

SEFER YETZIRAH 6.1

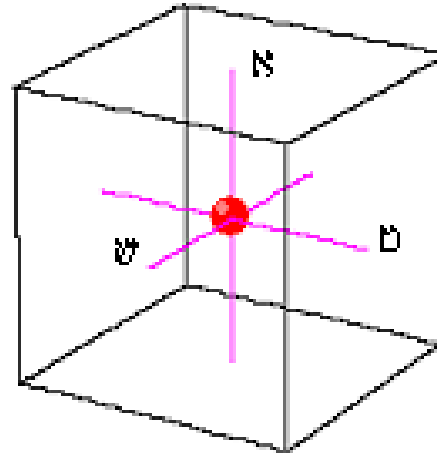


משנה א': אלו הם שלש אמות אמ"ש ויצאו מהם שלשה אבות והם אויר מים אש ומאבות תולדות, שלשה אבות ותולדותיהם ושבעה כוכבים וצבאותיהם ושנים עשר גבולי אלכסון. ראיה לדבר עדים נאמנים בעולם שנה נפש ושנים עשר חק ושבעה ושלשה פקדן בתלי וגלגל ולב:

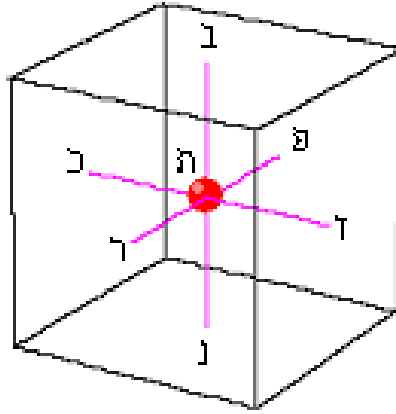
6.1: These are the Three Mothers AMSh. And from them emanated Three Fathers, and they are air, water, and fire. and from the Fathers, descendents. Three Fathers and their descendents. And seven planets and their hosts, And twelve diagonal boundaries. A proof of this true witnesses in the Universe, Year, Soul and a rule of twelve and seven and three: He set them in the Teli, the Cycle, and the Heart.
(*Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation*)

6:1 These are they, three mothers aleph-mem-shin,
and emerging out of them three fathers yud-hey-vav,
and they (the mothers) are air, water, fire, and from the
fathers, generations. Three fathers and their
generations, and seven planets and their hosts, and
twelve diagonal boundaries. A proof of this thing,
trustworthy witnesses in world, year, and person, and a
law of twelve and seven and three commanded in the
axis and cycle and heart.
(Doc Benton translation)

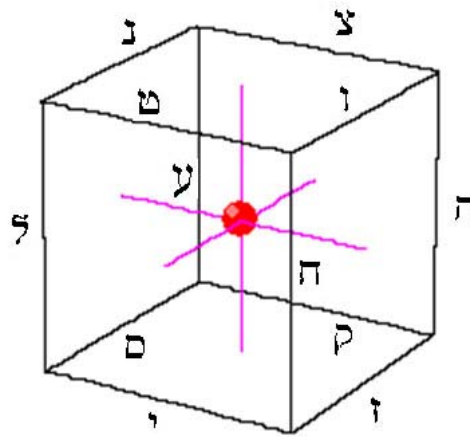
We have now entered the least section of the text, and what we are going to see is mainly a recapitulation and summary of all that has gone before. The world as we know it is based on the pattern of three, that is to say, one thing opposite another and a connecting principle in between. This pattern of three is represented by the letters *aleph-mem-shin* and the elements *air, water, and fire*. From the *mother letters* came the *father letters yud-hey-vav* that are used in Judaism's most sacred name for *God*, and from these came everything else. In particular, from these came the patterns of *three, seven and twelve* that complete the definition of the *cube of space*.



The three mother letters define axes for 3-dimensional space



The seven double letters define the six directions and the center



The twelve plain letters on the edges complete the definition of the *cube of space*

A witness for this *pattern of three* is the existence of *space* and *time* and the *consciousness* of the person that connects the two. The last statement in the passage above about *axis, cycle, and heart* is interesting. The Hebrew word *teli* that I've translated as *axis*, can also be translated as *dragon*. The connection between the two is perplexing until you realize that around 2700 BCE the pole star was *Thuban* which is in the constellation *Draco*, the *dragon*. Furthermore, what we now call the *Little Dipper* was originally viewed as the *wings of the dragon*. Hence, the plethora of stories and images we find around the world of *winged serpents* and *dragons*.

In those days, however, the constellation *Draco* would rotate around the pole star *Thuban*, and an imaginary axis was defined by the pole star and the earth around which the rest of the universe would appear to revolve. Thus, the *axis* is the fixed point or heart of space, the *cycle* or change is the heart of time, and in ancient Jewish times the *heart* was seen as the center of the person around which all other thoughts and activities would revolve.

A final interesting note on the *mother* and the *father letters* is that we can think of them as delineating a code. In other words, we can replace *yud* by *aleph*, *vav* by *mem*, and *hey* by *shin*. The *father letters* are used to write the most sacred name for *God* in Judaism, the *yud-hey-vav-hey*, and we often think of this as a masculine or *father name* for *God* as in *avinu malkeinu* (*our Father, our King*). If we replace these letters using our cipher, then we get *aleph-mem-shin-mem*. It would certainly be nice if we could find a hint that this is a *mother name* for *God*. Well, if we look closely, then we see that *aleph-mem* is ancient Hebrew for *mother* and *shin-mem* spells *name*. Hence, our cipher literally results in a *mother name*.

Additionally, if we look at the *gematria* of this new name, we see that it is 381, the same as *v'ahsah* (*vav-ayin-shin-hey*) which can be translated as *he made*, or as I prefer to translate it, *IT made*. Hence, replacing the *father letters* in the name of *God* with the mother letters results not only in a *mother name*, but also in a reiteration that creation commenced with the *mother letters*. In other words, the beginning of creation is the separation of things into two opposites with a connecting link between them.