

ALPHABET CODES, HEBREW LETTERS, AND THE DAYS OF GENESIS

Judith Dillon, 2017

For a number of years, I have been researching the symbols that represented our earliest alphabet letters: Phoenician followed closely by its relative, ancient Hebrew. Our first letters represented physical objects, such as an ox (aleph) and house (beth) placed in an order to produce their Spell. Although many scholars believe the symbols were chosen simply to provide sounds to write a West Semitic (Canaanite) language, I believe the letters conformed to a numerological template rather than being an arbitrary choice.

"All is number" and "Number rules the universe." (Pythagoras)
Although usually claimed by the Greeks as one of their own, Pythagoras, a teacher of (measured) Mysteries including those of re-incarnation was Phoenician. Named after the resurrecting Phoenix, these early Canaanites transmitted craft secrets as well as their alphabet around the ancient world. I believe a pre-existing number system mandated the choice of the letter-objects and the order into which the 22 letters becoming our first alphabet were placed. Following the myths associated with the early Phoenician alphabet reveal a trail of Mystery traditions teaching craft secrets as well as a resurrection.

"The result of the search depends on what questions we ask." (Claude Levi Strauss) Most scholars of the alphabet are concerned with the subtle changes of shape indicating the evolution of the script: Phoenician into Hebrew into Aramaic for instance. Modern scholars seem neither interested in the choice of symbols, nor in the rational behind their order. I believe this is because they are usually unlearned in divination traditions, the qualities of natural world, letter magic, astrology, and astronomical calendars familiar to ancient scholars. An 11th Century Kabbalah text, *The Bahir*, reminds the reader not to ignore the stars: "And now men see not the light which is bright in the skies." (Job 37:21)


Bright lights from heaven create calendars derived from Heaven revolving over his Earth. Ancient alphabet letters hint at these calendars along with Heaven's promising a return after each dark. 'Ot' translated 'alphabet letter' includes the meaning of a message, a sign from heaven. These signs (otiot) are associated with esoteric traditions that letters are literally the elements used to create our material world. Returning spirits like revolving stars will rise again.

The commands of the gods being written on celestial tablets create a Cosmos defined both as (a cosmetic) 'ornament' and 'universe'. Our universe is built from 'elements', a word the Oxford Universal Dictionary describes as the 'building blocks' of the universe and as 'alphabet letters'. Outside the Hebrew tradition,

other cultures illustrated their Great Goddesses wearing circling ornaments of stars or necklaces of letters.¹

The codes in this paper are not the carefully counted letters encrypted in Books given to Moses, hiding words and messages for future generations. Rather this paper describes the 22 letters of early Canaanite scripts. Adapted by numerous early people, the ordered alphabet letters encoded mnemonics promising a return into the circle as well as sounds used for writing speech. As we explore, the travels of the early Phoenician (Canaanite) alphabet is associated with both craft secrets and the promise of reincarnation.

An alphabet of 22 magical letters swept through the lands of Canaan around 1050 BCE. This useful technology, 22 simple symbols representing sounds, still exists as the Hebrew alphabet. The concept of an alphabet was learned in Egypt. In addition to thousands of picture images (hieroglyphs), Egypt possessed a seldom-used group of 24 single-sound images.² Used to write foreign names for which no hieroglyph existed, travellers to Egypt may have first encountered alphabets in this form. Canaanites adapted a few hieroglyphs, renaming them in their own language to create their own West Semitic alphabet:

✠ An ox head became Aleph/ox =Ah, ; A house became B's Beth/house.

According to story, the One God created the alphabet while breathing life into Creation. "Twenty-two foundation letters: He ordained them, He hewed them, He combined them, He weighed them, He interchanged them. And He created with them the whole creation and everything to be created in the future." (Sepher Yetzirah)

Originating in pictures adopted from Egypt as early as 1800 BCE, Abraham may have learned the alphabet on his travels to that land. "Abraham was the greatest mystic and astrologer of his age, it is natural to assume that he was familiar with all the mysteries of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia."³ Mysteries accompanying the alphabet on its travels, Abraham is also said to have written the oldest book on the sciences of astronomy and letters, the Sepher Yetzirah.

Stories adapted as myth wander in and out of literal history. Abraham may have first learned astronomy in Harran before travelling on to Egypt. Harran was an Anatolian center of astronomy and Hermetic traditions since at least the Bronze

¹ Kali of India (letters as Varnamala); Necklace of stars: Freya and Diana of Ephesus. Black Kali is associated with Scorpio; Diana wears Scorpio as central medallion.

² The order of the 24 letters of the Egyptian alphabet may or may not have existed in ancient Egypt. A later scholar with knowledge of the qualities of the Hebrew letters may have created the ordering now used in scholarly books.

³ *Sefer Yetzirah*, Ayreh Kaplan, trans, Wiser, 1997, p. xiv The predecessor of the alphabet began appearing in Egypt and Canaan c. 1800 BCE

Age. Thousands of years later, the star watchers of Harran taught Arabs the art of the astrolabe to measure stars and planets passing over earth. It remained a center of Hermetic traditions until finally destroyed by the Mongols c. 1250 CE.

The founder of Harran, "Cainan was taught to read by his father, and he found, carved on the rocks by former generations, an inscription preserving the science of astrology as taught by the Watchers, who had rebelled from God before the deluge." Book of Jubilees, c. 150 BCE)⁴ Near Harran is the oldest known temple complex: Göbekli Tepe (c. 10,000 BCE, abandoned c. 7,000 BCE). The Neolithic complex, consisting of giant man-shaped Watchers standing in a circle, may have been oriented toward the north stars.

The descendants of Cain are associated with the Phoenicians whose name in their own language is K'nan. They include metal working smiths and musicians. His first son was Enoch. Having learned the secrets of the starry letters, Adam taught the alphabet to his descendants. Seven generations after Adam, another Enoch existed (a solar) 365 years before rising into the heavens (Genesis 5:24). The order of the alphabet hiding important secrets, Enoch was a sofer, a scribe who orders (sfr) letters into their proper Spell. It was eventually given to the Hebrews as the Sefer Torah. Like all proper Spells, not a single letter can be changed when scribing a Torah without the mis-spell invalidating the scroll.

