

Notaricon: Meanings of the Alefbet

The letters of the alefbet are the nexus between the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. To the degree we perceive language to be primarily denotative and rooted in the tangible things of this world, we partake of the lesser tree. To the degree we perceive the connotative and transforming dimensions of language by its use of allusion to the principles underlying creation, we are partaking of the higher tree that leads to life eternal.

Notaricon is the art of reading a Hebrew word forms not as sound cues pointing to specific meanings, but as graphic statements of interacting principles. Letters are read as words and phrases. To the degree traditional sound meanings are supported by notaricon, those meanings are valid. To the degree sound meanings are unsupported by notaricon, those meanings must be acknowledge to be inventions of man. For comparison of what is offered here with traditional views of the Hebrew alefbet, I recommend Rabbi Ginsburgh's presentation at The Inner-Dimension website. Significations of the Paleo-Hebrew script are also found at the screens beginning at <http://www.bethashem.org/ketav.html>, a site with many additional language resources.

Like Torah, the letters are written within and without-- that is, they have their interior and exterior significances, as well as their positive and negative aspects. The lines of the letters and the blank spaces within and around the letters all have lessons for us.

The basic meanings listed below are used in the Paleo-Hebrew Hypertext dictionary. The list is by no means definitive; for meanings of letters involve much more than their shapes, as each letter enjoys various positionings within the Crown Diamond and Adam Kadmon, with correspondences to both the human body and to the greater cosmos. Before we can progress to the higher notaricon implied by the positionings on the Tree of Life, however, we must first restore foundational understandings of language.

A PDF version of the notaricon tables that follow is available for download. Please select the download-to-disk option in your browser.

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In the beginning, Elohim created the heavens and the earth.

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א 1, 1,000 **Alef** 1st letter **𐤀**

outward projection

ox; horns; to emanate, protrude; to explode, burst; anger, belligerence; vigor, virility, fecundity, physical vitality; power, force, ability; propulsion; to scatter; disorder, animosity; thousand, thousand-fold; increase, expansion, growth; harvest; to implicate; humanity

contraction

one; central point; atom, monad; small, miniscule; humble, contrite; to lessen; restricted, compacted, consolidated; condensation, diminishment, reduction; to wrap, bind, tie; to capture, corner, box in; to squeeze; friction; to transect, intersect, intervene; to settle, decide

foremost

chief, head, leader, lord; principality; master; champion; familiar, confidante, friend

to focus

to fix upon; side view of the eye; to examine, to identify; triangulation; augury, divination, sorcery; area; self, ego; person

seed

concept, idea, principle; beginning, cause; planting; conception, germination; sperm; impetus

the priesthood

to meditate; introspection, self-awareness; inspiration; renewal; to school, train; to learn; ability; pride, self-centeredness, mania



b 2 Bet 2nd letter 𐤁

house

home, habitat, habitation; establishment, household; family, kin, tribe, peer group; parochial; building, construction; form, manifestation; body, shell, exterior; superficiality; flesh; child, fetus; soul as house of the spirit; interior; receptacle, repository; to store, retain

ear

hearing; to listen; reception, interiorization; consciousness, awareness; passivity; inertia

to pair

accept; to embrace, hold; to agree, match; image; scoop; to adopt, take in, domesticate, tame, acclimate; to tuck, hide, conceal

to develop

to implement, formulate, build; formation

means

in, of, by

spiral

to recoil; segmentation; among

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g 3 Gimel 3rd letter 7

camel

to carry, transport, transmit, facilitate; process, procedure

to lift

hoe; to weed, cull; hump, hill, incline; inclination; arise, ascend, sprout; perpetuality; to approach, reach, go beyond; excess

neck

throat; vocalization; to swallow, drink; conduit, avenue; a crevice, canal

canal

the umbilical; to tangle, entangle; the birth process; bowels, nervous system; waves

angle

elbow, knee, ankle, wrist; to fold, bend, deposit; to trip, stumble, dive; to walk, step, kick; to hurl, throw

