

# The Book of Creation by Avraham Avinu

## Chapter one

**1** In 32 wondrous paths of wisdom did God, the Lord of Hosts, God of Israel, the Living God, El Shaddai, exalted and lofty, who dwells in the heaven and whose Name is holy, engrave the universe.

And He created His universe with three divine emanations: with writing, with numbers, and with speech. Ten measures created from nothingness and twenty-two base letters.

**2** The ten measures are the numbers one to ten as in ten fingers: five opposing five and a single covenant between them as the circumcision of the tongue in the mouth and the circumcision of the genitalia.

**3** Ten measures from nothingness; ten and not nine, ten and not eleven. Understand them with wisdom, examine them with understanding, discern and inquire of them, know and reflect, and stand by each thing in its essence and truth. And return the Creator to His source, because He alone is the Creator and there is no other; and His measures and virtues are ten, and they are infinite.

**4** Ten measures from nothingness: Guard your heart from thought and reflection; guard your mouth from speaking, and if your heart dashes ahead, return to the place where you were before, as it is said, "And the holy creatures ran ahead and returned." And the covenant was made with respect to this.

**5** Ten measures from nothingness: Their end was incorporated in their beginning, and their beginning is merged with their end, just as the fiery flame clings to its embering coals. Know, bear in mind, and firmly establish that the Lord is One; and the Creator is One, and there is no other. And before Him, who could have been?

**6** Ten measures from nothingness: Their number is ten and they are infinite. A depth of beginning and a depth of end; depth of good and depth of evil; depth above and depth below; depth to the east and depth to the west; depth to the north and depth to the south. The Lord is One God and loyal King, who rules all from His holy sanctuary forever.

**7** Ten measures from nothingness; they appear as a flash, a lightning spark; there is no limit to their essence, and His word in them is in their running and bounding back to what He says, like the winds that chase a storm, and they prostrate themselves before his throne.

**8** Ten measures from nothingness and twenty-two base letters: Three mother letters and seven doubles, and twelve simple letters, and the breath of spirit lies within each one of them.

**9** Ten measures from nothingness: One is the spirit of the Living G-d, true to His throne sincethe beginning of time. Blessed is the Name of the Life of the Worlds, always and

forever, voice and spirit and speech. And speech is the Holy Spirit, and He has no beginning nor is there an end to his purpose.

**10** Ten measures from nothingness: The first is the breath of the spirit of the Living G-d; the second is the spirit from spirit; the third is water from spirit; the fourth is fire from water, and above and below, East and West, North and South.

**11** Two is spirit from spirit. He engraved and chiseled four heavenly winds in them – East and West, North and South; and the spirit lies within each one.

**12** Three is water from the breath of spirit, and He engraved and chiseled them from chaos and the endless deep (tohu vavohu), sludge and clay. He made them a kind of garden bed and set up a kind of wall and gave cover to them. And he poured snow over them and the dust of the earth was created, as it is said, "He said to the snow, be earth." Tohu is the green line that encircles the world, vohu is the stones embedded in the deep, and the water flows through between them.

**13** Four is fire from water, from which He engraved and chiseled the Throne of Glory, the heavenly creations, celestial beings, and the Holy creatures, and the administering angels, and from three of them he established his sanctuary as it is said, "He makes His angels from spirits, His servants from a blazing fire."

**14** Five: He sealed the height above. He selected three of the simple letters and set them in His GreatName - Yud, Hey, and Vav; and he sealed with them six extremities, and He faced upwards, and sealed it with HY"V.

Six: He sealed below and He faced downwards and sealed it with YV"H.

Seven: He sealed the East and faced forwards and sealed it with VY"H.

Eight: He sealed the West and faced backwards and sealed it with VH"Y.

Nine: He sealed the South and faced His right and sealed it with YV"H.

Ten: He sealed the North faced His left and sealed it with HV"Y.

These are the ten measures from nothingness: The first is the breath of the spirit of the living G-d; the second is the spirit from spirit; the third is water from spirit; four is fire from water –above and below, East and West, North and South:

## **Chapter two**

**1** There are twenty-two base letters: three mother letters, and seven doubles, and twelve simple letters. And they are all created and engraved by the sound of His voice, chiseled and fashioned by His spirit; and He set them in five places in the mouth. The letters Alef, Chet, Hey and Ayin, Gimel, Yod, Kaf and Kuf, Dalet, Tet, Lamed, Nun and Tav, Zayin, Samekh, Tzadi, Resh and Shin and Bet, Vav, Mem and Peh belong to the tongue, like a burning flame embracing its coals. AChH"A are pronounced at the back of the tongue and in the throat where one swallows; BVM"P, between the lips and at the tip of the tongue; GYK"K with the back third of the tongue on the palate; DTLN"T with the tip of the tongue, together with the sound of the voice; ZSTzR"Sh, between the teeth and the tongue, as it lies flat against the teeth.