"When Enoch-metatron is endowed with divine secrets in heaven, he receives the letters by which these phenomena were created [...] observing of letters implied beholding of the natural phenomena, on which god's secrets are inscribed and codified as signs."⁵

By Arabic tradition, another alphabet descended from early Canaanite letters, Enoch is Idris. "He is said to have invented writing, tailoring, geomancy, and the use of the fortune-telling board."⁶ Harran claimed Idris as their prophet. Craftsmen and Masons keeping their own secrets, Idris/Enoch was the patron saint of craftsmen and has been associated with building the pyramids. From top of the pyramids he measured out the path of the stars.

Arabic, like Hebrew, has an esoteric tradition connecting signs from the stars and their alphabet letters. "Learning the Arabic letters is incumbent upon everybody who embraces Islam, for they are the vessels of revelation; the divine names and attributes can be expressed only by means of these letters—and yet, the letters

⁴ wikipedia.org/wiki/Cainan

⁵ (Arbel 2008: 309), Amar Annus, The Beginnings and Continuities of Omen Sciences in the Ancient World <http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/ois6.pdf> p. 13

⁶ mythologydictionary.com/idris-mythology.html Divination is associated with many early scripts (e.g., runes, oghams, Chinese)

constitute something different from God; they are a veil of otherness that the mystic must penetrate." (Annemarie Schimmel, *Mystical Dimensions in Islam*)⁷

The tale of Idris travelled widely. He has another seat on a mountain in Wales (Caer Idris) where the skillful giant of poetry, astronomy and alphabet secrets sits watching the stars circling the black sky. Scotia, princess of Egypt (also known as Bui (cow) the black Hag of Beare) took the Mysteries to Ireland. Travelling with the sons of Mil and the Israelite Cae of the Fair Judgments, the Hag is associated with an esoteric alphabet used by the druids. Known as Ogham or the Tree Oracle, the majority of these letters are found in Ireland and Wales. Like all returning stars, the Hag grows young with the spring of each year. Like other magic alphabets, Ogham is associated with calendars, the world of the dead, and a passage between boundaries.



Caer Idris⁸

A son of Mil, the first druid to step foot on Ireland singing first of his previous incarnations, then claims: "I am the Skill of the Craftsman. I am a Word of Science [...] Who tells the ages of the moon, if not I? Who shows the place where the sun goes to rest, if not I?" (Song of Amairigen)

Genealogy myths often imply cultural rather than physical relationships. There are overt connections between the Irish script and Hebrew alphabet Spells. "It was the Mosaic law that the Milesians brought into Erin at their coming; that it had been learned and received from Moses, in Egypt, by Cae [...] who was himself an Israelite."⁹ Miletus is a city in Anatolia. Claiming descent from Cadmus, the Phoenician who carried the alphabet to the Greeks, Milesians instituted the use of letters as numbers making possible a form of Gematria.

, *The Mystery of Letters* (Palestine, 6th Century CE) teaches: "the Hebrew alphabet was first handed down to mankind by divine inspiration during the generation of Enoch, but was lost during the Confusion of Tongues."¹⁰ The giant

⁷ ElliotWolfson, academia.edu/32145179/embodied_letter_sufi_and_kabbalistic_hermeneutics.pdf (cited in his paper)

⁸ Painting, 1818, Public Domain, National Library of Wales

⁹ Eugene O'Curry (1873), *On The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish*, p. 20, Reprinted Goggle Books.

¹⁰ wiki/About_the_Mystery_of_the_Letters Greek letters also descend from Hebrew/Phoenician. The author continues: "God subsequently revealed the Greek alphabet on a tablet of stone, which, after the Deluge, was brought to Phoenicia and

mason Nimrod, builder of the star watching Tower of Babel, is another hero credited with building Harran.

Noah, descending from his Ark after the Flood, found the lost alphabet on a stone tablet in Armenia. Hopeful seekers are still looking to recover remnants of his boat on the mountain. "This Art was first imparted to Adam [and He prophesized the world must be] purged with water. Therefore his successors erected two stone tablets, on which they engraved a summary [...] in order that this arcanum [might be preserved]. After the Flood, Noah found one of these tablets at the foot of Mount Ararat in [Armenia]."¹¹

Rising spirits included among the golden Guilds of craft and alphabet secrets, Noah knew the techniques of wine. Mystery traditions promised a return after a passage through the dark, a safe landing after the Deluge. Cadmus' grandson is Dionysus, frenzied god of wine. Like later John Barleycorn, he is threshed, crushed, and brewed. Each spring in Greece, Mercury/Hermes released the spirits, brewed from the blood of the sacrificed Vine King, from their wine jars. Alcohol, like alchemy, comes from the Black (coal) Earth delivering the cleansed soul to the light.¹²



Hermes releasing sprits from Wine Jar¹³

Yesterday's history being today's myth, winemaking originated from the wild grapes native to the Black Sea area where Noah's Ark landed. The oldest known site was in Georgia (c. 6000 BCE). The oldest known winery is in Armenia (c. 4100 BCE) "complete with press, fermentation vats and storage jars."¹⁴ Wine became an important source of later Judah's wealth. Unlike beer and other alcohols, wine demands a series of careful steps for successful brewing. Like other craft secrets including metallurgy for which the Children of Cain were famous, the art of the vine was taught to initiates. Wine and metal were an important trade items the Canaanite Phoenicians carried in their black boats to both Egypt and Crete since c. 2700 BCE. Early Hebrews had a close connection with their kissing cousins, the Phoenicians.

Greece by Cadmos." The Phoenician Cadmus is credited with transmitting the alphabet and Mystery Traditions to Greece. The Hebrews acquired it from their Phoenician kin.

¹¹ Edward Kelly, *Theatre of Terrestrial Astronomy* (16th C.), Alchemical Pub, 1988, p. 9.

¹² Hermes (Mercury) is a material used in purifying gold. This toxic material removes the dross from gold, releasing the pure Aur (ore/ aura) of the gold (aur) spirit.

¹³ Jane Harrison, *Prologomena* (1903), Princeton, 1991, p. 42-55. (wine festivals)

¹⁴ Jean Manco, *Ancestral Journeys*, Thames & Hudson, 2013, p. 173.

