

Meru Foundation eTORUS Newsletter

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Levanah and Stan Tenen

From The Editor

News and Activities:

This has been a productive year for Meru Foundation's research. We have made significant progress in several areas, for example:

- A analysis of the structure of the second verse of Genesis
- A graphical/geometric explication of Sefer Yetzirah
- Continuing refinement and expansion of the "inverted-T," and "Golden Rule triangle" geometric metaphors

We now have new and updated graphic essay posters exploring these and many other subjects, that we will begin to make available starting with this issue of eTORUS.

Meru Summer 2016 Class at Limmud Bay Area

In June 2016, our colleague Daniel Gil, composer of *The Creation Overture* for Meru Foundation, taught a highly successful class introducing Meru research at the 2016 Limmud [San Francisco] Bay Area weekend conference. *Limmud*, a name taken from the Hebrew word for "to learn," provides a platform for all varieties of Jewish learning, and attracts teachers from the local Northern California area and worldwide. One of the conference organizers, Estee Gray, attended Daniel's class; she has joined our outreach team, and has begun introducing our work to selected leaders in the Bay Area Jewish and high-tech worlds. Daniel has been invited back to teach our material again at the next Limmud Bay Area conference, to be held in June 2018.

The Alphabet That Changed the World e-Versions

Amazon now offers *The Alphabet That Changed the World* for Kindle, as well as the regular trade paperback. Order either version through this link: www.amazon.com/gp/product/1556437234/ — OR by using the Amazon link on our book's own website, at www.tatctw.com — and Meru Foundation will receive a small percentage of the sales price.

Also, the iBook version of our book is now available in Europe, and many other areas outside of North America. You can now order *The Alphabet That Changed the World* for iPad or iPhone directly from your own country's iBookstore—no need to have a US-based Apple-ID.

Meru Live-Lecture Videos Posted for Free Streaming

For the last 20 years, Meru Foundation has offered our five key lecture videos on our www.meetingtent.com website—first as VHS videotapes, and then as DVDs. These lectures were recorded over a critical ten-year period in our work, from 1989 (*Geometric Metaphors of Life*) to 1999 (*Squaring the Circle*). We've now posted these five full-length videos on YouTube, where you can stream them for free, on Meru's new YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/MeruFoundation.



For short clips and excerpts from these and other Meru videos—some not released elsewhere—go to Meru videographer Bill Haber’s channel, at www.youtube.com/user/filmguy2121.

You can still order our five full-length lectures on DVD if you prefer; go to www.meetingtent.com for details.

We welcome your feedback on the eTORUS, and your questions about our featured article(s): please send email to Levanah Tenen, at meru@meru.org. Thank you for your interest in Meru Foundation’s work.

eTORUS #66: Featured Graphic Essay

This issue begins a new series of eTORUSes focused on the new graphic-essay posters Stan has created over this past year. Here we start with a greatly expanded version of the poster in eTORUS #60 (October 2013): *Gan Eden: The Geometry of Linear and Cyclic Time*. Levanah Tenen, Editor

Gan Eden: The Geometry of Linear and Cyclic Time

Gan Eden, the Garden of Eden, marks the beginning of time.

We begin with the place-name *Eden*, in Hebrew spelled *Ayin-Dalet-NunFinal* עֵדֶן. Without vowelization, this is spelled exactly the same as one of the Hebrew words meaning *time*.

There are two aspects to time: linear progressive time, and cyclic time. The coming of self-awareness in the story of the Garden of Eden includes awareness of both the aging process—linear progressive time—and the cyclicity of all things in the natural world.

Linear time correlates with evolution and the flow of negentropy (and loving-kindness). In our experience, linear time is unidirectional. It extends from the past, to the present, to the future. Cyclic time, on the other hand, corresponds to the cycles of nature and life in the cosmos. The moon orbits the earth, the earth orbits the sun, the sun orbits the galaxy; and the seasons follow one after another, in cyclic order. Cyclic time flows in a circle, and points in all possible directions in its space. Each time a process returns to the same part of its cycle, it marks off the progress of linear time.

