

SEFER YETZIRAH 4.1



משנה א': שבע כפולות בג"ד כפר"ת מתנהגות בשתי לשונות
ב"ב, ג"ג, ד"ד, כ"כ, פ"פ, ר"ר, ת"ת. תבנית רך וקשה גבור וחלש:

4.1: Seven Doubles: Bet, Gimel, Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh, Tav. They direct themselves with two tongues Bet-Bhet, Gimel-Ghimel, Dalet-Dhalet, Kaf-Khaf, Peh-Pheh, Resh-Rhesh, Tav-Thav, A structure of soft and hard, strong and weak.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

4:1 Seven doubles bet-gimmel-dalet-kaf-peh-resh-tav. They conduct themselves with two tongues, bet-vet, gimmel-ghimmel, dalet-daleth, kaf-khaf, peh-pheh, resh-rhesh, tav-thav. A paradigm of soft and hard, strong and weak.

(Doc Benton translation)

On the *Sefirotic Tree of Life* there are seven vertical paths that correspond to the seven double letters. The placement of the letters on the *tree* follows a pattern of *right-left-center-right-left-center-center*, and in this way it seems to reiterate the teaching that our finite world is brought into existence as a result of two opposites with a mediating principle in between. Also, because they are double letters, they represent qualities that can be expressed through either of two extremes such as wisdom and folly.