recompense

to repay, render; vengeance; bitterness

7 7 7 7

d 4 Dalet 4th ▲

door

passageway; gateway, bridge; entrances, exits; access, opening, opportunity

obstacle

blockage, impediment, cover; partition, division

nostril

secret chamber; vagina; heart; tent; to dwell, occupy

perception

insight; to look, investigate; to notice; attention

to shine

pervade; emotions; fervor; yoga; to sit, take position

arrowhead

pointed; pyramid; burial vault; security, refuge



h 5 He 5th letter 

light

stars; illumination; enlightenment, revelation; instantaneous

life

animation, aura; heat; she, her

rake

winnowing fan; to differentiate, distinguish, discern; examination; to separate; to gather, distribute; to collect, disperse, proliferate; affiliation; to cull, shed; to discredit

to blaze

sparkle; notoriety; to highlight, emphasize, point out, indicate; the definite article

fingers

toes, claws; to comb; to fan, exacerbate

wind

rain, showers; evaporation, precipitation; to leak, drip, diffuse; to dissolve; weeping; catharsis

to catch

capture, isolate; rows, ranks, columns; options, choices



W 6 He 6th letter Y

yoke

link, bond, nexus; longing; conjunction; and, or, but; to join, bond, unify; unity

scales

balance; to weigh, consider, evaluate, judge; to administer, adjudicate; to adjust, rectify; to struggle, contend, dispute; to yield, abandon; equilibrium, peace; passion, compassion; emotional vitality

hook

nail, pin, fastener; to adhere, clasp; to encounter; attached; harness, reins; to be suspended; limbo

cradle

to uphold, coddle; chair, seat, throne; to fly, soar, glide, hover; to pivot; to contract, expand; to stretch, broaden, proliferate, intensify, emphasize; lungs; abdomen, navel

to yearn

to worship, adore; offering; breast, teat; outpouring; milk; chalice, cup; mercy; maternity; womb

nose

thumb, big toe; crutch; socket; shackles

funnel

to fuel, reinforce; tornado; judgment; to negotiate, merge, converge; fulcrum; he, him

Y < ʌ >

Z 7 Waw 7th letter Σ

weapon

sword, knife, dart, javelin, arrow, spear, armament; to arm, prepare; foe, warrior; to be abusive, harmful; strength

thrust

penetration, suffusion; roots; to wound; antagonism, opposition; to split, sever; schism; lightning

pen

words, laws, instruments; to mark, shape, make, sculpt; to carve; to plan; masculine

wing

feather, pinion; bird; to hang, dangle; to stand out

perfection

regeneration, healing; deliverance; goal, aim; rest, shabbat

to complete

finish; ejaculation; to submerge, bury; underground; to subside

Σ 4 Z 4

j 8 Chet 8th letter H

ladder

**means to reach new plateaus; to climb, elevate; ascension, descension;
depression; fatigue; anxiety, fear; strife, confrontation, discord; to
change, repent; to enhance, better**

covenant

**agreement, affinity, harmony; relationship; equality; to honor, celebrate;
joy, elation**

work

labor, effort, service, assignment; engagements

to provide

care, help, assist; to amass; commitment

window

outlook, perspective; borders

torso

stretched; chariot; to distance

loom

weaving; interrelationships; to correspond; exchange

H H H H

f 9 Tet 9th letter ⊗

basket

to collect, assemble; community, town; dwelling area; network; cave, lair

union

resolution of opposites; harmonization of disparate forces; to fortify, strengthen, reinforce; to come together, adhere; fertilization

target

shield; shelter, refuge, safety; to hide, conceal; to bind, cover, bury; captivity, restraint; to cage, jail, keep, lock up; pen, stall; to limit, inhibit; to circumvent

