

# SEFER YETZIRAH 4.16



**משנה ט"ז: שתי אבנים בונות שני בתים, שלש אבנים בונות  
ששה בתים, ארבע אבנים בונות ארבעה ועשרים בתים, חמש אבנים  
בונות מאה ועשרים בתים, שש אבנים בונות שבע מאות ועשרים  
בתים, שבע אבנים בונות חמשת אלפים וארבעים בתים, מכאן  
ואילך צא וחשוב מה שאין הפה יכול לדבר ואין האוזן יכולה  
לשמוע:**

4.16: Two stones build 2 houses Three stones build 6  
houses Four stones build 24 houses Five stones build  
120 houses Six stones build 620 houses Seven stones  
build 5040 houses From here on go out and calculate  
that which the mouth cannot speak and the ear cannot  
hear.

*(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)*

4:16 Two stones build 2 houses, three stones build 6 houses, four stones build 24 houses, five stones build 120 houses, six stones build 720 houses, seven stones build 5040 houses. From here, henceforth, go and consider what the mouth is not able to speak and the ear is not able to hear.

*(Doc Benton translation)*

Think of a “*stone*” in the above passage as a “*letter*,” and think of a “*house*” as a “*word*” that is built from letters. In this context, the passage correctly does the math in computing that 2 words can be constructed from 2 letters, 6 words may be constructed from 3 letters, and so on. In particular, our 7 double letters yield 5040 words or permutations, and through words we create the world that we can understand and think about. However, the very end of the passage tells us to also focus on that which can’t be put into words. Consider the observer, that which does the lookin’. It can’t be seen or heard, and yet it knows all that is to be objectively known. Don’t just focus on the outside world. Turn your focus inward, too, to the very core of your being.