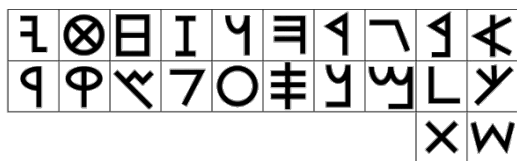
"Men do not live once, in order to vanish forever. They live several lives in different places but not always in this world, and between each life there is a veil of shadows." (Egyptian Papryus of Ani)¹⁵

In addition to the concept of an alphabet, Phoenicians transmitted the Egyptian tradition of the soul's life after death. The Pharaoh and eventually his subjects studied rites enabling the dead to ascend to eternal life among the stars. Each Pharaoh joined the stars of Orion as Osiris after death. Each living king reincarnated as the sun god. Passing through the Underworld each night, Orion gave the sun (and the king) strength to rise again. These Spells of the Coming Forth By Day were inscribed on the walls and coffins of the dead to remind the journeyman of the steps needed for a successful passage into eternal life.

Symbols of the Semitic alphabet carried out of Egypt seem to include these secrets. I believe this is the reason many alphabets descended from the early Canaanite letters contain a memory that letters contain the secrets of Creation, reincarnation, calendars, as well as craft secrets.¹⁶

Abraham was said to know the letters, and Joseph may have used them to interpret dreams troubling a Pharaoh. Much later, on a mountain of the moon in Sinai, Moses received the letters of the Law carved in stone. The craftsman creating the Ark built to carry the tablets was the Shadow of El (Belazel). He was chosen because, like the G-d he shadowed, "he knew how to permute the letters with which heaven and earth were created."¹⁷

History intersecting again with story: the oldest known alphabet letters are found in Canaan, the Sinai and outside the city of Thebes (Egypt), areas inhabited by Western Semites. They traveled to Egypt as metal workers, miners, soldiers, slaves, and traders. The god of the Children of Cain being the Bull of Baal and his Lady Balaat, the rare inscriptions translated from this oldest of alphabets are L'Balaat: To Lady Balaat. The original alphabet leads and ends with symbols associated with the sky bull: A-X¹⁸



Paleo-Hebrew


Paleo-Hebrew letters

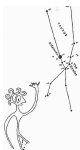
¹⁵ Seleem, trans., *Illustrated Egyptian Book of the Dead*, 2001, p. 10.

¹⁶ Hebrew Kabbalah; Germanic runes; Celtic Oghams are among these alphabets.

¹⁷ quoted by Kaplan, *Sefer Yetzirah*, Weiser, 1997, p. xiv

¹⁸ The Bull of Orion stands by the X of the ecliptic and Milky Way. Taurus as a constellation (also near the cosmic X) has been depicted both as a bull's head and an X.

Although usually depicted by the Bull's head as letter , Taurus also appears as the X-promise of an increase, the mark (Tav) promising a return into the circling seasons of life.



Taurus as X & Magician from Crete shaped like  c. 1500 BCE

Hebrews being close kinsmen of the Phoenicians, early Hebrew letters (Ketav Ivri) were essentially the same as the Phoenician alphabet distributed around the Classical World. Later by the Waters of Babylon, exiled Jews acquired another script. New shapes replaced Ketav Ivri, the Temple Script that had originally written the Torah. Ketav Ashuri is the Assyrian script, a later adaptation from Phoenician. It was used to write Aramean, the common language after the return from exile. Replaced and eventually forgotten, archeological finds have returned the Temple letters and their stories to history.

“Originally the Torah was given to Israel in the Hebrew script and in the sacred language; later, in the time of Ezra, the Torah was given in the Assyrian script and the Aramaic language.” This and other passages “indicate that rabbinical circles were concerned with the problem and approached it in a spirit of apology.”¹⁹ The sacred four-letter name of YHWH continued to be written in the Ivri script long after the Assyrian script replaced the older letters in the Torah.





KetavAshuri/Square Hebrew

Traces of the earlier letters remain in description of rituals. The High Priest and later, King David were marked with the Paleo-Hebrew script: "The Mishna tells us that the Kohen Gadol must be consecrated [with] the anointing oil made by Moses. [...] A small amount of the oil is poured on the High Priest's head and applied between his eyes by a finger drawing the form of an X, the letter Tav, the 22nd letter of the Alef Bet in Ivri script. And when the kings of the Davidic dynasty are anointed, the same oil is used, but applied in the shape of a crown, the

¹⁹ (Sanhedin 2b) from Joseph Naveh, *Early History of the Alphabet* (1982) 1987, p. 123.

vertical zigzag lines of a W, the form of the letter Shin, the 21st letter of Ivri script. Neither of these two shapes is found in our familiar Ashuri script."²⁰

The original Hebrew script (Ketav Ivri) descended from letters created by their Baal worshipping Canaanite relatives. As the alphabet continued to evolve, the fertile sexuality of Bull gods leading the earliest letters eventually changed into Creation by the Word. "We are faced with an extraordinary phenomenon: the Jews, a conservative nation which adhered strictly to its traditional values, abandoned their own script in favour of a foreign one."²¹

The Phoenician bull of letter  transmuted into  of the Jewish script as increasingly monotheistic Jews distanced themselves from the Baals of their ancestors. As the new script was identical in name and number to the original, there was no practical reason for the change. It wasn't until after the fall of the Second Temple (70 CE) that Aramaic letters completely replaced Old Hebrew for all religious as well as secular writing. Aramaic, still known as the Assyrian script, evolved into what is now known as the Jewish script or 'modern' Hebrew.

There are "NO surviving Land of Israel inscriptions from before the Babylonian conquest - royal inscriptions, letters, jar handles, grave markers, you name it, that are NOT in the Ivri script."²²

Secrets and codes being hidden in among the letters counted out in the Law, when the later shapes began their substitution (c. 250 BCE) the new Torah was not a translation. Rather, the older shapes were replaced letter-by-letter. When the final transition from the Temple script to the Ketav Ashuri was finished, the letters had been completely exchanged. It was not translated into the Aramaic implied by the new script. Although no longer spoken, the original Hebrew language was maintained.

Although later letters of the Square Hebrew as Jewish script became more abstract, they kept the names and placement of their ancestor. Sages continued to tell stories explaining the mystical rational underlying their new shapes. Taught in secret, the older Mysteries were never quite forgotten.

Multiple patterns eventually emerged from the template of the early alphabet. Many people have used the spell toward differing ends: both for spiritual enlightenment and for golden gains, but the numerous traditions all seem to

²⁰ *Menachot* 6:3 and found later in *Mishneh Torah, Sefer Avodah, Laws of Vessels of the Temple* 1:9: jewishmag.com/160mag/original_hebrew_script/original_hebrew_script

²¹ Naveh, *Early History of the Alphabet*, Magens Press, 1987, p. 112.