Discussion of *Gan Eden: The Geometry of Linear and Cyclic Time*, on the following page, begins below.

A. Here, we see the golden rule/inverted-T triangle extending from mind to world. The root *Ayin-Dalet* עֵד (or *Ayin-Vav-Dalet* עוֹד) refers to instances (times), and the final *Nun* ךְ tells us that they continue.

Ayin’s original pictogram is a circle: the eye; and a spectrum, and the field of view.

Dalet, meaning “door” or “triangle,” opens the door that connects linear progressive time and cyclic time.

Ayin-Dalet-Nun “Eden,” can mean “Time and time again.” (Aryeh Kaplan, in his *Sefer Yetzirah*, notes that the expression *Adey Ad, Ayin-Dalet-Yod Ayin-Dalet* עֵד עֵדֵי עֵד, used many times in the Bible, means “Until eternity of eternities.”*)

The geometry of the inverted-T/golden rule triangle suggests the geometry of a sundial, which marks off cyclic time; it also suggests the geometry of a pendulum (metronome), which counts out linear time.

The triangle is the Garden. The blue vertical line becomes the Tree of Life; the red horizontal line becomes the Tree of Knowledge, extending from left to right, from negative to positive, covering all polarities as radii of the circle of the earth-plane.



GAN EDEN The Geometry of Linear and Cyclic Time

The Unification of the **Tree of Life** and the **Tree of Knowledge** in the **Garden of Eden**

The Golden Rule Triangle as an Information Gradient for the Cycles of Life, Time, and Cosmos

TREE Great Spectrum - \updownarrow

Gradients
The Great Spectrum Becomes the Yard-Stick

Seed - Tree - Fruit

Notice that both Trees are "in the Midst of the Garden".
The Tree of Knowledge surrounds the Tree of Life.

EDEN - \updownarrow
HaShem - Mind

TIME (note 1)
- Gradients -

The Cycle / Circle-Spectrum - \updownarrow Ayin \odot Original Pictogram
Triangle / "Divides" - \updownarrow Dalet \triangle
The Infinite Line-of-Progression - \updownarrow NunSoft

GARDEN

ADAMA = RED/EARTH + \updownarrow Ayin \odot Circle-Spectrum Field-of-View

The SPECTRUM of All-There-Is

Elokim - Nature - Physics - World Earth Plane

Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

The "Potter's Kick-Wheel" (Zohar, note 2) - The Wheel of Karma
What Goes Around Comes Around, "Tit for Tat", Action/Reaction

Eden is the Arena (Garden) for the Process of Cyclic Time
Dividing and Measuring Linear (Progressive) Time

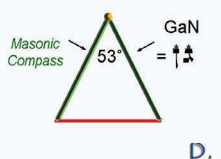
The Cycles of the Seasons Act as a Measuring Yard-Stick for the Progression of Linear Time

BIG BANG
BIG WHIMPER Heat Death

Grid Latitude
Longitude

The Garden

The Numerical Value of GaN is 53. This is the Apex Angle of The Gan Eden Triangle



G Row Down
G R a D i e N t
G a R D e N
G R I D
G R a D e



LIFE As Above - Before -
- NOW -
So Below - After -

LINEAR TIME:
- Progressive -
- Evolutionary -
Information Gradient Drives Novelty
- Impulse -
Correlates with Linear Momentum

KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil
CYCLIC TIME:
"What Goes Around Comes Around"
The Cycles of Nature:
i.e. Year/Sun, Month/Moon, Week, Day
Correlates with Angular Momentum

CYCLIC TIME Turns on the Spindle of LINEAR - Progressive - TIME

Proclus, on Plato's Timeaus:
"Things have a twofold nature:
the one invisible, unique, simple, and unworldly,
and the other visible, multiple, varied, and distributed throughout the world.
There are two kinds of energy;
the one primordial, immovable, and intellectual,
the other secondary, kinetic, and revolving in relation with the intellect.
The one is free from cause and effect; the other contains them."

