

50 GATES OF BINA

The Kabbalah discusses 10 aspects of consciousness which describe the interface between our present experience of separation, and our coming to the realization of oneness. These 10 aspects are called the 10 *Sefirot* or Tree of Life.

The Kabbalah discusses in great detail the inner workings of these 10 aspects of consciousness and the way in which they describe the interfacing of our spiritual and physical reality. The inner mappings of the 10 *Sefirot* describe how the infinite unconditional love at the root of all creation becomes manifest in our present experience. The 10 *Sefirot* also describe our spiritual work towards experiencing our Divine source in the realization of unconditional love and oneness.

The 10 *Sefirot* and one of many ways of translating their meaning and associated state of consciousness is:

<i>Keter</i>	Purpose of Creation / Infinite Goodness
<i>Chochma</i>	Experience of Oneness
<i>Bina</i>	State of Unconditional Love
<i>Chesed</i>	Loving Kindness
<i>Gevurah</i>	Humility
<i>Tiferet</i>	Harmony
<i>Netzach</i>	Eternity
<i>Hod</i>	Thankfulness
<i>Yesod</i>	Unity
<i>Malchut</i>	Central Point in the Heart

On one level of experiencing the Tree of Life, the *Sefirot* are divided between the lower 7 *Sefirot* and the upper 3 *Sefirot*. The lower 7 *Sefirot* are associated with aspects of our inner self, which when purified through spiritual work, bring revelation of the upper 3 *Sefirot*. The upper 3 *Sefirot* represent our coming to experience the Divine goodness.

The 7 lower *Sefirot* each contain within themselves all 7 of the *Sefirot*, for a total of 49 *Sefirot*. These 49 aspects of consciousness are aspects of our inner self, that when spiritually elevated, brings us to experience the Divine goodness in the state of pure giving and unconditional love. The completed harmony and spiritual ascension of these 49 aspects, brings realization of the inner prayer in the deepest part of ourselves. This is the opening of the 50th gate of *Bina*.

This painting is patterned in the way of the 50 gates, by mapping the *Sefirot* with colors associated with each *Sefira*:

In the upper right of the painting is a white square representing the *Sefira* of *Chesed*.

In the upper left of the painting is a red square representing the *Sefira* of *Gevurah*.

In the upper middle of the painting is a purple square representing the *Sefira* of *Tiferet*.

In the middle right of the painting is a square, white with a bit of red, representing the *Sefira* of *Netzach*.

In the middle left of the painting is a square, red with a bit of white, representing the *Sefira* of *Hod*.

In the middle center of the painting is an orange square representing the *Sefira* of *Yesod*.

The large blue area at the bottom of the painting represents the *Sefira* of *Malchut*.

Within each of these areas are 7 triangles, representing the 7 *Sefirot* contained within each of the *Sefirot*.

Their colors take the same pattern of the *Sefirot* reflected in the large squares which make up the background of the painting. One of the 7 *Sefirot* is not visible in each area, as it is the same color as the *Sefira* in which it rests.

The final *Sefira* of the 49 is *Malchut* of *Malchut*. *Malchut* of *Malchut* is painted green, which is associated with *Bina*. This represents the opening of the 50th gate, where all 49 aspects come to *Bina*, the state of pure unconditional love. This reveals the upper 3 *Sefirot*, representing the realization of oneness and experience of the Divine.

This spiritual structure of the lower 7 *Sefirot* within each of the lower 7, with the *Malchut* of *Malchut* ascending to *Bina*, is discussed at great length in the Kabbalah. While there are innumerable associations with this structure, it can be clearly seen in relationship to the *Yovel* or Jubilee year, which comes every 50 years and is associated with a new era of freedom. The holiest of Jewish prayers: *Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad / Baruch Shem Kavod Malchutow Leolam Vaed*, contains in Hebrew exactly 49 letters. Also the *mitzva* of counting the *Omer* is directly associated with this structure, as the *mitzva* is to count the 49 days between the holidays of *Pesach* (Passover) and *Shevuot* (Festival of Weeks).

On an inner spiritual level, the holiday of *Pesach* represents being freed from our self serving egotistical desires. The next 49 days represent our spiritual progression through the 49 aspects of the 7 lower *Sefirot*. The 1st day after *Pesach* is associated with the spiritual energy of *Chesed* of *Chesed*. The 2nd day after *Pesach* is associated with the spiritual energy of *Gevurah* of *Chesed*. Each consecutive day is associated with the spiritual energy of the next *Sefira* in the downwards progression from *Chesed* to *Malchut*. The 49th day is the *Malchut* of *Malchut*. This is the spiritually evolved state of completely desiring to be in the state of pure unconditional love. This opens the 50th gate of *Bina*. Our attaining the pure state of unconditional love, together in oneness and unity, is associated with the holiday of *Shevuot*, celebrating the revelation of G-d.

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