
On Track for Mazal and Love

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This weekend we read *Parsha Shemini*, meaning the **8th**, the **28th** portion in the Torah. A few days earlier we celebrated the **8** days of *Pesach* and read from Ki Thisa and the **13** Attributes of G-d (Exodus **34:5-7**).

As usual the clues to the secrets of the Torah portions are concealed within their first few words. The *parshat* of *Shemini* begins with the **3** words "*V'yhy byom HaShemini*" ("????????????????"), "And it came to pass on the eighth day," whose total value is **504**. Now this is very interesting because the Talmud states that in this portion at Leviticus 10:16 is found the midpoint of the Torah in words, which most people have understood as a place where there are an equal number of words before and after this point, but they are *wrong*. The midpoint that splits the number of words in two equal parts is at Leviticus 8:15, which can be easily verified with word-counting software.

Nevertheless, at Leviticus 10:16 is found the midpoint of the Torah in terms of the **77** pairs of the mysterious double (twin) words--words that are duplicated side by side like railroad tracks running through the Torah, often words with the exact same vowels too and which have seemingly no reason for being duplicated.

Here at Leviticus 10:16 are found the two words *darosh* and *darash* ("???????? ????") , each with the value **504**. Most scholars translate them as one word, "inquired," but *darosh* ("????????") conveys future tense and *darash* ("????????") conveys past tense, thus the act of inquiring has the answer already implicit in it, or in other words, "Ask and ye shall receive," or "Ask, because on the spiritual level you've already received." It's easy to see how one could make this mistake since **504** is the numerical value for the word *chatzot*, meaning "midnight," or "half," or "middle, and unbelievably, there are exactly **50** (fifty) **504**'s in the Torah, **25** in each half once it's split at *darosh darash*.

And yet another important fact overlooked by Torah scholars for millennia is that **5⁰⁴** is the exact square root of the collective number of words, letters, and verses in the Torah, since as R' Chaim Vital of blessed memory points out, all Torah light is spread through squaring, this central place in the double words can be viewed as the central point of spreading for all the Torah light. The combined value of the two twin words *darosh* and *darash* (???????? ????") is **1008**, or **1000** (*keter*) plus **8**. Not coincidentally there are **77** twin words in total as the sum of the first **8** words in the Torah is **3003**, which is the **77th** Triangular number, and thus the sum of all the integers from 1 to **77**, the sum of all the latent energy in all the whole numbers through **77**. According to the Arizal, **77** is *Mazal* (*MZL*), as is the number **8**, and as is the **8th** of the **13** attributes, which we just so happened to have read this week as well. And as we discussed it our last article, the sum of the 9 (**3 x 3**) words up to the **8th** attribute (through the **7th**) is 1089 or **33²**. And incidentally, there are **33** letters in those first **8** words of the Torah.

It's also noteworthy that **504 = (248 + 256)** is the sum of the values of Abraham (**248**), or alternatively *Bamidbar* (Numbers, **248**), and of both Aaron and the "Ark of the Covenant" (**256**), or alternatively *Devarim* (Deuteronomy, **256**), two Books and numbers at the heart of the Torah. And while **(256 - 248) = 8**, its more significant because the letter *koof* ("?"), whose value is a perfect 100 which can be split 50/50, is found **2488** times through Leviticus 8:15, the Torah's

midpoint in words, and **2568** times through the midpoint in Leviticus 10:16, its midpoint in twin words, both of which are found in *parasha Shemini*, the eight (**8th**). Incidentally, **2488** is the year Moses died. And as we discussed in the last article, the sum of the *gematria sofit* of the **13** attributes up to the **8th** one is **3339** and **3339/13 = 256.8**.

According to the Maharal, "Whenever we find the number **8** used, it is in reference to something that brings one into the spiritual realm;" it's going one above the limitations of the 7 states (*sefirot*) that lead from the **3** levels of the divine spiritual world to the physical one. Thus the equation **504/8 = 63**, which gives us the numerical value of *Binah* (63), the first of the 3 upper sefirot, is by no means a coincidence, and just a reinforcement of the fountain of mazal available to us through these connections.

We know from the Arizal that there are two numbers that connect us to *Binah* and thus help us to go above our limitations, which is a connection to mazal, **8** and **13**, which is why there are **13** attributes and which is one reason the **13** attributes are read during the **8** days of Pesach and are thus connected to *Shemini*, the **8th**. Mathematically, it also just so happens that **33** times the sum of the integers through **13** also equals **3003**, just like the first **8** words or **33** letters in the Torah. All Kabbalists know that **91** is the numerical value of the word Amen ("???) which is kabbalistically represented by the potent unification of the Tetragrammaton (????) with *Adonai* (????) and that through the unifications we get closer to the Creator, what few realize is that **91** is the sum of the integers through **13**, or **(1 - 13) = 91**, and we know from *chazal* that this summing up is equivalent to the accumulative energy and attributes of all that's inclusive, and thus a more powerful force to be reckoned with.

Of further note, while the mathematical definition of a triangular number gives us $(77^2 - 77)/2 = 3003$, more significantly is that of the 1024 different word values in the Torah, there are exactly **77** repeated only once, in other words: Of the **80,000 - (3 x 8)** words in the Torah, there are only **77** with unique values, and also as we've said, **77** twin pairs. There are no coincidences in the Torah, not even the fact that **8** times **77** equals **616**, the numerical value for the *H'Torah* ("?????"), "The Torah" itself, or that the *gematria ketana*, of value **616 is calculated as 6+1+6 = 13**, and can be represented as the letters *vav-alef-vav*, ("???"), which we know from the Arizal connects us to aspect of the spelled out Tetragrammaton ("????????????") at the level of *Sag* or *Binah*, the **8th** *sefira* of numerical value **63**, just like **504/8 = 63** and just like the sum of integers from **8** to **13**, the two numbers associated with *mazal*/fortune, in other words **(8 +9+10+11+12+13) = 63**, the value of *Sag*, *Binah*.

And if we go back to where the portion *Shemini* started--*V'yhy byom HaShemini*" ("????????????????")--we see that the initials of the first 2 words total **8** and the initials of all 3 words, "And it came to pass on the eighth day" total **13**.

And for complete disclosure the sum of the numbers in between them **(9+10+11+12) = 42**, as in the **42** letters of the **13** attributes through the **12th** word, and of course the **42**-Letter Name that has the power to channel the mazal when used correctly.

In summation, kabbalists would use this portion, especially the *darosh darash* ("????????????????") at Leviticus 10:16 to connect to improving their good fortune and *mazal*, which we're told is what the **8** days of *Pesach* connections are supposed to help us do. The numerical value of **8** as in *Shemini*, the **8th**, helps us to go above creation, which we can read as destiny, and is illustrated by one last divine equation: **8**, representing *mazal*, times the sum of the integers through **13**, which represents *mazal*, the **13** Attributes of G-d and the numerical value of *ahava* (????) "love" is **91 x 8 = 728**, as in the **7** words and **28** letters of the Torah's very first verse and Creation itself.

And for those that understand, the first letters of the first 8 word of the Torah add up to 28, alluding to *Shemini*, the 28th portion in the Torah, and spelling out *B'ahava*

vav-alef-vav ("????????"), or "Lovingly *vav*" at the level of *Sag/Binah*. Both *mazal* and love await those that get closer to the Creator and the Torah and through these powerful connections we all have the opportunity to go beyond our destiny.

And so it did come to pass this past 8th day of *Pesach*, and will come to pass after 8 years as the *tzaddikim* have advised: *B'ahava* (In Love). In the end as in the beginning.