

# *Jewish Magic: Ancient Into Modern*

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# *What We'll Cover Today*

- History
  - Biblical
  - Rabbinical
  - Modern
- Questions and discussion



# *A Bit About Me*





*A bit about you!*

# Some definitions

## Biblical Judaism

The *Bible* (The Old Testament)

Sealed 2nd century BCE

## Rabbinical Judaism (1st c. BCE-18th c. CE)

In Diaspora

Rabbis became authority

## Modern Judaism (19th c. CE-Present)

A result of the Enlightenment Movement

Influenced by self help and eastern philosophies

# The Biggies

- Protection
- Warding
- Healing
- Divination



# *Some more definitions:*

Divine Magic=Miracles

Human made Magic=Magick

# *Divine workings*

## *Breath*

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and the breath of god was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1: 1-2)

"God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:30)

## *The speech act*

God said 'let there be light, and there was light'" (Genesis 1:3)

*Abacadabra!*



# *Transmutation*

“God Formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7)

“Then God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man” (Genesis 2:22)

*Breathwork*

*Energy*

*Intention*

*Words*

*Human magic?*

“Thou Shalt Not Suffer a Witch to Live”

*(Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, 27)*

# *Types of Magic in the Bible:*

Clairvoyance

Protection

Divination

Mediumship

Healing

Sound magic

# *Clairvoyance*

The prophets:

Elijah

Ezekiel

Deborah

# *Protection*

Wards:

*Exodus*

*Deuteronomy*

Amulets:

*Isaiah*

*Ezekiel*

Charms:

*Ezekiel*

# Divination

Divination methods included Cloud reading, dreams, arrows, entrails. The most common method is the use of lots

Used to determine:

Temple priests' roles

Immigration and settlement of tribes

Scapegoat

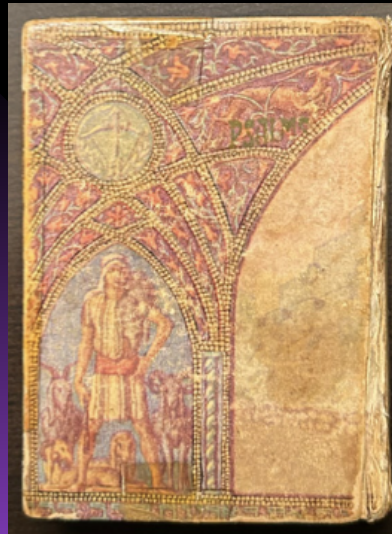
In the *Bible* we see the use of names, phrases, binary choices

# Mediumship



# Healing

Amulets  
Psalms  
Songs



# Psalms

The Psalms are used by many traditions and the book of *Psalms* itself is considered by some practitioners to be a spell book.

The most famous one is Psalm 23



# *Sound Magic*

Psalm 4:

"To the Choirmaster: A Psalm of David"

Psalm 30:

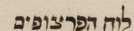
"A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the Temple"



# *Magic in Rabbinical Judaism*

Local and regional rather than centralized  
authority and loyalty

refer goralot



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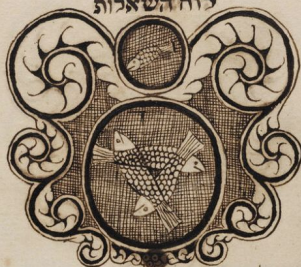
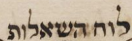


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תאומים



פיתכן להיות דבר פלוני או לאו

היסקלה דבר זה און אס לאו

העצם היעוצה אם היא טובה

השאלה ששואל אם יגיע לידו

ה'אלים במלואם שמונה עשרה

לוח הפרצוף

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| פּוֹלֵךְ  | א | מִדְּגִים |
| פֶּרֶלֶךְ | ב | מִדְּגִים |
| פֶּרֶלֶךְ | ג | מִדְּגִים |
| פֶּרֶלֶךְ | ד | מִדְּגִים |
| פֶּרֶלֶךְ | ה | מִדְּגִים |

# ספר הגורלות המיוחס לאחיתופל

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| א  | ב  | ג  | ד  | ה  | ו  | ז  | ח  | ט  |
| י  | יא | יב | יג | יד | טו | טז | יז | יח |
| יט | כ  | כא | כב | כג | כד | כה | כו | כז |
| כח | כט | ל  | לא | לב | לג | לד | לה | לו |
| לז | לח | לט | מ  | מא | מב | מג | מד | מה |
| מו | מז | מח | מש | נ  | נא | נב | נג | נד |
| נה | נו | נז | נח | נט | ס  | סא | סב | סג |
| סד | סה | סז | סח | סט | ע  | עא | עב | עג |
| עד | עה | עז | עז | עח | עט | פ  | פא | פב |
| פג | פד | פה | פו | פז | פח | פט | צ  |    |

## Charms, amulets, and incantation bowls



# Grave measuring



Three *feldmesterins* (cemetery measuring women). Credit: S. Weissenberg, "[Das Feld- und das keijwermessen](#)", *Neue Folge*, (1906), pp.39-45. Courtesy HathiTrust.