**2** Twenty-two base letters, whose foundation is set in a wheel with 231 gates. The wheel rolls back and forth, and it is a sign that if positioned in good, there is no degree of good that surpasses delight, and if positioned in bad, there is no degree of bad that surpasses plague.

**3** Twenty-two letters: He engraved, chiseled, weighed, and transformed Aleph  $\kappa$  with each one of them. And He bound a soul to each creation, and to each creation He foresaw, though it had not yet been created.

**4** How did He do this? He weighed and transformed them, Aleph with all of them and all of them with Aleph, Bet with all of them and all of them with Bet, and likewise all of them with each other. And they revolve in a cycle, repeating over and over, appearing and disappearing from the 231 gates, and every creation and every utterance emanates from One Name

**5** He created substance from chaos; He made something from nothing, and chiseled large stones from air that cannot be held.

### **Chapter three**

**1** The three mother letters are AM"Sh. Their foundation is the pan of merit and the pan of obligation. And the tongue arbitrates between them.

**2** The three mother letters AM"Sh is a great, unrevealed, and wondrous secret, which is concealed in six rings, from where fire, water, and air come. They are divided into male and female. Know and reflect and establish that fire supports water.

**3** The three mother letters AM"Sh: The fire originated from the heavens, and the air emanated from spirit, and the earth was created from water. Fire above and water below, and the spirit arbitrates between them. And the fathers were born from them, and from them everything was created.

**4** The three mother letters AM"Sh in the world are the air, water, and fire. The heavens were created from fire and the earth from water, and the breath from spirit arbitrates between them.

**5** The three mother letters AM"Sh in the year are the heat, cold, and temperate. Heat was created from fire, cold was created from water, and the temperate from spirit arbitrates between them.

**6** The three mother letters AM"Sh in the soul are the head, stomach, and torso. The head was created from fire, the stomach from water, and the torso from the spirit that arbitrates between them.

**7** The three mother letters AM"Sh were engraved, chiseled, refined, and within them were sealed the three mothers of the world. And the three mothers are in the year, and the three mothers are in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**8** He appointed the letter Aleph as ruler over air and affixed a crown to it. And He bound one to the other and from them He created air in the world, the temperate climate of the year, and the torso in the soul, both male and female aspects.

He appointed the letter Mem as ruler over water and affixed a crown to it. And he bound one to the other and from them He established earth in the world, and the cold climate of the year, and the stomach in the soul, both male and female aspects.

He appointed the letter Shin as ruler over fire and affixed a crown to it. And He bound one to the other and from them He formed the heavens in the world, the hot climate of the year, and the head in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**9** How did He fashion them? AM"Sh Ash"M, MA"Sh MSh"A, ShA"M ShM"A. The heavens are fire, the air is the breath of the spirit, the earth is water. Man's head is fire, his stomach is water, and his heart is the breath of spirit.

**10** The three mother letters AM"Sh:

With A He created— breath of spirit, air, the temperate climate, the chest, and the tongue that arbitrates between them.

With M He created – water, earth, the cold climate, the stomach, and the pan of merit.

With Sh He created – fire, the heavens, the hot climate, the head, the pan of obligation. And this is AM"Sh.

## **Chapter four**

There are seven double letters, Bet, Gimel and Dalet, and Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav, whose foundation is life, peace, wisdom, wealth, offspring, grace, and governance. They express themselves in dual sounds, since they are doubles. B"V, G"J, Th"D, K"Kh, P"Ph, R"R, T"Th. There is a hard and a soft articulation, a distinct one and a more gentle one. And they transpose. The transposition of wisdom is foolishness; the transposition of wealth is poverty; the transposition of offspring is desolation; the transposition of life is death; the transposition of rule is servitude; the transposition of peace is war; the transposition of grace is ugliness.

**2** Seven doubles Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav. Seven and not six, seven and not eight, since they correspond to the six ribs and six orders, and the holy sanctuary is positioned in the middle. Blessed is the honor of God from His place. His place is the place of the universe, and the universe is not His place. He carries and supports them all.

