

## Alchemico-Qabalistic Symbolism of the Cubic Stone

The Cubic Stone is the symbol of man during his evolution.

The Man of the Beginning, the Man before involution, is the rough stone. Man at the end of his evolution has become the polished stone.

Qabala says that Man, the microcosm, is the small reproduction of the macrocosm, the Creation, Adam Kadmon, the Universe-Man.

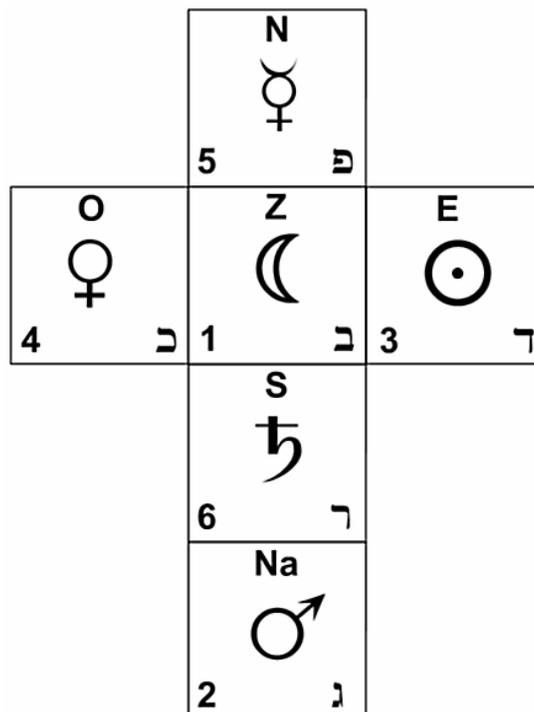
In Hebrew, the cube is written Qof Beth Yod He קב"ה close to Qabala: Qof Beth Lamed קבל.

Assuming that Qof Beth קב is knowledge in duality, Lamed ל means its expansion, and Yod He י"ה its inclusion in the being.

We will therefore examine the cube in its numerical symbolism applied to the Laws of the Universe.

The cube symbolizes the laws of the Created, of duality. It has no meaning in Unity. We'll start with **number 2**: the development of the surface of the cube gives a cross as in the drawing. This cross, which has nothing to do with the Christian cross, symbolizes the first phase of the manifestation of the Created.

The vertical arm, active, meets the horizontal arm, passive, and the central square is the meeting point of manifestation.



Direction	Letter on the face	Planet concerned	Day of Creation	Quality
1 Zenith	Beth	Moon	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wisdom
2 Nadir	Guimel	Mars	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wealth
3 East	Daleth	Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rigor
4 West	Kaph	Venus	4 <sup>th</sup>	Life
5 North	Pe	Mercury	5 <sup>th</sup>	Consecration
6 South	Resh	Saturn	6 <sup>th</sup>	Peace
The days must be understood as densities of worlds. Not shown is the seventh day, or day of rest, letter Tav inside the cube. Location and letters conform to the Sefer Yetzirah of Jerusalem.				

**Number 2** is the number of letter Beth ב, duality. The Qabalistic significance of Beth is the house. The duality that surrounds the cube, is in fact the house of involution and evolution.

**Number 3:** three edges meet at each point of the cube. The cube is the only polyhedron wherein three edges of each point are oriented along the three directions in space:

- Nadir-Zenith	Aleph Air
- North-South	Shin Fire
- East-West	Mem Water

For each direction in space, there are four lines generated by the four parallel edges. It is also possible to consider the three edges of a point as the symbol of the three mother-letters of the Hebrew alphabet: Aleph א Mem מ and Shin ש. Symbolically, Aleph arrives on top where it differentiates into two: Mem and Shin.

**Number 4:** it is symbolized by the four sides of each cube face. Number 4 is the number of the letter Dalet ד. The Qabalistic significance of Dalet is door. Each face is a gateway into duality. Number 4 is also the symbol of stability of the duration of the Stone.