²² According to Pritchard's ANET and A. Mazar's *Archaeology Of The Land Of The Bible* <http://judaism.stackexchange.com/questions/15420/which-alphabet-were-the-original-torah-scrolls-in>


follow the path laid out by the 22 Semitic letters. The original practice of the alphabet Spell seems a practical concern with fertility and material gain than for the enlightenment sought by later alchemists and students of the Kabbalah.

To illustrate some mnemonics hiding among the first six letters, I will compare them to the Creation on the first six days of Genesis. There is an old history in the practice of Jewish mysticism: "B'reshit mysticism referred to the first chapter of Genesis in the Torah that is believed to contain secrets of the creation of the universe and forces of nature. These terms are also mentioned in the second chapter of the Talmudic tractate *Hagigah*"²³

When studying ancient patterns, you must be constantly aware of the order and number of the symbol. Each placement, first, second, third and so on, includes a number of attributes that mature as we move through the pattern. I warn the reader that this is a multicultural approach to some of the codes manifesting in Genesis. This is not a paper about mathematical codes secreted among the Torah letters. This is only a simple description of symbols chosen to illustrate our first letters; objects chosen to represent the signs from heaven (otiot) scribing a journey into the world of Time and Death before returning the soul to the light. I believe this number magic came from a far more ancient source than the Torah. Shadows of forgotten ancestors linger among our letters.

1. ALEPH - OX

Tradition remembers G-d first sounded the alphabet before creating Heaven and Earth. First and last letters are A and T. In Hebrew A-T are placed before all nouns subjected to an action, nouns being material objects. In Beresheit, (Genesis I) Elohim created (AT) Heaven and (AT) Earth over the next 6 days. When the original letters were changed, the new Aleph depicted two hands (yod)

connecting Heaven and (vav) Earth: 

ALEPH, first letter of the alphabet, does not begin the first day of Genesis (which begins with the blessing of B). "Why is the letter aleph at the beginning: Because it was before everything, even the Torah,"²⁴

Because of quiet Aleph's humility in not asking to lead Genesis, G-d placed Aleph as the first letter of the Commandments given to Moses. Moses, modest like Aleph, did not want "and he called" (Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1) to include the aleph. He requested the Torah state vayikar (and he happened upon him) rather than

²³ wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabbalah

²⁴ Ari Kaplan trans., *The Bahir*, (c. 1100), Weisner, 1990, p. 1.

implying G-d often called him. YHVH overruled him but allowed the aleph to be written with an undersized aleph as a sign of his humility.²⁵



Undersized Aleph in Vayikra

Aleph, number One, is identified with the One God and the potential of Creation. Despite his humility, "Aleph never occurs as a suffix, while as a prefix it indicates the first person future -- 'I will' ... this statement indicates his yet unrealized potential."²⁶ The alphabet developed from a close observation of the natural world. Quiet Aleph represents the non-sound preceding Creation: the potential of a deity's creative powers. It is a silent letter. The instance the air, the minute the wind moves over the opening gate of the voice box, 'Ah' ensues. The swirling chaos begins the sounds, the singing of the stars into a material form.

In Tibet, 'Ah' is a goddess. Worlds are spoken into existence when she begins to sound. 'Ah' is literally the first sound to emerge as the pillar of an undivided One (I) opens into duality (I-I). Sanskrit letter Aum (Om), another symbol containing the entire world as sound, begins manifestation with the sound Ah. By esoteric tradition, Buddha's entire teaching is thus contained in letter A.



Sanskrit/Siddham 'A' used for meditation

First symbols of hermetical patterns are usually black or white and androgynous. Aleph's ox is a denatured animal, neither male nor female. That is, numeral One (I) has not yet split apart. As first symbol, duality (I-I) has not yet entered the world. It is only on the second day of Genesis that the waters of a Virgin Spring separate with adolescence.

Egypt, that country of sky watchers and hidden mysteries, provided shapes that became ancient Hebrew letters. Western Semites traded with Egypt since at least 3000 BCE. Although seldom used, Egypt also had an alphabet of 24 symbols, a single sound associated with a single symbol. An androgynous (black and) White Vulture sacred to Isis represented sound 'A'.

²⁵ "God wanted Moses to write it with the *aleph* as an expression of intimacy and affection. So they compromised – by using a small *aleph*."

aish.com/tp/b/mt/48961066.html

²⁶ *The Bahir*, commentary Ayreh Kaplan, p. 25.



Vulture (A) Neophron percnopterus, White Vulture

When the wind moved through her, this motherly vulture sounding 'Ah' conceived. Likewise, in Genesis, the wind moving over the chaos preceding the sound of Aleph begins creation. As soon as duality arrives, the cascade toward the wealth of the material world ensues, becoming One for the Money. Entering the material world including Death, Mother Goose another ancient bird goddess also sang One For Sorrow.

Ancient scholars working with the alphabet magic were said to create living creatures, golems. Written across the head of one golem was Aleph-Mem-Tav (meaning 'truth'). When he became uncontrollable Aleph was removed, the new word spelling 'death'. Golem could not live without Aleph's breath. By tradition Hebrew has three Mother Letters: Aleph (air); Shin (fire); and Mem (water).

2. BETH - HOUSE

"The Second Key [...] begins the separation of the Elements..." (Alchemy tradition, Second Key of Eudoxus, c. 350 BCE)²⁷

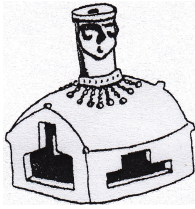
Two represents the arrival of duality. This is the day Genesis separated the waters of Chaos. The Mystery of the alphabet includes calendar secrets of the changing sky moving over earth. But as in Heaven so on Earth, the evolving letters also mirror the pattern of a human life. The undivided child of numeral One evolves and adolescence ensues. With adolescence, the red waters of the female differentiate from the white waters of her male twin. The emissions of the young Virgins of Spring mandate purification, one of the many attributes associated with the second symbol. "Wherewith all shall a young man cleanse his way." ('Beth', Psalm 119)²⁸

February, our second month, derives from februa, a word connected to both 'estrus' and purification. Attributes of Beth (house) include the young virgins being initiated into their coming role as adults. In Hebrew, a bethula is a young marriageable virgin. Brigit, Bride of Ireland, is the Hag of the Old Year returning

²⁷ M.A. Atwood, *Hermetic Philosophy* (1850), Julian Press, 1960, p. 500 ff. All quotes of the Keys come from this text. (Keys of Eudoxus b. 395–390 BCE, Cnidus, Asia Minor)

²⁸ "There is a tradition that King David used this psalm to teach his young son Solomon the alphabet—but not just the alphabet for writing letters: the alphabet of the spiritual life." Wikipedia, Psalm 119.

young with each spring. Her February festival is celebrated by the hearth's warm center of each home. In this image, the Goddess reemerges literally as the central fireplace of the home.