operational stages

sequences, patterns, arrangements; segmentations; to break apart, hold together

truth

security, trust; obedience; dependence, mutuality; integration; interchange



y 10 Yod 10th letter ז

hand

reaching (wrist and cupped fingers); giving, receiving; sharing; to bring, take; to catch, grab, pick; to touch, feel; to reach, fondle; to rob, steal, deplete; to release, give up, let go, part with, dispense with

to incite

entice, tempt; to shove, rush; to accumulate, appropriate; to act; means of attainment; duration, stamina

action

activity; to kindle; to present; presentation; redress; to kneel, pay homage; obeisance

blessing

fullness, fortune; expedience; possession, ownership; assertion, intervention; my, mine

to write

inscribe; inscription

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° k 500, 20 Kaf 11th letter י

trident

pitchfork; reaping; broad path, crooked way; tree of the knowledge of good and evil

tree

branch; offspring; tribes; leaves; productivity, fruitfulness

extensions

antlers; spoon; handle; extremity; to make evident, brandish; conspicuous

bent

curved, concave, hollow; inversion; perverse, twisted; palm of hand; sole of foot; to applaud, rejoice

teachings

doctrines, coverings; persuasion, coercion

rock

cliff, crag; to upend, overthrow; upheaval; to undermine, sabotage

to realign

to simplify, amalgamate, restructure; to complicate, obfuscate

י ו א ב

| 30 Lamed 12th letter ل

goad

rod, staff; penis; arm, wrist; leg and foot; finger; bone; tongue, nose

to instruct

teacher, instructor; to point, indicate, order; to guide, steer; course, direction; to argue, aver; to prove; schooled, taught

beard

elder; maturity; role, influence

to test

prod, encourage; ambition; to accuse, indict; to defend, prevent

to refrain

to chastise, correct, punish; to cease, stop; to discourage, inhibit, afflict; malice

to change directions

reconsider; to redirect, deflect, change; evasive; to, towards

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μ m 600, 40 Mem 13th letter 

fluids

water; semen; soft, cleansing, refreshing; to flow; to be swift; to pour, fill; oil; anointing; to be chosen; preference; favoritism

to mirror

reflect, return; to invoke, allude; message; wisdom's attributes

to disturb

befuddle, confuse; to trouble; wild, reckless; wilderness; scorpion

to release

free, unlock, unleash; relaxed; unrestricted, unfettered; uncategorical; to disburse, pay; to lose; to loosen, divorce; to draw out, empty; superficial; derivation; from

peoples

multitudes; nation; multiplication

the thigh

butto; to cawl, creep; to ambush; to coil; scorpion; to crawl, creep, scurry



^ n 700, 50 Nun 14th letter y

fish

**serpent, frog; scaled species; to slither, swim; to nibble, gnaw; to scurry;
to tumble, catapult; Son of Man symbol; man, woman, person**

to sprout

spread, proliferate; to display, implement; method; device; configuration

potential

**potentiality, fertility; desire, determination; to vow; ritual; purpose;
scope, weight; interior application/action**

to reverse

**restrict, backtrack, subside; to decline, degenerate, deplete; denial; to
withdraw, suck, filter; to leach; loss, exhaustion; prostrated**

to take in

to exchange; augmentation; gain

to shine

**flourish; multifacteted, multidirectional; flexibility; prominence,
endurance; jubilee**

y u n s

S 60 Samek 15th letter **𐤎**

pillar

tower, fortress; fortification, shelter; united branches; tree of life; spine, skeleton; hair; herb, bush, brush; frayed

dependable

responsible, consistent, competent; reliance, trust; to lean upon; empowerment; to enforce, demand, require

alert

to bristle, emote; to spread out; overextended; dimensions

fiber

skin, integument; framework, construction, arrangement

upholds

supports, bears; to authorize, encourage; steadfastness, stability, security; hiding place, confinement

concentric

seasons, cycles, years, days; progressions

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[70 Ayin 16th letter ○

understanding
comprehension, compassion

eye
pupil; sight; body openings; to view, discern; prophecy; to enlighten;
visage, look, appearance