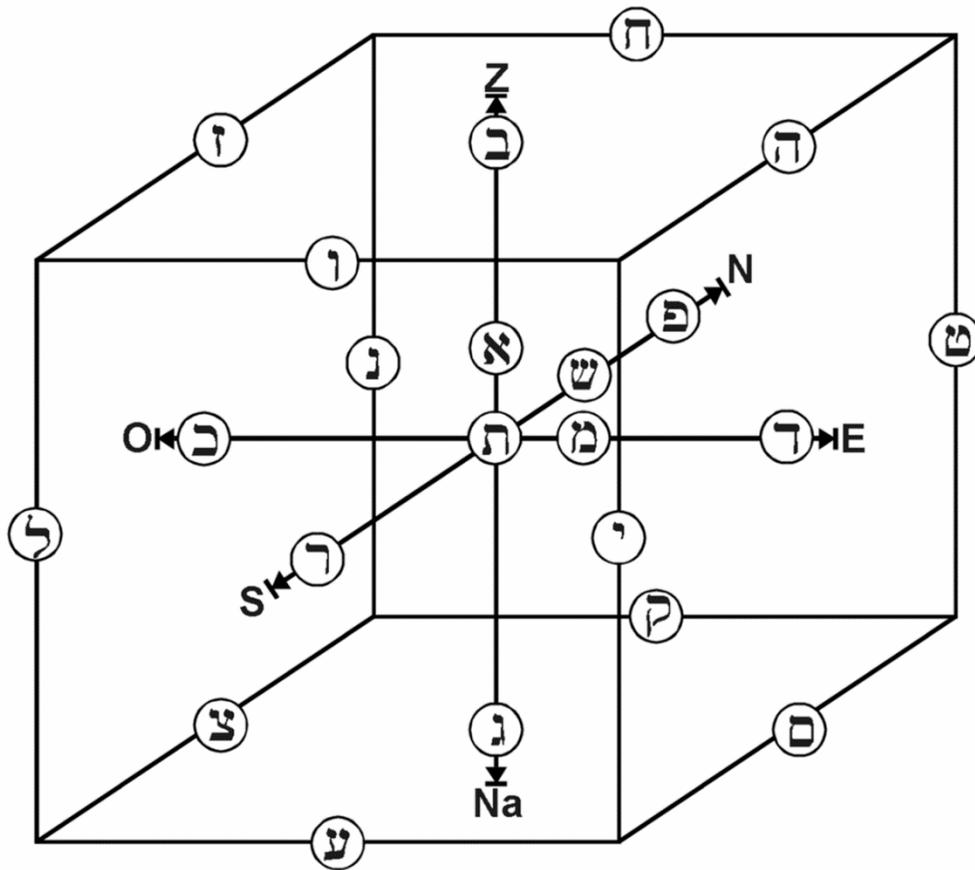
**Number 5:** it was not included in the symbolism of the cube. Five is the number of Man but is not in the laws governing involution and evolution.

**Number 6:** it is symbolized by the six sides of the cube. To each is assigned a double letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Since there are seven double letters, the last, Tav is not assigned to a face.

**Number 7:** it includes the previous six sides plus letter Tav ט in the center of the cube. This letter is the letter of the Universe, which means that the center of the cube is the center of the microcosm.

**Number 12:** it is symbolized by the twelve edges of the cube. To each is assigned one of the twelve simple letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each letter is assigned to one of the signs of the Zodiac. In reality, these signs show the steps of a phase of evolution. Each phase begins with Aries and ends with Pisces. Various authors have tried to better clarify the meaning of these steps in various texts such as:

- 12 Works of Hercules
- 12 Doors of Alchemy by Ripley
- 12 Keys of Philosophy by Basil Valentine
- 12 Operations in the Alchemical Work, etc.



קביה  
קבל

The arrangement is consistent with the Hebrew text of the Sepher Yetzirah. Below, in Hebrew, the word "cube" and the word "Qabala" (see root similarity explained above).

The cube is supposed to be seen by an observer located South of the cube and looking North. The letters in Latin characters represent the directions of space:

Zenith Z,  
Nadir: Na,  
North N,  
South: S,  
East: E,  
West: O.

In the center, letter Tav

Double letters of the faces are located at the ends of the three dimensions axes going through the center of the cube.

The mother-letters and simple ones are on the same axis.

**Positions and names of the 12 simple letters:**

Top	South	Vav
Top	East	He
Top	North	Chet
Top	West	Zayin
Bottom	South	Ayin
Bottom	East	Samech
Bottom	North	Qoph
Bottom	West	Tzadde
South	East	Yod
East	North	Teth
North	West	Nun
West	South	Lamed

Now back to an alchemical aspect of the symbol of the Cubic Stone.

The cube is not the symbol of the philosopher's stone since it is not a stone but a powder, the powder of projection. According to Paracelsus and other alchemists, the most powerful Stone comes from lead, Saturn metal, the highest planet in the sky according to Qabalists. Lead ore used by Alchemists, galena, crystallizes in the cubic system.

The lowest Path of the Tree of Life of Qabala, the one of the beginning of evolution, is devoted to Saturn and letter Tav, symbol of the Universe. This Path can be worked on alchemically through Artepheus' saturnine metal: antimony. And here too we see the symbolism of the cube. When antimony is prepared for distillation, it crystallizes into long needles. But if one undertakes its most extreme purification so it's ready for the Stone, it changes shape and crystallizes into small transparent cubes 1 cm (1/2 inch) long. The antimony stone is then ready to polish the rough stone.

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