Goddess as house (Beth)²⁹ Macedonia, c. 6000-5800 BCE

Beth is usually translated simply as 'house' but Beth is equally the 'house' of God, the Temple. I have been unable to discover when Western Semites purified their temples, but Mesopotamian Semites spring-cleaned their temples. The Temple was a representation in brick of the Goddess: the Lady of the Wild Bull, the Lady Of The Dates. This purification was in preparation for the ritual marriage of the king of the city with the Goddess. The sacred marriage was celebrated on the Vernal Equinox in March. His fertility seeding his land brought wealth to his people.³⁰ Children born to temple priestesses were sons of god born to virgins.

Each position having multiple but related stories, the adolescent stage of the Virgin is associated with healing, brewing, and divination enabled by duality's opening of the Underworld. Manifestation now becoming material, the new Beth

openly faces all the letters that follow: ב

In the older tradition, initiation of the adolescents prepared them for their coming marriage and roles as adults. Even after the removal of mythology from the Hebrew Creation, the serpentine sapience rising up the dripping trees of early spring remained a source of Wisdom. After tasting of the Tree of Knowledge, Adam and Eve entered the world of Time and Death and went forth to have children. "With wisdom the house [beth] is built, with understanding it is established, and with knowledge are its chambers filled." (Kabbalah)³¹ In a more literal tradition, Beth's Temple would have been filled with food and the dripping sap of the Virgin's spring brewed for inspiration.

Early temples were the storehouses, the Bottomless Pits of ancient goddesses. In spring, their temples were cleaned and purified: Spring Cleaned for the coming marriage of the King of the Land with the young Temple Goddess. With this

²⁹ Archeologist Marija Gimbutas recorded images of goddesses as houses (Beth). *Language of the Goddess*, plate 3,

³⁰ Egypt's Isis was also represented as the House of Horus, the risen sun.

³¹ Kaplan, Aryeh, trans. *The Bahir* (1176), Weiser, 1990, p. 6.

opening of duality, spirits can now re enter the world. They will be seeded into Earth's moist furrows with the magic of 'Three for a Wedding'.


3. GML - CAMEL OR ROPE

The third position in our series includes impregnation, fertility ensuring the resultant wealth of the land. A king who could not keep his land fertile was deposed. In Mesopotamia, the king of the city entered the marriage bed of the Temple goddess on the Spring Equinox, March 21, our calendar's third month. The northern kingdom of Israel also celebrated their New Year in March. The Kingdom of Judah, surviving after the destruction of Israel, maintained the New Year in fall (Rosh Hashanah).³²

Measurements of Time and Death enter the world with the third charm. GML as third letter is usually translated 'camel'. According to a mediaeval text, Eve's first impregnation was by the serpent-devil Sammael. He fathered Cain who wore a 'mark' saving him from death: "... the serpent followed Eve. He said, her soul comes from the North and I will therefore quickly seduce her. And how did he seduce her? He had intercourse with her." [...] He finally found the serpent which looked like a camel and rode on it."³³

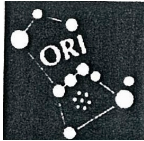
With impregnation, with seeding, the waters of the female are bound to produce the wealth of the earth. That is, the red waters of the fertile female dry with pregnancy. Reflecting this pattern, on the third day of Genesis, dry land appears along with seed plants fruiting trees. "And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind." (Genesis 1:13)

Semitic words, composed of three-letter roots, do not include vowels. Words composed of the same root have related meanings, even if not immediately evident. GML can also translate as 'rope' (gamal). Like the camel-serpent impregnating Eve, rope's Bonds of Time are imposed by pregnancy. They were once known as the Bonds of Orion, the giant sporting the El-wand of GML's

Phoenician shape  in his belt. Orion was one of the celestial locations of the kings of the Levant and Egypt responsible for keeping their Land fertile. Because camels were not domesticated until c. 900 BCE, long after the alphabet's creation, I believe 'rope' may have been the older meaning this letter.



³² Calendars can have multiple New Years. Our calendar begins in January, named after the god of Roman doors who looks both forward and backwards.

³³ Kaplan, *The Bahir*, pp.80- 81. Sami meaning 'blind', serpents becoming blind before renewing themselves. Orion also was blind until the dawn cured him.



El-wand in Orion's Belt is the shape of a Mason's square.

The shape of El's wand recalls the rope (GML) used to measure out boundaries after floods recede and dry land appears. Knotting a rope into 12 equal sections, the knots are wrapped around 3 sticks placed 3, 4, and 5 spaces apart. This creates a right angle when bent at those knots. Note: In addition to each numbered letter containing a series of attributes determined by its position, there are relationships between certain numbers. Three, Four and Five add up to a proper ruler's Twelve, another position associated with royalty.

Astronomy covertly mandating many of the alphabet letter's placements, our solar 12th month is the Winter Solstice. The dying Sun King literally reverses himself. The sun now leaves the southern standstill and begins moving north toward his prime in summer. Spring's GML  will hang upside down as the sacrificed ruler of the 12th symbol  (Lamedh) as our English letter El.³⁴

Fertile arrow-shooting gods once imposed bonds of Time. In addition to the hunter Orion, multiple archers are associated with the third position. In India, a goddess of Time (Kali) climbs seven wheels (Chakras) located along the 24 vertebrae of the human spine. She will pass through all the alphabet letters on her way toward enlightenment. Residing in the third chakra is Ram. He shot an arrow into the sky to win his bride Sita ('furrow'). Another moist dark furrow of Earth like other Spring Brides, Sita was stolen away to a labyrinth in the darkening fall of the year. While outside this tale, ninth Hebrew letter is Teth, translated as the 'coil' of this labyrinth. But now, we are still in early spring.

