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# The Secret of 10

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**...continued from The River of Life, where we discussed the river of Light that flows to us through the Tree-of-Life and the 42-Letter Name, as illustrated in the unique 10-letter word at Exodus/Shmot 7:28.**

What we didn't mention was the numerical value for that unique **10**-letter was **985**, the same as the Hebrew word for **1/10** (*Ashirit, AShRYT*) when *teh kolel* for the 5 letters in included. Why this comparison?

Because the Torah is always on, always teaching us spiritual lessons, whether we see past the veils or not. The way the Light flows from one *sefira* (dimension) to the next through the 10 *sefirot* (the tree-of-life) is in dilutions of **10%** each time and mathematically that means that it takes **22** steps (iterations/dilutions) to reach the level of **1/10**, in other words to get from 1000 to 100 or 100 to 10 or 10 to 1, as each *sefira* has **10** subsets.

**22 steps from 10 down to the next level, under 1:**

100 - 90 - 81 - 72.9 - 65.61 - 59.049 - 53.1441 - 47.8297 - 43.04672 - 38.742 -34.8678 - 31.3810 - 28.2429 - 25.4186 - 22.8767 - 20.5891 - 18.5302 - 16.6771 - 15.0094 - 13.5085 - 12.15766 - 10.9419 - 9.8477

This is one of the key reasons there are **22** letters in the Hebrew alphabet and **22** connections between the **10** *sefirot* in the familiar tree-of-life structure.

So why is this knowledge important to us? Because if we understand that the last **1/10th** connects to *keter*/crown of the next level and the same with the first **1/10th** then we can understand that by tithing, the giving of **1/10th** of our income, etc to a worthy spiritual charity that is akin to giving it to the construction of the Holy Temple, we can keep the river of sustaining Light flowing to and through us. It keeps us connected, always a part of the **1**; it keeps our head in *keter* (crowned) and our feet on the ground.

This connection is why we learn of the *omer* offering in *parsha Beshalach* after the Song of the Sea: Shmot 16:36 "An omer is a tenth of an ephah," and why Rabbi Moshe Alshich of blessed memory connects it to the **10** processes of making bread, and the **10** words of the *chamotzi* (bread blessing), and to the **10** words describing bread making in **104:14**. And coming full circle, this is why the longest word in the Torah, the unique **10**-letter word means *bread bowl* (the place for kneading the dough).

Bread is sustenance, and if we want to keep our *malchut* connected to the life-giving *yesod* we have to give (elevate) **1/10** of it (our income) to keep *teh spigots* open.

Also, as Rabbi Alshich explains, it's important to keep all **10** fingers on the bread (*challah*) when making the *bracha* (blessing). And consciously, we want to have the Light flowing through the **10** *sefirot* when we do.

And within that unique **10**-letter word in Shmot **7:28** for bread bowl is the word for river (*YEVR*), which the Torah spells with the *vav* (*V*), as (*YER*) from which the frogs emanated. Now, the Torah uses the same word for river as the Nile and sometimes it has the prefix *hey* (*H*) for "the" and sometimes *bet* (*B*) for "in." Actually, it's **21** times for *hey* and **7** times for *bet* for a total of **28** times.

The connection to **7** and **28** and the Torah's first verse of **7** words and **28** letters is obvious, as is

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the connection to *Ehyeh (EHYH)* of numerical value **21**, so we won't go into it again in this blog, but what's interesting is that the gematria value for the river (*HYER*) is **216** as in the **216** letters of the **72** Names (triplets) that Moses and the Israelites used to split the Red Sea (sea of Reeds). It takes water to know water. Which is why if we want to split our own Red Seas in our lives, we have to understand what it is we are really trying to overcome.

Inherent in every problem is the solution for overcoming it. G-d doesn't give us more than we can really handle; it's just a matter of waking up to our own G-d given abilities and seeing the tools He's placed in our hands. Just like His reply to Moses and the Israelites, which we've discussed in our blog, "*Why are you crying out to me (Mah Tizak Alai);*" He'd given them everything they needed before hand and woke them with the encrypted truth in those 9 letters. Obstacles, like the Red Sea, are put in our path for us to overcome them. We do this by finding inner-strength, by utilizing the tools G-d gave us through His Torah, and by developing the certainty in the Lord's loving-kindness and the tree-of-life reality to see beyond the illusions of the physical limitations of our universe.

This is why, with the Egyptian darkness encroaching on us from behind and a seemingly impassable sea before us, He is making these tools and the explanations how to use them available to all of today.

But here is a secret about the river (or the Nile), as the Torah spells it, (*YER*) it can be rearranged to form the Ari and/or the lion, and while the **Arizal** came from Egypt and the Nile just like Moses, and is said by the *tzaddikim* to be an incarnation of Moses, it is true that the Arizal (Rabbi Isaac Luria) knew how to control the flow or the river of Light through the *sefirot*. Moreover, we've learned from the Arizal how the **10** plagues defeated the **10** main levels of negativity imprisoning the Israelite consciousness, and when we spell out the letters in Ari (*ERY*) we get **641**, the sum of the **11** initials of the **10** plagues (**541**) with the ordinal value of the **11** initials of those same **10** plagues (**100**). The river itself has the power to cleanse away the **10** levels of negativity.

When we tap into the river of Light that is the tree-of-life, we have the power to overcome all. And the more we use the tools given to us (properly) the more we can tap into it.

**...to be continued, where we'll discuss the 10 preeminent songs in Israeli history and their connection of the 10 sefirot and this river of Light.**