**3** Seven doubles Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav of foundation. He engraved, chiseled, refined, weighed, and transformed them, and fashioned from them the seven planets of the universe, seven days of the year, seven gates to the soul, seven and seven.

**4** How did He form them? He attached two stones from which two houses were built; three stones produced six houses; four stones produced 14 houses; five stones produced 120 houses; six stones produced 720 houses; seven stones produce 5,040 houses, and onwards, until the mouth can no longer speak, nor the ear hear of the number.

**5** He appointed the letter Bet as ruler over wisdom, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the planet Saturn in the universe, and the Sabbath day in the year, and the mouth in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**6** He appointed the letter Gimel as ruler over wealth, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the planet Jupiter in the universe, and the first day (Sunday) in the year, and the right eye in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**7** He appointed the letter Dalet as ruler over offspring, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the planet Mars in the universe, and the second day (Monday) in the year, and the left eye in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**8** He appointed the letter Kaf as ruler over life, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the sun in the universe, and the third day (Tuesday) in the year, and the right nostril in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**9** He appointed the letter Peh as ruler over rule, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the planet Venus in the universe, and the fourth day (Wednesday) in the year, and the left nostril in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**10** He appointed the letter Resh as ruler over peace, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the planet Mercury in the universe, and the fifth day (Thursday) in the year, and the right ear in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**11** He appointed the letter Tav as ruler over grace, and attached a crown to it, and He bound the one with the other, and with them he formed the moon in the universe, and the sixth day (Friday) in the year, and the left ear in the soul, both male and female aspects. And from them He chiseled seven firmaments, seven lands, seven seas, seven rivers, seven deserts, seven days, seven weeks, seven years, seven sabbaticals, seven jubilees, and the Holy sanctuary. Thus, He chiseled a seventh for every aspiration and object under the heavens.

**12** Seven planets in the Universe: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the sun, Venus, Mercury, the moon; seven days of the year are seven days of the week; seven gates to the soul, both male and female aspects: two eyes, two ears, the two nostrils, and the mouth.

**13** These are the seven firmaments: Curtain, Firmament, Heaven, Abode, Shelter, Residence, Heavens.

These are the seven lands: Ground, Land, Oblivion, Macrocosm, Mineral, Earth, Valley. And He made each one standing alone. A universe alone, a soul alone, and year alone.

Land, ground, valley, macrocosm, mineral, earth

**14** Seven doubles Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav.

With Bet He created Saturn, Shabbat, the mouth, life and death.

With Gimel He created Jupiter, the first day (Sunday), the right eye, peace and evil.

With Dalet He created Mars, the second day (Monday), the left eye, wisdom and foolishness.

With Kaf He created the sun, the third day (Tuesday), the right nostril, wealth and poverty.  
With Peh He created Venus, the fourth day (Wednesday), the left nostril, offspring and desolation.

With Resh He created Mercury, the fifth day (Thursday), the right ear, grace and ugliness.

With Tav He created the moon, the sixth day (Friday), the left ear, governance and servitude.

And these are Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav.

## **Chapter five**

**1** There are twelve simple letters: Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf. Their foundation is sight, hearing, smell, speech, taste, coition, motion, anger, laughter, thought, happiness, sleep.

**2** There are twelve simple letters: Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf. Their foundation is twelve and not eleven, twelve and not thirteen. There are twelve diagonal borders split into six orders between the directions: the upper east border, the north-east border, the lower east border; the upper south border, the south-east border, the lower south border; the upper west border, the south west border, the lower west border; the upper north border, the north-west border, the lower north border. They extend and continue forever and ever, and they are the pinnacles of the Universe.

**3** Twelve simple letters: Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf. He engraved, chiseled, refined, weighed, and transformed them, and he merged the twelve zodiac constellations in the universe with them. Twelve months in the year, twelve rulers of the soul, both male and female aspects. Two are jovial, two are slanderous; two are advisors, two are cheerful; And they are the stomachs the two rows of teeth, two arms, and two legs, He made them like a kind of dispute. He arranged them as a kind of war or conflict, one opposing the other.

**4** Three: Each one stands alone. One acquires, one is liable, and one arbitrates between them.

**5** Seven: Three opposite three and one arbitrates between them. And twelve stand in war. Three allies, three enemies, three give life, and three are deadly. The three allies are the heart, the ears, and the eyes; the three enemies are the liver, the gall, and the tongue; the three that give life are the two nostrils and the spleen; and the three deadly ones are the two orifices and the mouth. And God the faithful King rules over them all, from His holy sanctuary forever.

