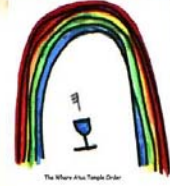


Of the Letter Yod
by Frank Salt



OF THE LETTER YOD

Thus is written the simplest and most potent letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. It is the root of all the Letters. It is the first Letter of the ineffable Name, I H V H which none can speak, yet which says all things, when properly understood.

It is, in English, the letter I, which carries much the same significance as a glyph. It is also transliterated as J as in "Joshuah". It is the tenth letter, and has the mystical value of 10, the renewal of the digital sequence, bearing a deeply significant relationship to the first letter, Aleph, as Noah is tenth from Adam.

It is phallic in symbolism, as the primal creative urge, that which, being the origin, has no origin, yet precipitates existence. It is the primal Point from which each and every thing is caused to exist. The Central Point of that circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. Potential Existence. That which is not, yet has the capacity to exist in any manner whatever, regardless of dimension or time. In-finite. It occupies every point in infinity of space, time, mood, caprice, idea or motion. Relative to nothing, 0, it is the One Thing, 1, hence 10, related to all things, renewing all being from within itself. The Center which emanates All.

With SIX exceptions, Hebrew letters are written as in a great square divided by a cross into four lesser squares, and read from right to left. As the Point of Origin, YOD is written in the top of the top right lesser square; the least in size of all the letters. The English spelling YOD indicates that it may be spoken as I, J, or Y. As a word it consists of two letters, "ID" or "YD", meaning the hand, as held up creatively, as distinct from the succeeding letter "KAPH", which is the hand cupped to receive or fist, closed to retain and to grasp. In our bible the word YOD is translated by some 74 words in our tongue, which suggests the extremely abstract concept of the letter even when modified by the second letter, D, in YD. All the words used so far in this tribute to the letter YOD are but pointers toward the core of its true significance.

In symbolism, we have met the creator of the mystical Hebrew Alphabet. In humility, it stands not at the beginning, but tucked ten letters later in a series of 22, five of which change both form and meaning when they appear at the end of a word, making a total of 27 signs in all. Of the 22, ~~one~~ extends above the top of the great square and one dips below it. Of the five final forms, none extends to the left of the great square while four descend below it. In essence each letter suggests an activity rather than an object, while the final form of the five letters which change as finals suggest the activity accomplished.

However, the essence of each letter is extremely abstract and only with practice and heightened insight can one approach the concept it evokes. Two letters form a root-word rather more accessible to our finite minds, usually it takes three letters to convey a root or radical idea. A "root" word is always an activity, a verb. From the radical verb all other parts of speech are derived.

But the radix of all words is the Letter YOD.

In human terms, YOD symbolises MOTIVE, the underlying cause of any action, the Will, FIRE.

Fire
Virgo