From: Commentaire sur le Timée, trans: Festugière, 1968, Paris, Vrin

The Unit Yard-Stick

Etz

TREE STICK Spectrum

The Twist in this model of a Tree-of-Life Column is equivalent to the 99-Tetrahedron Tetrahedral column from a 3,10 Torus Knot

NASA: Black Hole
Wikipedia Commons

SHEFA

gradient, n. (מגוון של מטילה ברזל או נביש) \updownarrow שפוע
to flow, (שפוע, שפועה, שפועה, שפועה) \updownarrow שפועה, שפועה
to incline, slant (v.i.), slope \updownarrow שפועה, שפועה
emanate, v.i. (שפועה, שפועה, שפועה) \updownarrow שפועה, שפועה

Shefa Tal
Negentropy
 \updownarrow
"Bound-Learning"

- Notes:
- Dan Matt, note 565, The Zohar, Vol II, p.188: "In this verse \updownarrow (ldan), time, is often interpreted as "year."
 - Dar Matt, The Zohar, Vol II, 1:110a, p. 158; note 320.



B. This shows the tree itself, *Etz: Ayin-ZadiFinal* עץ. Letter-by-letter, *Etz* can be understood as “a great circle,” “a great cycle,” and “a great spectrum.” It is the gradient that extends from seed to tree to fruit.

C. This shows us the identification of the blue vertical line with the Tree of Life, and the red horizontal line with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (thus, plus and minus).

Tradition teaches that both the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil are “in the midst of the garden.” Here is a translation of Genesis 2:9, where the two Trees are first introduced. (Translation by R. Zlotowitz, as given in the Artscroll-Mesorah *Sefer Bereshis* Vol 1):

And Hashem God caused to grow from the ground every tree that was pleasing to the sight and good for food; also a tree of life in the midst of the garden, and a tree of the knowledge of good and bad.

Explaining how two trees can both be “in the midst of the garden,” some commentators suggest that the two Trees stand next to each other; some commentators suggest that they are one above the other; and some suggest that they are coaxial. (A selection of these comments is included in *eTORUS #60* along with an earlier version of this poster.)

Our golden rule/inverted-T triangle suggests that both trees are “in the midst of the Garden” (the green triangle) in two separate ways. The Tree of Life stands vertically, connecting “As above” to “so below,” while the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is centered on the base of the triangle, as shown. The vertical line (Life) is unipolar and unidirectional, extending from the past to the present to the future. It is aspirational, inspirational, and transcendent. The horizontal line (Knowledge) is transactional, “perspirational” (based on hard work), and immanent. It is, coincides with, and corresponds to the “earth-plane of existence.”

D. This illustrates that the Garden, *Gan* גן, has a numerical value of 53. The apex angle of the inverted-T, “As above, so below,” golden rule triangle is 53°. The two sides of the inverted-T triangle can be identified with the two legs of the Masonic compass (which also form a 53° angle). This also identifies the triangle over the pyramid on the back of the US \$1 bill, and triangular paving stones known as “Herod’s Triangle,” found on the floor of Herod’s (Second) Temple. (See “[What the Temple Mount Floor Looked Like](#),” by Dr. Frankie Snyder of the Temple Mount Sifting Project, published in *Biblical Archaeology Review* Vol. 42 No. 6 (Nov-Dec. 2016)). [Photo at right, by the Temple Mount Sifting Project, shows four black “Herod’s Triangles” radiating from the beige central square.]