**6** One over three; three over seven; seven over twelve; and they are all attached to each other; and it is a sign of the twenty-two objects and one body.

**7** And these are the twelve rulers: two arms, two legs, two kidneys, the liver, gall, spleen, the small intestines, the stomach, the esophagus.

**8** He appointed the letter Heh as ruler of speech, and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the ram (Aries) in the universe, and the month of Nissan in the year, and the liver in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**9** He appointed the letter Vav as ruler of thought and reflection, and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the bull (Taurus) in the universe, and the month of Iyar in the year, and the gall in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**10** He appointed the letter Zayin as ruler of motion, and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the twins (Gemini) in the universe, and the month of Sivan in the year, and the spleen in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**11** He appointed the letter Chet as ruler of sight, and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the crab (Cancer) in the universe, and the month of Tamuz in the year, and the small intestines in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**12** He appointed the letter Tet as ruler of hearing, and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the lion (Leo) in the universe, and the month of Av in the year, and the right kidney in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**13** He appointed the letter Yod as ruler of action and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the maiden (Virgo) in the universe, and the month of Elul in the year, and the left kidney in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**14** He appointed the letter Lamed as ruler of coition and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the scales (Libra) in the universe, and the month of Tishrei in the year, and the stomach in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**15** He appointed the letter Nun as ruler of smell and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the scorpion (Scorpio) in the universe, and the month of Marcheshvan in the year, and the esophagus in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**16** He appointed the letter Samekh ruler of sleep and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the archer (Sagittarius) in the universe, and the month of Kislev in the year, and the right hand in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**17** He appointed the letter Ayin as ruler of anger and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the goat (Capricorn) in the universe, and the month of Tevet in the year, and the left hand in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**18** He appointed the letter Tzadi as ruler of taste and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the water carrier (Aquarius) in the universe, and the month of Shvat in the year, and the right leg in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**19** He appointed the letter Kuf as ruler of laughter and attached a crown to it, and bound each to the other, and with them he fashioned the fish (Pisces) in the Universe, and the month of Adar in the year, and the left leg in the soul, both male and female aspects.

**20** He divided the witnesses, and He placed each one on his own: the universe on its own, the year on its own, and the soul on its own.

**21** These are the twelve simple letters: Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf.

Heh is the Ram (Aries), the month of Nissan, the liver, sight and blindness.

Vav is the Bull (Taurus), the month of Iyar, the gall, hearing and deafness.

Zayin is the Twins (Gemini), the month of Sivan, the spleen, smell and the inability to smell.

Chet is the Crab (Cancer), the month of Tamuz, the small intestines, speech and muteness.

Tet is the Lion (Leo), the month of Av, the right kidney, taste and hunger.

Yod is the Maiden (Virgo), the month of Elul, the left kidney, action and infirmity.

Lamed is the Scales (Libra), the month of Tishrei, the stomach, coition and impotence.

Nun is the Scorpion (Scorpio), the month of Marcheshvan, the esophagus, motion and lameness.

Samekh is the Archer (Sagittarius), the month of Kislev, the right hand, anger and lack of liver.

Ayin, is the Goat (Capricorn), the month of Tevet, the left hand, laughter and lack of spleen.

Tzadi is the Water Carrier (Aquarius), the month of Shvat, the right leg, thought and reflection and lack of heart.

Kuf is the Fish (Pisces), the month of Adar, the left leg, sleep and alertness.

These are the twelve simple letters - Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf.

## **Chapter six**

**1** There are three mother letters - Aleph, Mem and Shin, seven doubles - Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav, twelve simple letters - Heh and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf. These are the twenty-two letters with which were established Y"H, G-d, Lord of Hosts, God of Israel, the Living G-d, God El Shaddai, exalted and lofty, who dwells in the heaven and whose Name is holy.

The two names - Y"H and YHV"H,

Hosts – He is a sign within His hosts

God of Israel – a prince before God

The living God – Three things are called "Life": God is life, water is life, the tree of life

El – hard

Shaddai – Until here, it is enough

Exalted – Since He sits in His exalted place in the universe and is loftier than the loftiest

Lofty – Since he carries and supports all that is above and below. All those that carry are beneath and their burdens are above them, and He is above and supports those beneath Him, and He carries and sustains the entire Universe.

