

SEFER YETZIRAH 3.9



משנה ט': (בבא ג') המליך אות ש' באש וקשר לו כתר וצרפן
זה בזה וצר בהם (אש) שמים בעולם וחום בשנה וראש בנפש זכר
בשא"ם ונקבה בשמ"א:

3.9: He made Shin king over fire And He bound a crown to it And He combined one with another And with them He formed Heaven in the Universe, Hot in the Year, And the head in the Soul: The male with ShAM And the female with ShMA.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

3:9 IT made ruler the letter shin in fire and connected to it a surrounding circle and combined this with this and formed with them heaven in the world and hot in the year and head in the person, male with shin-mem-aleph and female with shin-aleph-mem.

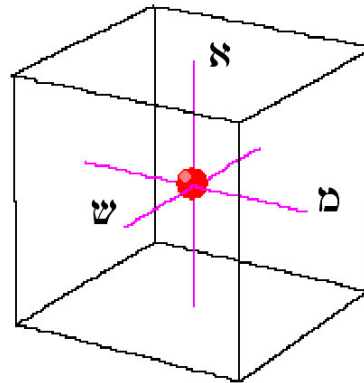
(Doc Benton translation)

In spatial terms, the letter *shin* corresponds to the heavens where we see the fiery sun, in temporal terms it corresponds to the summer, and in the person it corresponds to the electrical fire in the brain. We also associate *north* with *male (dominance)* and *south* with *female (peace)*.

I should point out that this is also one of those places where I have made a slight change in order to reconcile the text with later *Kabbalah*. In the other versions of the *Sefer Yetzirah*, there is almost uniform agreement regarding the permutations of the letters *aleph-mem-shin*, and they all designate *shin-mem-aleph* as female and *shin-aleph-mem* as male, just the opposite of what I have done in my *Book of the Assembler*. Nonetheless, I believe that my rendition makes more sense since it follows the coding of *aleph* with *yud*, *mem* with *hey*, and *shin* with *vav*. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if what we see in the other versions is just a typo that was repeated over the centuries.

Again, if we follow the code that *aleph* corresponds to *yud*, *mem* corresponds to *hey*, and *shin* corresponds to *vav*, then the patterns *vav-yud-hey* and *vav-hey-yud* that we previously saw as associated with *south* and *north*, respectively, become *shin-aleph-mem* and *shin-mem-aleph*.

Male = *shin-mem-aleph*



Female = *sin-mem-aleph*

THE SIX PERMUTATIONS OF THE MOTHER LETTERS

Mother Letter	Gender	<i>Assembler</i>	<i>GRA</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Long</i>	<i>Saadia</i>
Aleph	male	AMS	AMS	AMS	AMS	AMS
	female	ASM	ASM	ASM	ASM	ASM
Mem	male	MAS	MAS	MAS	MAS	MSA
	female	MSA	MSA	MSA	MSA	MAS
Shin	male	SMA	SAM	SAM	SAM	SAM
	female	SAM	SMA	SMA	SMA	SMA