illuminated
brightness; to be clear, keen, transparent; irridescence; to glow, gleam;
jewels, fortune; penetrating vision; to consider, think, reflect upon, ponder

chest cavity
bud, loop; boundary; depth; reception, attentiveness
to circumscribe#circumsize, circle, surround; to overwhelm; sated, saturated

transference
hate, hostility, jealousy; rage, arrogance, boastfulness

well
spring, fountain; pool, body of water; crater, hole; depth



π ρ 800, 80 Pe 17th letter פ

face

jaw, mouth, lip; to eat, partake, devour; to consume; personality; physiognomy, appearance; to appear, manifest; fruit; soul as expression of spirit

breath

inhale, exhale; to blow, puff; to disperse, disseminate; voice, speech; utterance, pronouncement, order, command; expression, saying; manner, style

container

scoop; pit, chasm; stomach

edge

border, side, region; corner, extremity, end; lock of hair, sideburn; here, hence

to open

to close; permit, restrict; allow, disallow

פ ו ב ח

≈ X 900, 90 Tsade 18th letter 𐤓

side
lateral; the lifted leg

transformation
metamorphosis; to correct, change

to hunt
to chase, pursue, follow; to attempt, try; to issue forth; flight, escape; to
flee; swarm, insect; host, army; defense; military; battle, victory, con-
quest; to defy; to attack, be aggressive; suppression; to devastate, over-
turn; to diverge

righteousness
innocent, just, upright, pious, right; sacrifice

to ward off
defend, exorcise; acquittal; to fear, salute; to wander, stray; to turn,
revolve, spin

to dance
leap; to turn, rotate; order, organization, accomplishment; success

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Q 100 Qof 19th letter ☩

kingdom

domain, realm; to protect, cover, control; priest's cap, crown; back of head; ape (faceless man); skull; brain and spinal column

dedicated

a specialist; to confer, confirm; to alight upon; vibration; ripples; to blossom

sky

corona, dome, vault; boat

shadow

to mask, hide, occlude; shade tree; smoke; sanctification, purification, holiness, consecration, spiritual separation, distinguishment

bow and arrow

to push, propel; to drain, siphon, empty; drill; harp

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head

king, ruler, leader, instigator, determinator; overseer, guide; chief component; top, main, primary; shoulder; assertive; to rule, command; competence; decisive; individual

fountainhead

source, start; tributary; mountain, crest, height, summit, peak; domination; eminent, lofty, proud

blade

axe, shovel; to chop, chisel, mark; to cleave, sever, remove; to desiccate; to adjure, urge, persuade; to threaten

mind

thought, knowledge, intelligence; to watch, regard; to signal; to happen, occur

honor

discretion; beauty, devotion, reverence; to be noble, graceful; to sail; to rise, fall

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300 Shin 21st letter

W

tooth

tusk; ivory; claw, paw; to bite, tear, rend, maul; to shatter, destroy, decimate; to undermine; to eat, consume, assimilate; a meal

fire

angel; wisdom; sun; glory; spirit; dream, vision

utilization

application; to knead, afflict, suppress; to widen; to excite, stimulate, energize; buoyancy; to float; to loft, raise; to lift

strength

to wrestle, struggle, fight, contend; to loathe, hate, despise

to vent

to urinate; elimination; buttox; repetitive, monotonous

to wobble

vary; to shake; to be upset, bothered, disturbed, agitated; weakness, frailty, vulnerability; illness; sleep, death

saw

correlation of above with below; to juggle, jiggle, wiggle, wobble

W ≡ M ≡

† 400 Taw 22nd letter X

mark

signature; characteristic; sign, feature; cross, weather vane; fence; to partition; four corners, directions

continuum

infinity, sum, totality; wholeness; to measure, measurement

renewal

regeneration, continuation, resurrection; addition; endurance; perpetuity, futurity

to cancel

obliterate, alter, change

to pinch

to bite; to cooperate; an intersection, encounter; to meet, confront; to oppose; to corner, locate; stalemate, loggerheads

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