Who dwells forever – His kingdom is forever and it is eternal

Whose Name is holy – He is holy and His servants are holy, and they say to him, "Holy holy holy."

**2** Twelve are below and seven are over them, and there are three over the seven. From the three, He established His sanctuary and everything is sustained and stands in one. A sign

that He is One. He has no other. He alone is King in His universe and He is One and His Name is One.

**3** Three fathers and their descendants, seven conquerors and their armies, and twelve diagonal borders. Testimony to this and loyal witnesses are the universe, the year, and the soul.

**4** The world is measured by ten and twelve: fire, air, and water, the seven planets, and the twelve zodiac constellations. The year is measured by ten and twelve: cold, hot, and temperate, seven days, and twelve months. The soul is measured by ten and twelve: the head, torso, and esophagus, the seven gates, and twelve rulers.

**5** A rule of ten: three, seven, twelve. He commanded them in the teli, the wheel or cycle, and the heart. The teli in the world is like a king on his throne, the cycle in the year is like a king in his land, the heart in the soul is like a king at war.

**6** The rule for this is that is that some merge with others, and others interchange. Some act as opposites, and others are the opposites of those, and if some exist, others do not exist, and if others exist, those do not. And all are attached to the teli, the wheel, and the heart.

**7** Also, every desire "one opposing the other was created by G-d." Good as opposed to evil, and evil as opposed to good; good from good, evil from evil. The good discerns the evil, and the evil discerns the good. Good is preserved for the good and evil is preserved for the evil.

**8** And when Abraham our Father, the servant of G-d, looked and saw, and examined and understood and engraved and chiseled and refined and created and thought, and was successful, and the Lord over everything, praised be His Name for ever, was revealed to him, and He placed him on His lap and kissed him on his head and called Avraham His love, and He forged a covenant with him and his offspring to last forever, and he believed in God and thought of it as righteousness. And the honor of God was called upon him, as it is written "Before I created you in the womb, I knew you." And He forged a covenant between the ten fingers of his hand, and this is the holy tongue. He connected twenty-two letters to his tongue. And the Holy One blessed be He revealed their secrets to him. He drew them in water, lit them with fire, stirred them up with air, burned them with the seven planets, directed them with the twelve zodiac constellations.

**9** Heavens, fire, heat, head; air, breath of spirit, temperate, torso; earth, water, cold, esophagus. These are Aleph, Mem, and Shin.

**10** Saturn, Sabbath, mouth; Jupiter, Sunday, right eye; Mars, Monday, left eye; the sun, Tuesday, right nostril; Venus, Wednesday, left nostril; Mercury, Thursday, right ear; the moon, Friday, left ear. These are Bet, Gimel and Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh and Tav.

**11** And these are the twelve zodiac constellations: the ram (Aries), Nissan, the liver, sight and blindness; the bull, Iyar, the gall, hearing and deafness; the twins (Gemini), Sivan, the spleen, smell and the inability to smell; the crab (Cancer), Tamuz, small intestines, speech and muteness; the lion (Leo), Av, the right kidney, taste and hunger; the maiden (Virgo), Elul, the left kidney, action and infirmity; the scales (Libra), Tishrei, the stomach, coition and impotence; the scorpion (Scorpio), Marcheshvan, the , motion and lameness; the archer (Sagittarius), Kislev, the right hand, laughter and the lack of spleen; the goat (Capricorn), Tevet, the left hand, laughter and lack of spleen; the water carrier (Aquarius), Shvat, the

right leg, thought and reflection and lack of heart; the fish (Pisces), Adar, the left leg, sleep and alertness.

This is He and Vav, Zayin and Chet, Tet and Yod, Samekh and Ayin, Tzadi and Kuf.

**12** There are three enemies: the tongue, the liver, and the gall. There are three friends: The eyes, the ears, and the heart. Three give life: the teeth, the nose, and the spleen. Three are deadly: the two orifices below and the mouth.

**13** Three are not under one's control: the eyes, ears, and nose. Three are pleasant sounding to the ear: a blessing, good news, and praise. Three are bad sights to see: an adulteress, the evil eye, and a roaming eye. Three are pleasant sights to see: humility, a good eye, a loyal eye. There are three types of evil for the tongue: speaking badly, slander, and one who says one thing with the mouth and another thing in the heart. There are three types of good for the tongue: silence, guarding the tongue, and speaking the truth.

**The conclusion of the holy Book of Creation, with the help of His blessed and exalted Name.**

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