# *Creation and Transmutation*

## The Golem



# Sound Magic

## Rituals

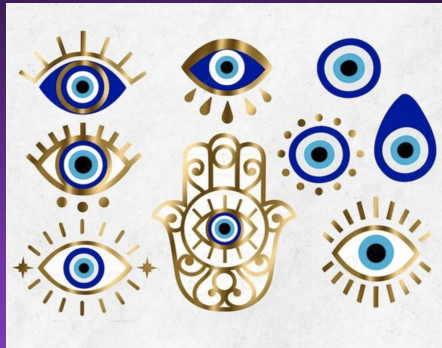
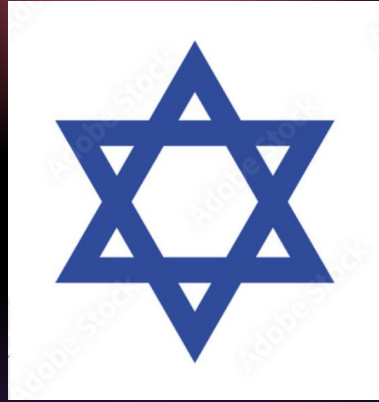


# *Magic in Modern Judaism*

# Graves and tombs as magical sites



Amulets  
Star of David  
Hamsa  
Mezuzah Necklaces



# Grave Measuring



Three *feldmesterins* (cemetery measuring women). Credit: S. Weissenberg, "Das Feld- und das keiwer-messen", Neue Folge, (1906), pp.39-45. Courtesy HathiTrust.

# Protection



# *Divination and Spellwork*

## Using the Aleph Bet letters themselves



# *The Aleph Bet:*

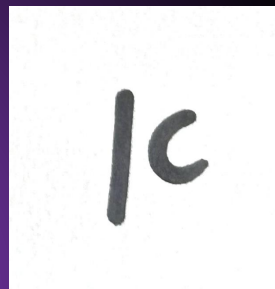
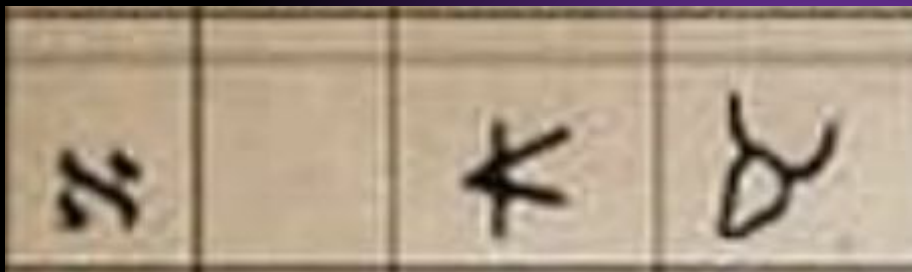
- . Evolved over time*
- . Representational to abstract*
- . No Vowels*
- . Meanings rooted in eons of usage and evolution*

# Examples

## Aleph

- The first letter of the Aleph Bet.
- Originally a bull's head.
- Meaning: authority, beginning, many, and more
- Evolution of Aleph, left to right

Modern script

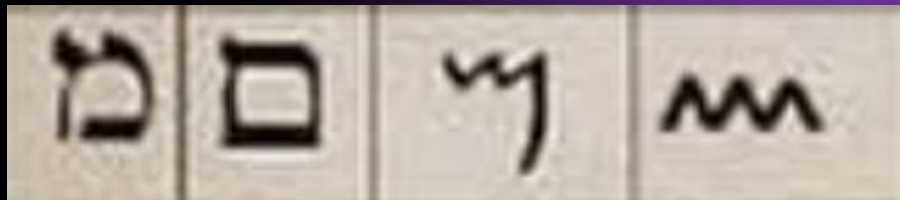


# Examples

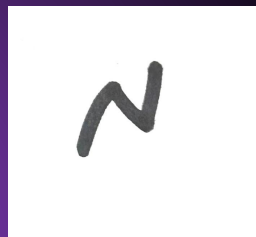
## Mem

- 13th letter of the Aleph Bet
- Originally represented water
- Meanings: journey, hidden knowledge

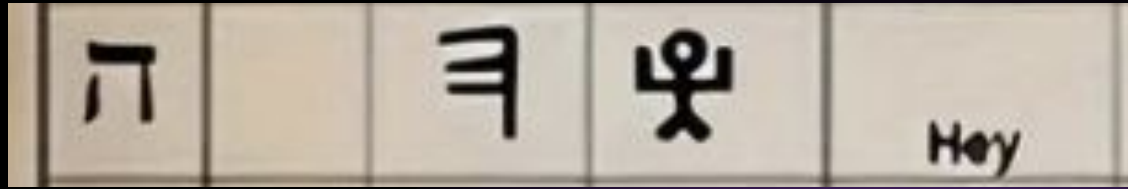
## Evolution of Mem



## Modern Script



# He-One of a Kind



- The fifth letter of the Aleph Bet
- No consonants at all; Only breath
- Half of the self given name of God

# *Divination with the Aleph Bet*



# Casting

Gently tossing lots onto a surface and reading the letters, their relation to each other, and their positions.



# *Drawing:*

Picking a predetermined number of lots from a bag and laying them down in order. Reading the letters and words they make up.



# *Meditation and Spell-work Using the Aleph Bet*

Use the letters to augment and focus spellwork and meditation based on their meanings by inscribing them on candles, writing them on paper, chanting and focusing on them while doing the work

# *Examples:*

*Aleph:*

Use it for beginnings and new pursuits

*Mem:*

Use it for journeys or spiritual growth

*He:*

Use it when calling on the endless



# *Keep in Touch!*

Please contact me using any of the platforms below

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