

CHAI SHOFAR SOUNDS

This piece of artwork was created by blowing a set of the 4 basic shofar sounds and running the sounds through software that graphically analyses the sound waves. The resulting image was then used as the foundational structure for this piece.

The 4 basic shofar sounds of *Tekia*, *Shevarim*, *Terua*, and *Tekia Gedola* are depicted starting from the bottom of the piece and progressing upwards.

The depiction of the set of 4 sounds is repeated 18 times horizontally to reflect the Hebrew word *Chai* חַי LIFE which has a numerical equivalent of 18.

The 4 sounds depicted 18 times makes a total of 72 sounds. 72 is the numerical equivalent of the Hebrew word *Chesed* חֶסֶד LOVING KINDNESS. The Kabbalah explains how our Divine awareness comes through the spiritual state of loving kindness and working to truly care for others.

Each set of 4 sounds is made up of 14 subsounds. The 14 subsounds x 18 *Chai* = a total depiction of 252 sounds. 252 is the numerical equivalent of *Lev Tahor* לֵב טָהוֹר A PURE HEART.

The sounding of the shofar is discussed in great detail in the Kabbalah. In one of the many *kavanot* (meditations) of the shofar blowing, the sounds of the shofar are associated with aspects of giving, receiving, harmony, and oneness.

These 4 states of consciousness correspond to the 4 letters of the Divine Name י-ה-ו-ה .

The *kavanot* of the shofar blowing breaks down on one simple level into the 4 aspects as follows:

Tekia-----1 long sound-----giving-----י
Shevarim-----3 shorter sounds-----receiving-----ה
Terua-----9 very short sounds-----harmony-----ו
Tekia Gedola----1 extra long sound-----oneness-----ה

The long whole sound of the *Tekia* reflects an inner state of joy, overflowing with thankfulness.

The 3 broken cries of the *Shevarim* reflects when we are feeling broken and in a state of lack.

The sound of the *Terua* is so broken that it is whole. The *Terua* is associated with faith and prayer.

It is taught in the Kabbalah that when we reach our truest prayer of the heart, all our brokenness is brought to wholeness in the realization of complete oneness and unconditional love at the root of all creation.

Tzfat Gallery of Mystical Art

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