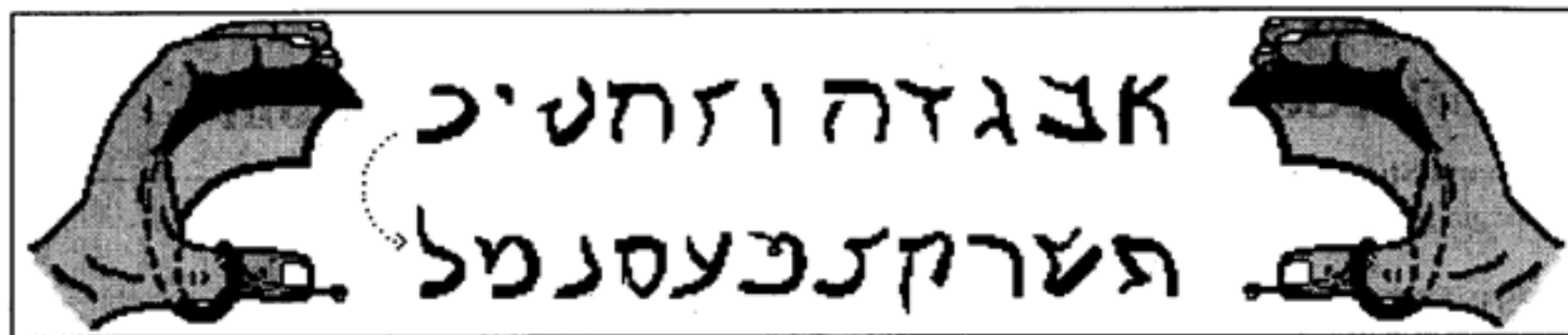


# Order in a Tower of Babel

Sharon man finds a new message  
in the Hebrew language

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Artwork courtesy of Meru Foundation

SHARON — Like many people, Stan Tenen of Sharon believes there is meaning in the Torah; yet unlike most, he has found this meaning through a convergence of geometry, math, physics and biblical texts. Tenen says he has “cracked into the pattern of Bereshit [Genesis],” and feels that the discovery of this pattern has serious implications for other biblical texts, particularly kabbalistic works like “Sefer Yetzirah.”

Tenen also feels that his discovery has social implications. Citing verse 1,11 of Genesis, “Tree creating seed after its own kind,” he explains that “the Torah inexorably unfolds a living system,” a system, he says, that ultimately “shows how Christianity, Judaism and Islam should work together.” With the founding of the Meru Foundation in 1983 in San Francisco, Tenen created a mouth-piece for his scientific and mathematical research on the Hebrew language.

What the former physicist/engineer says he has found is a pattern that his “technical intuition told him was there.” He discovered this pattern the first time he put on tefillin and linked the patterns he saw on his arm to those in the words of Bereshit. “Picture the Hebrew letters like beads on a chain,” says Tenen. “You can curl up the chain until the letters pair off.” This folded-up shape the former engineer likens to a spiral vortex.

And the letters themselves, he maintains, represent the 27 pointing directions used to define any quantum state vector.

When Tenen made different gestures while wearing the tefillin, they outlined one by one every Hebrew letter. And what’s more, the letter that Tenen would suddenly see outlined on his tefillin would correspond to the meaning of the gesture in question. For example, when he touched his mouth, the letter pey for “peh” or mouth would appear; when he reached out his arm, a zayin for the Hebrew word for spear would appear; and if he were to motion as though to say, “Come here” with his arm (“bo li” in Hebrew), a bet-alef-lamed-yud combination signifying the Hebrew phrase would materialize.

Tenen believes that the tefillin configurations have far-reaching implications: that they hint at the universal language lost since the Tower of Babel.

The head of the Meru Foundation differentiates his work from the prophetic biblical codes popularized by Aish HaTorah, and from Phil Berg’s work at the Kabbalah Research Center in Los Angeles. Of his own studies, he contends, “This is not magic; this is science.”

Tenen claims that his science is “understandable to anyone,” and that

it has the capacity to lead disaffected Israeli and American Jews back to their faith.

Rabbi Dr. Meir Sendor, a scholar in medieval Jewish history and rabbi of Sharon’s Young Israel, has lent his support to Tenen’s research, as has Rabbi Gedalia Fleer of Jerusalem. “As a historian and a committed Jew,” says Sendor, “it’s interesting to me.” He calls Tenen’s work “compelling ... and sophisticated,” and in it has found some remarkable correspondences and “uncanny similarities” to several 13th-century kabbalistic works, like the “Ma’ayan Hokhmah.”

Sendor’s one caveat is that the work is extremely “subtle, delicate — and easily misinterpreted” due to its mathematical complexity and conceptual density.

Dr. Joseph Schultz, Oppenstein Brothers Distinguished Professor of Judaic Studies, University of Missouri-Kansas City, has compared the importance of Tenen’s discoveries to that of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Rabbi Jack Feldman, a writer and teacher who studied with the late kabbalistic sage, Aryeh Kaplan, and who founded and directed the Macon Binah Yeshiva in Berkeley, Cal., has perceived in the Sharon resident’s studies, “parallels between [his] work and the insights of the talmudic and kabbalistic sages.”

Trying to bring his message to a larger public, Tenen has set up a website, and has appeared on both TV and radio. He has spoken of his findings before the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists (AOJS), and will be giving an introduction to his work at the Young Israel of Sharon in late January.

Tenen believes his research is “halachically and mathematically sound,” although “still a work-in-progress.” He appeals to both scholars across the disciplines and Torah authorities to substantiate his findings, and has created an advisory board composed of physicists, mathematicians and other experts in their fields to that end.

The aim is to find “new approaches ... for shining the light of Torah in the world,” and to reveal the “healing meditations” submerged in the letters of the Jewish Bible.

Tenen and his wife, Cynthia, work full-time on the Meru Foundation from their home in Sharon, and look forward to completing a book on the subject of Genesis and the Hebrew alphabet.

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to fit on 8½ x 11 paper.

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