

MILA YOMIT 4: ET

אֵת

Not translatable.

OTIOT-Letters

א

ALEPH -the first letter of the Aleph Bet. Numeric 1

ת

TAV-the last letter of the AlephBet. Numeric 400

MEANING

אֵת-ET - is defined in Alcalay dictionary as 'the sign of the accusative'. Announcing a noun is about to appear. Klein's Etymological Dictionary calls it " a preposition. The mark of the accusative. Usually prefixed only to a definite noun..." (p.60) A

definite noun begins with ה-HEH which carries the meaning of 'the'.

CONCEPTUAL MEANING

This is the first creative act of Elohim.

As the Kabbalists read this verse, "In the beginning Elohim created

אֵת-ET"

What is the nature of that creation?

We are taught that the universe was created through the letters of the AlephBet.

In fact the word for letter or sign, is pronounced OTand is

spelled אֵת basically the word ET with the Vov in the middle.
OT-sign is therefore the means for making something known. It is not the thing itself but leads to it.

ELOHIM wished to fill the space opened in the midst of the Infinite.
The YOD was the primary tool but it needed to particularize.
ELOHIM:

'These YOODIM ' (see Mila Yomit 3) needed to materialize.

Where to begin?

The first point, the YOD begins to grow.

Aleph is formed by a Yod that joins a Vov (which in itself is an elongated Yod) and connects with a lower Yod.

Bet begins with a Yod that stretches to form a roof and then wall and then a base.

And so on, each letter of the AlephBet is calligraphically and halachically an expansion of the Yod into a particular form.

א TAV, the final letter is formed by a Yod that extends up in a Vov and shapes itself into a frame; sealing that which is contained within it. The Tav is the stamp and seal of all the previous letters.

The Aleph Bet is thus the journey of the Yod through the conceptual creation. The Yod materializing and unfolding in manifold ways is this "olam-world". Collectively it is the tapestry of existence that Elohim has placed us in. The physical creation is preceded by the conceptual creation.

Sefer Yetzira teaches us 'kol-sound' is carried by 'ruach-breath' then shaped into 'dibur-speech'.

Sounds emerging as letters joined to form words.

When they are spoken out they enter independent existence.

In Hebrew the word for speech , דבַר-Dibbur (dalet, bet, resh) is the same as the word for thing, דָבָר-Davar.

So too, to create this independent universe, Elohim spoke words that wondrously materialized.

The thirty two wondrous paths, 10 numbers and 22 letters.
"Twenty two Foundation letters: The Creator Engraved, Carved,
Permuted, Weighed, Transformed them. And with them Depicted all
that was formed and all that would be formed."
(Sefer Yetzira 2:2)

The general was first created, the specific emerged out of it.
And so ET contains within it all twenty two letters,

ET: The THE of existence out which all else would follow:

אֵת