

Ashrei Secrets, Pasuk 5

by HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

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In loving memory of Moshe Ben Chaim Alter (z"l), dedicated by his son Mr. Michael Alter

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Hadar K'vod Hodey'kha V'divrei Nif'l'oteykha Asiha

Glorious honor is Your splendor and the words of Your wonders I shall speak.

Reshei Tevot= Hey, Kaf, Hey, Vav, Nun, Alef = 87, gematria Paz, pure gold.

Hadar (glorious) is spelled in Hebrew, Hey, Dalet, Resh. These three letters are the initial letters for the three words, Hesed (mercy), Din (judgment) and Rahamim (grace). These three refer to the Divine attributes that form the middle triad of the Ten Sefirot, the forces of Divine revelation that translate the Unknowable G-d into the Knowable Creator of the Universe and G-d of Israel.

These three attributes of Hesed, Din and Rahamim, referred to together as HaDaR are the upper three Sefirot of the Sefirotic Face (Partzuf) called Zeir Anpin (the Small Face), the Face of the G-d of Israel revealed to the righteous among the Children of Israel here on Earth.



However, the Sefirotic Face of Zeir Anpin is made up of six Sefirot (two triads of three). The HaDaR make up the upper triad, the lower triad of Sefirot are Netzah (victory), Hod (glory) and Yesod (foundation). The upper Sefirot of Zeir Anpin, HaDaR, are normally concealed and are only revealed to those of the nation of Israel who live up to their spiritual potential. Thus the concealed Sefirot of HaDaR are called Israel corresponding to the higher potential or "Face" that the nation below can merit if they only live up to the calling of being named Israel. HaDaR corresponds to the Holy Name YKVK.

When however the nation below does not live up to the higher calling then the higher aspect of the Sefirotic Face of Zeir Anpin is said to be concealed. That which is then revealed is called the lower Face, which expresses the Sefirot of Netzah, Hod and Yesod. This aspect of Zeir Anpin is referred to by the name Ya'akov. So, Zeir Anpin has the higher potential to be revealed as Israel and the lower potential to be revealed as Ya'akov, all in accordance to the behavior below of the collective nation. There are thus two Sefirotic Faces (Partzufim) in Zeir Anpin, the higher concealed one named Israel and the lower revealed one named Ya'akov.

Rahamim (grace) is another name for the Sefirah Tiferet. K'vod (honor) is another name for the Sefirah Malkhut, also called the Shekhina, and the Sefirotic Face Nok, the symbolic "bride" of Zeir

Anpin. Malkhut represents the power of G-d (spiritual and physical) concealed within the forces of nature. This is represented by the Divine Names Adonai (representing Ya'akov/spiritual) and Elohim (representing Nok/physical).

It is natural and necessary that Tiferet and Malkhut, Zeir Anpin and Nok be united, for this is the proverbial union of Heaven and Earth, the spiritual and physical dimensions. When these two are in proper alignment then the Sefirah Hod (G-d's spiritual glory) can be fully revealed below, here on Earth, in a tangible form of manifest blessings. Hod is the glory of G-d, which means the actualization of the benefits manifest below in the physical universe due to its reception of the spiritual source of life force energy.

With the union of Heaven and Earth and the benefit from above received below, this reception (Kabbalah) is also referred to as the Word of G-d. This Word is not a verbal expression of any actual mouth, but rather the projection of life force energy from the higher spiritual universe into the lower physical universe. This is often symbolized as the act of sexual penetration or as the Word coming forth out of the Divine Mouth and into the "ear" (heart/mind) of the prophet.

The concealed (HaDaR) power of Zeir Anpin controls all the revealed universes, of both the spiritual and physical domains. Remember,, only the Ya'akov aspect of the spiritual universe, expressed by the Divine name Adonai is revealed here below in physical space. This is why during these times of concealment, G-d's actions in physical space usually appear to be acts of nature or otherwise natural occurrences.

The concealed upper triad of HaDaR (responsible for supernatural miracles) is referred to as "wondrous." The Hebrew word is Peleh, spelled, Peh, Lamed, Alef, the same letters that spell the name of the first Hebrew letter Alef, (Alef, Lamed, Peh). The letter Alef has no sound in the Hebrew language, it is therefore used to represent the concealed world. Alef is silent as the upper world is hidden (and thus silent).

Siha is a special type of talk. It is not just the idle chatter of human lips, but is actually used throughout the Bible to indicate the communication received by a prophet from G-d. Siha (sihot in its plural form) are the words the prophet speaks in G-d's Name. It is the reception of the Divine Word, the union of the Heaven and Earth sealed and made complete. This siha speech is therefore verbal. It is the final transformation of the Divine life force originally emanating from the concealed worlds (HaDaR/YKVK), now revealed (through the name Adonai), manifest and transformed for coherent revelation, recognition and reception in this the lower world of men (as the name Elohim, the power of G-d inherent in nature).

Thus our communion with G-d begins by listening to the Divine silence, and then in the silence we wait for the revelation of the Still Soft Voice of Zeir Anpin. The Divine name Adonai (contemplated upon in the mind of the prophet) serves as the vessel through which the upper revelation of YKVK is revealed. Through this mental speech (siha) of silent meditation the upper revelation takes a form that can then be transferred below in the physical world (YKVK to Adonai to Elohim). G-d thus transforms the Divine energy itself from its overly powerful spiritual form into a more concentrated, filtered form able to be received and vitalized in the physical universe.

The overwhelming raw Divine power of YKVK is revealed through the inner power (Shekhina) underlying all physical space/time as the name Elohim. Then as the Divine power is received below, thus the speech of the prophet proclaims it, allowing it to ascend back above creating a cyclical circuit. Divine energy emanates from above, is filtered in order to be received here below, is received and made manifest for all the benefits it brings and it is then sent along its never-

ending journey, to begin its return ascent through the worlds. Thus Heaven and Earth are united, above with below and below with above.

When the power of G-d above (YKVK/Israel) is channeled through the holy name Adonai (Adonai/Ya'akov) and received here below in physical space, it is revealed through the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. These 22 monads of spiritual power conceal within them the creative Force of Elohim. Elohim is the conduit vessel for the higher concealed Divine names. Therefore, "in the beginning Elohim created the Heavens and the Earth" (Gen. 1:1). How did Elohim do this? Torah says He "spoke" the universe into being. He said, "Let there be," and there was.

What did Elohim speak? Words. What are words made up of? Letters. The letters therefore concealed within them the creative energy of the Creator (Zeir Anpin). The holy name Adonai is numerically equal to 65. Add to this number the number of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet and we get the numerical value of 87. This union of the Power of G-d (Adonai) concealed within the creative forces underlying the universe (the letters) is referred to as the "pure gold," the Paz.

The name Elohim is numerically equal to 86. This name is the power of G-d (the Shekhina) concealed here in everything in the physical universe, but it itself is never alone. Elohim always conceals within itself the higher Divine power. This power (Zeir Anpin) is represented by the silent Alef, the numerical value of which is 1. Thus the holy Name Adonai begins with the letter Alef. When we add this 1 to Elohim, we arrive at the value of 87, the "pure gold," the Paz.

Within the reshei tevot of the verse we see hinted these great sublime mysterious of G-d.

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