By our solar calendar, we have arrived at March named after the arrow god Mars. As third day of the week, the northern day is named for the arrow god Tir or Tius.



Symbol for Mars



Symbol for Tir

The Vernal Equinox in March signaled the sacred marriage between the Bride of the Land and her King. Day and Night rest in balance as the two wed. The fertility of her Bottomless Pit depended upon the king's potency. With the seeding of moist Earth, her floods dry until loosed by the birth magic of the next letter. In the north, this is the Drought of March. For magic workers seeking more practical ends than a sage hoping for enlightenment, a woman a full womb, a farmer a golden harvest, the third charm was used to impose knots, bonds, and to dry floods impeding travellers.

³⁴ In scribing Hebrew, lordly El (lamedh) is the only letter allowed to rise above the line.

"Marry on Tuesday, marry for wealth" (traditional). Tuesday is still considered a good day for marriage, G-d having said it is good twice when he dried his land. Marriage is followed hopefully by impregnation allowing new souls to re-enter the world: "The intimate union of the soul with the body...(is) the essential point of this (third) operation...which terminates in the Generation a new substance..." (Third Key of Eudoxes)

By the final changeover from Old Hebrew/Phoenician to the Jewish script, the kings of Judah no longer followed the practice of joining the Temple's priestess in a spring marriage. The temple women have been banished but the new script still


dispenses GML's wealth through a 'tail'. 

"Gimel draws from above through its head and dispenses through its tail."³⁵

Considered a 'wealthy' letter, gimel runs toward poor Dalet to share her wealth.

4. DALET - DOOR

"One for Sorrow, Two for Mirth, Three for a Wedding, Four for a Birth" (traditional)

The fourth position promises the birth of a ruler and is often associated with such kings: the four letters of YHVH or Jupiter's symbol  for example. In palmistry, our pointing four-finger belongs to Jupiter. Number magic endlessly repeating in the material world, our physical body is made manifest by 4 chemicals, the A-C-G-T of our DNA strands. They can combine as triplets into 64 possible combinations, a number associated with chance and divination.³⁶

"Give me life according to your word." (Dalet, Psalm 119) For the birth to occur, the bonds and knots imposed by the third letter are now loosened in alchemy traditions based on alphabet pattern. "Untangle the knots." (Tao Te Ching, fourth verse)³⁷ "A fourth I know: If my foemen lay bonds on my limbs, I can chant myself free." (Havamal, Norse tradition)³⁸


By the time of the writing of Genesis, the greater and lesser lights are spoken into

³⁵ Kaplan, *The Bahir* (1176), p. 8.

³⁶ The number of hexagrams of the I-Ching is 64, as is the number of assistants of Kali of India. She traveled with her dice to Tibet to become the oracle for the Dalai Lama.

³⁷ Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching, Man-jan Cheng Lectures*, 1981 Tao is an alchemy tradition.


³⁸ Runes, acquired near the Black Sea area, like Oghams, are based on the alphabet pattern, although both use difference shapes and names for their letters.

existence rather than delivered through the very female door of the female . The 'os' (mouth) of the delta has become a Creation by the Word.

In Greece, the Sun and Moon (Apollo and Diana) were born on Quail Island, Quail being the fourth letter of Egypt's 'alphabet'. For those who sought to escape the material world of manifestation: "A Quail in a cage was a symbol of the soul imprisoned in the body and longing to escape."³⁹ Manifestation, the 'terrification' of the soul into a physical body, occurred with Three's impregnation followed by Four's earthy birth. "The terrification of the Spirit is the only operation of this Work." (Fourth Key of Eudoxus, b. 395–390 BCE)

The birth of humans has not yet occurred. We are still in the realm of giant gods but after passing the Spring Equinox, the light of Day grows stronger. In Egypt, Isis protected her Sun in her delta until he was strong enough to face the storms of the enemy who had killed his father. The father Osiris ascended into the night stars as Orion; his son Horus became the risen sun as each living Pharaoh.

The new shape of the Jewish script exchanged the delta for the door's post and lintel. "The *Talmud* tells us that the *dalet* represents the poor person. Thus the phrase *gamel dalim*: the benefactor who gives to the beneficiary."⁴⁰ Remember, fertile GML of Letter Three produces the wealth delivered through Four's door.

This new door has only one leg to stand upon. .

5. HEY -WINDOW OR SOUND OF ROUGH BREATHING





The letter Hey can represent the name of G-d rather than the four letters of YHVH. An early Proto-Semitic symbol for Hey was an image of a man of power calling people to order. Letter 'H' in Hebrew represents 'the' and implies the unique importance of the noun. God gifted this letter to Abram (Abraham) and Sara (Sarah) to become ancestors of nations more numerous than the stars. As prefix, it makes the character important; as suffix, Hey marks the word as a fruitful female. On the fifth day of Genesis, after creating the swarming fish and fowl of the air, Creation is invoked to "Be fruitful, and multiply." Mankind, his kin and kine will appear on the sixth day.

Although the sixth symbol is fertile, the fifth symbol is usually associated with the purity and celibacy of the Priest-Kings who once dispensed both laws and the

³⁹ J.C. Cooper, *Mythological Animals*, Aquarian, 1992, pp. 186-1.87

⁴⁰ http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/137076/jewish/Dalet-Passover.htm

harvest of this season. "Teach me Lord the way of your decrees" (Hey/fifth letter, Psalm 119)


Five is literally the quintessence, the purest form of an essence. The Phoenician shape of Hey  may derive from a hieroglyph for hair . Egyptian and Phoenician priests purified themselves and shaved their hair before serving in the temple. Attributes of number five include the transmission of wisdom and gathered harvest by chaste Priest Kings. The Lion King of Leo now owns the Fifth House of astrology and his lions still grace the steps of libraries. Five Books of the Torah were given at Pentecost (50); the descent of the spirited wind (letter Hey) also resulted in the Speaking in Tongues at Pentecost.

