



The Sheva Hekhalot (Seven Palaces)

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Each of the worlds of A'Be'Y'Ah has within it ten sefirot. Yet, as A'Be'Y'Ah are worlds, the sefirot within these worlds are divided into "areas" or levels called Hekhalot, meaning palaces. When one makes an ascent into the supernal worlds, one rises through palace after palace, and only then world after world. There are seven palaces within each world, and these seven manifest all ten sefirot within each specific world.

The first of the palaces corresponds to **Malkhut** and **Yesod** and is called **Hekhal Livnat HaSapir** (a brick of sapphire).

The second palace corresponds to **Hod** and is called **Hekhal Etzem HaShamayim** (the essence of heaven).

The third palace corresponds to **Netzah** and is called **Hekhal Nogah** (brightness).

The fourth palace corresponds to **Gevurah** and is called **Hekhal Zekhut** (merit).

The fifth palace corresponds to **Hesed** and is called **Hekhal Ahava** (love).

The sixth palace corresponds to **Tiferet** and is called **Hekhal Ratzon** (desire).

The seventh palace corresponds to the upper triad of sefirot, **Keter**, **Hokhma** and **Binah** and is called **Hekhal Kodesh HaKodashim** (the holy of holies).

The names of the palaces are taken from different scripture verses where mention is made of heavenly visions. These visions of the Biblical prophets revealed these palaces and the Kabbalists simply call them what the Bible calls them.

In the Etz Haim (46:3,4), Rabbi Haim reveals a most crucial point. Although we say that the first palace Livnat HaSapir, embodies both the sefirot Yesod and Malkhut, it really only embodies Yesod. The Malkhut of each world descends into the world that is beneath it and becomes concealed within the Hekhal Kodesh HaKodashim of that world. This is not the normal state of affairs but occurred as a result of the "lessening of the moon". This state of affairs is to be rectified by us, here on earth, as we ascend through the supernal palaces and assist in elevating the Malkhut to Her rightful place. This function is what is performed in the secret meditations within the daily prayer services.