E. The drawing illustrates the flow of information, negentropy, and loving-kindness through the Garden, extending a seed to a tree to a fruit, and extending the light of the sun to the plane of the Earth. The letter-chart below shows the relationship of the English words for grow, gradient, garden, grid, and grade. The letter *Dalet* ד, whose pictogram is a triangle, is identified with the Greek letter *Delta*, and the delta extending a river into the sea. Below, in the lower left-hand corner, is a photo from the back of our apartment, showing Gallinas Creek, flowing from the highlands of Marin County into the upper San Francisco Bay (Richardson Bay).

F. This expands on the idea of the gradient. The *shefa tal*—the flow of negentropy—follows the gradient from the singularity of Hashem to the all-inclusiveness of Elokim, subtending all of creation. *Shefa* can also mean “incline.” *Sefer Yetzirah* uses the word *Emek*, meaning “valley,” or “depth,” for gradient.

G. This section, in the middle of the page, summarizes the qualities of the two Trees: the linear, progressive, evolutionary time of the Tree of Life, vs. the cyclicity of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This cyclic earth-plane is identified with the “Wheel of Karma” in some traditions, and with the “Potter’s Kick-wheel” in Zohar. It models the idea of action and reaction, tit-for-tat, and “what goes around comes around.”



H. Below the drawing is a reference from Proclus' discussion of Plato's *Timaeus*. (Thanks to Dr. Raymond Bradley for bringing this to my attention.) Proclus was one of the last of the Platonists; in his *On The Timaeus*, he attributes to Plato the same two qualities we have been discussing (represented here by the same two lines). Plato's *Timaeus* (360 BCE) is more recent than the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (~458 BCE/445 BCE), and this suggests that Plato, and perhaps Pythagoras before him, gleaned their understanding from concepts associated with the Garden of Eden in Torah tradition.

I. This is a NASA rendering of a black hole, showing the emergence (*shefa*) of a twisted column from its core. The twisted column suggests the tetrahelical column: a geometric metaphor for a tree, or a vine, or an umbilic. (**J**)

K. This illustrates how the Garden of Eden triangle extends over all time, from the big bang to the "big whimper" (the heat-death of the universe), with the cyclicity of the "earth-plane" measuring off intervals of progressive time. This grid can also be interpreted as latitude and longitude. This is the very definition of geometry: geo- = earth, and -metry = measure.

*Aryeh Kaplan, *Sefer Yetzirah: The Book of Creation*. York Beach, NY: Samuel Weiser (1991), p. 51.



Meru Foundation Websites

www.meru.org Meru's original website, created in 1996, has a large selection of essays and posters on many different aspects of this work. This site is for leisurely exploration; the home page includes a PayPal button for contributions.

Our eTORUS Newsletters include the most recent essays and graphics; all issues are archived at **www.meru.org/Newsletter/journalindex.html**.

A basic introductory packet on Meru Foundation, including a research summary, endorsements, a sample eTORUS, and biographical information, is posted at **www.meru.org/MeruIntroPacket.2013.pdf**.

www.meetingtent.com For ordering our lecture DVD's, books, and other materials, and for making contributions via credit card. This site also includes a Meru FAQ and contact information for the media.

www.tatctw.com Site focused on Stan Tenen's 2011 book, *The Alphabet That Changed the World: How Genesis Preserves a Science of Consciousness in Geometry and Gesture*. Includes professional and reader reviews, and a portal for ordering from Amazon.

www.youtube.com/c/MeruFoundation Meru Foundation's YouTube channel, where our five primary lecture videos, our half-hour introductory video *First Light*, and other videos to come, are posted for free viewing.

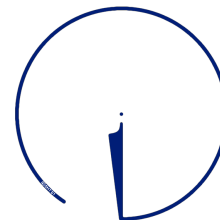
www.youtube.com/user/filmguy2121 Meru videographer Bill Haber's YouTube channel, featuring short animations and video excerpts from live lectures by Stan Tenen.

www.facebook.com/MeruFoundation Meru Foundation Facebook page.

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OR BIT, BEING
SO SMALL, MARKS
INFINITE CONTRAST WITH THE ALL.