vav* with *shin*, recode *hey-yud-vav* as *mem-aleph-shin* and *hey-vav-yud* as *mem-shin-aleph*, and if we now think of *east* as *male* and *west* as *female*, then this gives us " *male with mem-aleph-shin and female with mem-shin-aleph.*"

Female = mem-shin-aleph



Male = mem-aleph-shin