

SEFER YETZIRAH 6.2



משנה ב': שלש אמות אמ"ש אויר מים אש למעלה ומים למטה ואויר רוח חק מכריע בינתים וסימן לדבר האש נושא את המים, מ' דוממת ש' שורקת א' אויר רוח חק מכריע בינתים:

6.2: Three Mothers: AMSh Air, water, and fire. Fire is above, water is below, and air of Breath is the rule that decides between them. And a sign of this thing is that fire supports water. Mem hums, Shin hisses, and Alef is the breath of air that decides between them.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

6:2 Three mothers aleph-mem-shin, air, water, fire. Fire to above and water to below, and air spirit/breath commands decisions between them, and a sign of this thing, the fire carries water. Mem is still, shin is a strident hiss, aleph is the air spirit/breath that commands decisions between them.

(Doc Benton translation)

This verse, for the most part, repeats what we've seen before. In the human being, above we have the *fire* of the *brain*, below are the *watery fluids* of the *abdomen*, and between we have the *air* of the *lungs*. *Fire* represents *form* and *water* represents *formlessness*, and the bodily form is the vehicle for the formlessness of thought and consciousness. *Fire* carries *water* in that form is the vessel for the formless. Verbally, a reminder of this relationship is the word *shem* which means *name*. The hiss of the letter *shin* starts in the back of the mouth, and the still hum of the lips for *mem* is in the front of the mouth, and the silent air connects the two together. This word *shem* is also a reminder to us that the creation is what is meant by the *name of God*.