The Fifth Day of Genesis creates the birds of the air and swarming fish in the sea. In addition to transmitting wisdom, the fifth symbol is associated with both celibacy and travel. Priests of Phoenicia, ancient Egypt, and the Hebrews (unlike Mesopotamians) avoided sexual activity while serving in the temple. Osiris, first priest king of Egypt was killed and dismembered by his brother. Isis gathered all his pieces except his penis, which had been eaten by a fish. Replacing it with one of gold, she hovered above him in the form of a bird to impregnate herself. She was able to deliver the son/sun who manifested as each living king of Egypt. Osiris then ascended the Heavens to rule in the form of Orion.

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Five Books of the Torah on Sinai. Usually falling in our fifth month of May or early June, the festival is one of three Pilgrimage Festivals mandating travel to the Temple in Jerusalem. These festivals are known as 'Legs' (ReGeLim), 'leg' being fifth letter of the 24-letter Egyptian alphabet. Part of the celebration includes an all night study session and the avoidance of sex during this period.

By tradition one eats dairy products during Pentecost because Israelites awaiting the arrival of their new commandments and were unsure as to what their new dietary laws would be, they ate only dairy products and vegetables. Among later Christians, Pentecost is known as White Day (Whitun). This is the day tongues of fire arrived in Hey's wind to endow a Gift of Tongues: "there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, [...] And there appeared [...] tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them [and filled] with the Holy Spirit [they] began to speak with other languages," (Acts 2:1–6)

Hey translates as either the 'sound of rough breathing' or 'window', literally the wind's eye. In time the Jewish script created an opening to allow the speaking

wind to pass 

"Between Heaven and Earth there seems to be a bellows." (5th verse, Tao Te Ching, another alchemy tradition associating a moving wind with the fifth symbol. In China, Wind follows the speaking Thunder as 5th Trigram of the Early Heaven sequence of Fu Hsi's I-Ching.)

The creators and organizers of early traditions lived close to a natural world nature now divorced from modern scholars. The white dove is among the birds of the air appearing on the fifth day. Messages and laws being among attributes of the fifth letter, doves still carry messages. As symbol, doves descend as the spirit, the speaking wind (*ruach*) of God.

The holy spirit (*ruach ha-kodesh*) is composed of light and fire and gives the gift of prophecy. "The use of the word "ruach" (Hebrew: "breath," or "wind") in the phrase *ruach ha-kodesh* seems to suggest that Judaic authorities believed the Holy Spirit was a kind of communication medium like the wind. The spirit talks sometimes with a masculine and sometimes with a feminine voice; the word *ruach* is both masculine and feminine."⁴¹

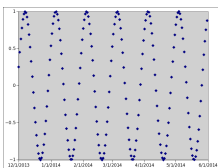
The white dove, like the Quintessence and other fifth symbols, is pure. As such, Doves are kosher and were the only birds used in the Korban, the sacrificial offering in the Temple. (Genesis. 15:9; Lev. 5:7; 12:6) Like Jews celebrating this day of Milk and Honey, "doves feed their young on milk like mammals do, the 'milk' is produced from the parents throat and fed to the young chick., This is called 'Crop Milk' "

The white moon god Sin, who rides a great bull, also rides a dragon. The two nodes where the moon crosses the ecliptic of the sun are known as the dragon's head and tail. A total eclipse of the sun is only possible when the dark moon arrives at a node along the sun's path, passing between earth and sun. On the Fifth Day of Genesis, the Leviathan, a dragon later vanquished by God appears. The Head of the Dragon (Caput Draconis) having been sundered from his tail cannot long hold the sun in thrall. Eventually the Sun emerges victorious from the severed belly of the Great Beast.

Returning to Abraham's city of Harran, it was one of seven ancient temple cities, each sacred to a planet, sun, or moon. Harran was dedicated to the moon god Sin. The moon travels a sinuous path past the ecliptic followed by the sun and planets. In earth-centered observations, he zig-zags in a far more eccentric manner than the faithful sun. None-the-less, the moon travels as a perfect sine wave, sine waves also being formed when the breath of the wind stirs the waters. Also relevant to this symbol of the speaking wind, sine waves create the pure

⁴¹ wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit_in_Christianity


sounds of music. Waves of the moon are too slow for the human ear to hear, but none-the-less must sing in harmony with all the waves of different frequencies.




Moon's Sine Wave

6. WAU (VAV) - NAIL or HOOK

Vav, sixth of 22 Hebrew letters, first appears in Genesis as 22nd letter beginning the sixth word of the Torah. As mentioned above, no single letter can be changed or moved when scribing the Torah without invalidating the scroll. Codes, whether understood by modern readers or not, would disappear. In its first appearance the Nail connects Heaven & (vav) Earth The nail of Vav also appears exactly in the belly of the Torah (Leviticus 11:42) to join two equal parts of the entire text. Vav appears at the top of each Torah page to anchor the text in place. "This custom is reminiscent of the courtyard surrounding the Miskan (Tabernacle) in the desert. Tapestries [were] held in place by little hooks stretched from one upright column to another. The Hebrew word for a 'little hook' is 'vav' hence each

'column' had a 'vav' on top,"  (Ask the Rabbi, Ohr Somayach)..

March celebrated one joining between the King and his Land. Midsummer, when the Sun King is in his prime represents another. The Summer Solstice arrives our sixth month of June, named after Rome's Juno: "Juga, or Jugalis, is an epithet of Juno in Her aspect as marriage Goddess, Who was believed to join a couple together in matrimony. Her name means the Uniter". Juno especially presided over marriages and children.⁴²

 Isis of Egypt is another goddess of the land. Her name "probably meant 'seat' or 'throne' and was written with the sign identical to the one she wore on her head."⁴³ Seat is placed as sixth letter in the 'Egyptian alphabet.' In many traditions, the Goddess represented a throne, a seat the King had to mount to claim his land. Isis of Egypt might appear simply as a throne symbol. She is also depicted with her newly risen son seated on her lap.

⁴² thaliatook.com/OGOD/jugalis.php

⁴³ Manfred Lurker, *Gods & Symbols of Ancient Egypt*, Thames & Hudson, p. 7.

"The sixth one is the Throne of Glory, crowned, included, praised and hailed. It is the house of the World to come." (*The Bahir*, c. 1100)



Isis and Horus her young Sun on her lap.⁴⁴

We have now entered the Hebrew month of Tammuz: "The word Tamuz reads in Hebrew: 'tam' -'connect together', 'consummate'."⁴⁵ That is, like sixth letter Vav (nail) and Juno the Uniter, Tammuz implies another union between Heaven and Earth. On the sixth day, the Sabbath Bride joins her Israel for their Friday night date. Friday, like June, is named after the Goddess (Freya, Viernes, Shukravar all being names for Venus in her female aspect).



