

## MILA YOMIT 5 : HA'SHAMAYIM

# הַשָּׁמַיִם

MEANING: The Heavens

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OTIOT-Letters

**ה** HEH (E)- the, definite article preceding noun, "The definite article Ha, the, preceding heaven and earth indicates that the heaven and earth created on the first day are 'the' heaven and 'the' earth in their present forms - the heavens with their constellations, and the earth with its fruit yielding potential."  
(Malbim, quoted in Artscroll)

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**ש** SHIN (S)- connoting dissonance-'the shin hisses'  
(yetzira)-corresponding to bina-understanding

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**מ** MEM(M)-connoting the harmonic- 'mem hums'(Sefer Yetzira)-corresponding to Chachma-wisdom  
-the oscillation between Shin and Mem is one of the primary meditation practices of Sefer Yetzira.

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**י** YOD (I)-The Divine Spark

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**מ** MEM Sofit-Final (M)

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## WORDS CONTAINED WITHIN

-שֵׁם SheM-name (also ,sh HaSheM- the Name)

שָׁם ShaM-there (as in over there)

-connected to root , שׁוּם SOOM-To direct, set in place-

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מַיִם -MayIM-water:- Yod surrounded by Mem on both sides.

Mem which represents water has a numeric of 40. Forty seah's-cubits of water to make a mikvah-ritual bath, 40 weeks of gestation in amniotic fluid, 40 days of the flood, 40 years of wandering in desert -the lack of water)

מַיִם MayIM can be broken down to מֵי-יָם Me YaM-From The Sea.

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שָׁמַיִם ShaMayIM- means sky and/ or heaven

- can be read as שָׁם-יָם ShaM-IM- the word 'there' pluralized

(יָם -yod, mem- at the end of a word pluralizes it)

- the 'theres'- all that has turned 'into out there'

- all the extra terrestrial worlds, "water below the (rakiah) sky and water above the sky" (Gen. 6:7)

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The Malbim (Rabbi Meir Lieibush-Biblical commentator, 1809-1879) relates this to the division between two similar substances, water below is liquid, water above is vapour)

Talmud reads it as the merging of two words (overlapping the first MEM)

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שֵׁם יַם SheM MayIM- the name is water

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-and שָׁם מַיִם ShaM MayIM- there are the waters

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שָׁם יַם Sham Yam-there the ocean

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R. Kaplan connects it to שָׁמָם ShaMaM-; to be desolate, deserted, depopulated, empty, astonished

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שֵׁה-מַיִם Sheh -that is -MayIM- water

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Also read Talmudically as compound of

אֵשׁ וַמַּיִם -ESHooMayIM"- fire and water.

Not a bad simplification of the physics of what's happening out there.

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## CONCEPTUAL MEANING

שָׁם -ShaM- Out there is that which sustains us, the great mystery of the waters above us has always engaged our sense of wonder. These huge expanses that seem to stretch forever. Our investigation has brought us some understanding of the fires that are always burning in the stars.

We know that explosions far, far away in the universe are sending us their emanations, their particles.  
These are carried through the heavenly waters and enter our lower waters. They nurture us, seed us, enabling life to occur. (If we don't ruin the protective filter that protects us.)  
Our lives are sustained by this flow that surrounds us.

We are **מִשְׁתּוֹמֵם**-MIShtoMeM- astonished when we contemplate the vastness of the heavenly bodies.

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HASHAMAYIM-

From the Infinite the finite begins to emerge,  
first placing there the birthing waters of existence.  
All that is will be born and sustained in this life giving vessel.

All that is out there-Sham, all the Yoods that fill the expanses  
enable us  
and define us.

The YOD is the seed that fills the Mem - the water above and below.

These life sustaining waters that make it possible for dry inanimate matter to sprout life.

The handiwork of ELOHIM has begun to take material form.  
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**הַשָּׁמַיִם**