Six pointed star joining the male spirit with the female matter

Tammuz was the dying (and rising) god of the Near East. His death occurred after each Summer Solstice with the onset of the hot dry season. Some stories have him fleeing to Harran before dying. Tales "told in the Cave of Treasures, tell of Harran as the place where Tammuz, the Sumerian god of vegetation, was slain [...] Tammuz' death was ritually mourned throughout much of ancient Mesopotamia. This yearly practice, which follows the summer solstice, was however continued in Harran until well into the 10th century C.E.".⁴⁶

In Egypt, Isis in the form of the star Sirius rose around the solstice, signaling the month of Inundation. Tears for her dead King caused the Flood of the Nile to appear each June and July.

After Midsummer the sun leaves the warmth of summer, dying back into the dark days of fall. The bee king will die after June's honeymoon flight with the Queen. There is a sense of melancholy after Midsummer. Tammuz, after whom the Hebrew month is named, will enter the Underworld after fertilizing his Lady of the Dates (Venus/Inanna). But like the Hag of Ireland turning young with each spring, Tammuz returns after the mourning of the year.

By Jewish tradition, "Tammuz is filled with paradox, in part because of its infamous distinction as the beginning of our fall from grace. [It is the] month of the

⁴⁴ Egypt c. 680-640 BCE, Wiki Commons

⁴⁵ inner.org/times/tamuz/tamuz.htm

⁴⁶ <http://clavisjournal.com/the-shadow-of-harran/>

sun of the golden calf, which resulted in the breaking of the Tablets."⁴⁷ Following Midsummer's standstill comes the period of mourning ending with the 9th of Av.

7. **I** or Z ZAIN - WEAPON

"El appears in order to show mercy so that the world will not be destroyed [...] seventh name from the Holy Names is the one known as El."⁴⁸

There has always been a mixed message in the weapon as the seventh symbol. Seven (Sabbath) is named after the last of the planets, Saturn, aged Lord of the Rings. Saturn, literally seven, is a god of time and endings and like all manifestations of Time, literally eats his children. As El, an avatar preceding Judaism, Saturnus is one of many names for giant Orion, his El-wand being similar in shape to numeral 7. A fertile World God, hanging from his belt is his

sword. Also know as his penis, it is a slang term for seven's Zain. **I**⁴⁹

When, except for silent Aleph, all the letters asked to lead the days of Genesis, Zain emphasized his importance as the mystical number Seven. G-d refused Zain's request. Associated with arms and violence, Weapon was not allowed first place. Although Zain 's 'weapon' was not allowed to replace the blessing of B as first letter of B'reishit, it is one of the few letters permitted to wear a crown.



By the Western calendar, we have reached July and early August. These months in the Hebrew calendar are: "Tammuz and Av [...] the low point of the cycle marked by commemorations of tragedies that befell the Jewish people in several ages of their history [the three weeks] are marked by customs of grief."⁵⁰ Ancient Jews circled the Temple altar seven times with the blood of sacrificed animals, until, in the month of Av, both Temples of Jerusalem were destroyed.

Although the Nile Floods now rise to cover the land, although the Sun is now dying back toward his fall, Jews converted Seven's symbol to one of hope. "The

⁴⁷ chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/2241472/jewish/Tammuz-the-Month-of-Darkness-and-Light.htm

⁴⁸ Rabbi Gikatilla, (b.1248), *Gates of Light*, Weinstein trans, Harper Collins, 1994, pp. 273-275.

⁴⁹ Stories of gods connected to the stars of Orion losing their penis may be a memory of a supernova in this fuzzy area of astral genesis.

⁵⁰ Strassfield, *Jewish Holidays*, p. 85. In Babylon, Tammuz is the dying and reborn Grain God. He is another deity associated with Orion.

seventh day was SHaBaT (he rested)."⁵¹ "Seven reminds us of the Shabbos, the seventh and holiest day of the week. Seven reminds us of the seventh year called Shemittah, the Sabbatical year when the land lay fallow; also the Hakhel year—the year when all of Israel, men, women, and children, came to the Holy Temple to be inspired by the king—which took place once every seven years."⁵²

The first non-Biblical reference to Sabbath is in an ostrakon found at Mesad Hashavyahu dated 630 BCE⁵³

The seventh day, most holy of the week, begins the night of the sixth day with candles being lit and the Bride welcomed. It ends with the candles being extinguished. At the end of the seventh day, like all endings it is time to move on. It is a time of bittersweet separation from this day of peace. The Havdalah (separation) marks the end of Shabbat, and ushers in the new week. After three stars appear in the sky, blessings are recited over a cup of wine, and over the fragrant spices. Then the candle is extinguished at the end of the day.

In time, dry land will again appear. In Egypt the Phoenix will call from the top of the earth rising out of the swirling waters. The name of the Phoenix and the name of the Palm Tree on which the bird makes its nest are identical words. Soon the dates of a new time will emerge. In Egypt the season is Peretz, the bursting forth. The black earth will sprout again. Stories being freely traded and adapted throughout the ancient world, Tamar (palm tree) will give birth to the sons of Judah and the tribe will continue through the line of another Peretz. As a weekday, we rise into the light of the sun-day. Following the path of alphabet letters, we pass into the white light shining through the Gate of the eighth letter (Heth/gate) and return to Sun-day.

Although we have come to the end of the seven days of Genesis, the alphabet letters continue their march through the seasons of life and afterlife. There are several possible endings to our tale: We might end the cycle after seven days; or we might rise up through the Gate of the 8th letter and travel until the Floods of the 13th letter (mem/water). We might instead pass through the eye of the 16th letter (Ain/eye), the eye the wealthy camel (GML) of the third letter cannot pass without sharing his riches with the poor. Or we might continue the journey through the stars until we reach the final mark (Tav), the door back into the material world as the Hebrew alphabet begins again counting out A-T in continuing helices.⁵⁴

Fin-again-Begin-again

⁵¹ Gikatilla, *Gates of Light*, p. 69.

⁵² www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/137079/jewish/Zayin

⁵³ wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesad_Hashavyahu

⁵⁴ see *Alchemy of Alphabets*, Academia.edu for later letters.