



BEHOLD!

THE ART AND PRACTICE
OF GEMATRIA

BETHSHEBA ASHE

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The Hermeneutics of Aleister Crowley
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Chariot
Aleister Crowley's Secret Temple
Two Sun Sunday (Screenplay)

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The Art and Practice
of Gematria

Bethsheba Ashe

AEON

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The author has provided a free online gematria calculator webpage to accompany this book. Please go to:

The Shematria Gematria Calculator <https://www.shematria.com>

We encourage students of the formal system of rhetoric math in the Bible to share their findings by submitting their results to our database. Please see our submission page:

<https://www.shematria.com/submit>

*In memory of Chan Aletrum,
(14/3/1962–4/3/2021).
May he achieve the
accomplishment of his will.*

For Andres Pedraza, with love and appreciation.

*It is the glory of God to conceal a word
and the glory of kings to reveal a word.*

Proverbs of Solomon.

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PREFACE

To learn for learning's sake, not because it's going to get you something, necessarily, but because you have faith that the things that interest you will help you become who you need to be.

Austin Kleon

This Aeon edition of *Behold* was rewritten and expanded following the release of details concerning the Mt. Ebal curse tablet. This tiny tablet, dated to the late Bronze age (circa 1440 BCE), employs mathematics in the construction of the curse text, which is evidence that gematria is a truly ancient practice.

The discovery makes the need for a handbook on formal gematria even more urgent, so that epigraphers, both amateur and professional, have the tools they need to decipher mathematical texts, both in the Bible and from archeological digs.

This newly emerging subset in the field of epigraphy needs its amateur researchers, because the amount of deliberately written calculations in the Bible is immense, and still needs to be deciphered. The only way I see this happening is in the sort of crowd-sourced enterprise akin

to one that mapped the human genome, which is why I've written this book, and why I'm asking for your participation in the project.

What you'll get out of it is the pleasure of being able to better interpret the text of the Bible for yourself, and come to your own conclusions about what you read, once you have all the facts.

ויאמרו אליו איה שרה אשתך ויאמר הנה באהל

Genesis 18:9

And they said to him:
"Where is Sarah your wife (111)?"
And he said:
"Behold! In the tent (111)!"

A Biblical Joke.

CHAPTER 1

Lost in translations

The concept of progress acts as a protective mechanism to shield us from the terrors of the future.

From Collected Sayings of Muad'Dib, by Princess Irulan
Frank Herbert (*Dune*)

I have learned a deep distrust of translations, though I'd rather have them than not. Languages evolve to express the cultural norms, mores, and world-religious views of the people who use them. Translations that are made centuries or millennia after their initial composition can miss a great deal of context, simply because the daily lives of the writers are so very different.

The words of the Bible carry within them a patina of that which was every day and familiar in the lives of the ancients. To understand these writers, we have to go through a process of mental adjustment in our thinking. We have to strip ourselves down, divesting ourselves mentally of all our modern knowledge of science and technology. We must set aside what we know of physics and astronomy, and put away our twenty-first century beliefs and convictions, so that we can come to appreciate the perspectives of Biblical writers.

This is not to say that ancient ideas are not at the roots of modern thinking when it comes to philosophical concepts such as the zero, or the idea that numbers are an inherent quality to our universe. Surely, human beings have always asked the big questions and sought answers to these, but modern answers are conceptualized by modern systems, and systems are particular beasts, usually self-serving and self-referencing, dissimilar from one another in their efforts to frame a particular question from a particular perspective and knowledge base.

For the mystic, systems are used to inspire transcendental states of being through philosophical reductions that unite all things with their opposites, but while we can reconcile any number of opposites within our own consciousness to cause transformative states of being that may bring us closer to God-consciousness, I think it is asking too much for ancient and modern systems to bear anything but a basic correspondence or passing relationship to one another. To understand the ancient worldview, knowledge of string theory and the big bang probably aren't going to be of any good to us.

Even if Hebrew is your first language, the lives of the ancient Hebrews were qualitatively different from the lives of modern Jews. There are things that modern people take for granted that weren't part of the ancient world, and there were things that ancient people took for granted that aren't part of the modern world.

The practice of rhetoric math (math without notation) was one of those things that didn't survive the march of progress, and knowledge of it almost passed out of human memory. Not everything is known of the lives of the ancients, though archaeologists and historians try their best to present a coherent picture of the past. Not everything was written down. The ancients left no records showing how people were taught to read and write, and there are no records showing how the ancients thought people should do mathematics. *We* may be used to manuals and guidebooks, and such things are pervasive in our information-rich society, but knowledge of these things were not taught in books. Writing a book, or even a chapter for a book, was a much more time-intensive task for a man or woman working with parchment and quill, frequently by candlelight. We just type our words into a device and think nothing of it. If you really want to develop some empathy for an ancient scribe, try writing everything that you'd usually type in a day with a pen for a week, and then see how you begin to prioritize what you write. Keep a pen and ink diary of your week, too, and record your results. Then reflect upon the fact that ancient writers were

not only composing prose but were embedding it with calculations too. Personally, I can only stand in awe of their accomplishments.

It's largely thanks to the fact translations of the Bible are available that I've been able to write this book. I certainly couldn't have gotten along without translations. I'm not Jewish and Hebrew is not my first language. I'm a cryptographer, and though rhetoric mathematics isn't a code, it did need to be deciphered before it could be read. Because the oral tradition had been hidden or lost, the principles upon which guided the practice had to be carefully reconstructed by analyzing the function of each word and charting the common areas of classification.

... the work of creation is a deep mystery, not understandable from the verses, and it cannot be known except through the received tradition going back to Moses our teacher who received it from the mouth of the Almighty, and those who know it are required to hide it.

Therefore Rabbi Isaac said that the Torah didn't need to begin with "In the beginning God created" and the story of what was created on the first day, and what was done on the second day and the remaining days, and the lengthy telling of the creation of Adam and Eve, and their sin and punishment, and the story of the Garden of Eden and Adam's exile from it, for all this cannot be understood with full understanding from the verses.

The Rambam on Genesis 1

I'm going to teach you how to read rhetoric mathematics. You won't need to learn Biblical Hebrew for this, but you will need to know the basics about the language so that you are not completely dependent upon translations.

Professional translators say that any translation is only as good as the ability of the translator to contextualize the meaning of the text. They wrestle with the disconnect between modern life and ancient living everyday.

Alfred Korzybski famously said, "A map is not the territory it represents, but if correct, it has a similar structure to the territory, which accounts for its usefulness." We can carry the metaphor forward to say translation is like a map that is laid over another map and the points of intersection are made useful. Yet each one who walks the perimeter of these maps will experience the territory differently, according to their own lights and experiences.

Unlock the esoteric origins of Kabbalah to discover hidden symbolic messages in the Bible and key occult texts

The art of Gematria goes far deeper than the way in which most people have come to understand it today. Originating in biblical texts, Gematria is not about the cherry-picking and comparison of numbers, but a far more beautiful and ancient art that is crucial for biblical interpretation and occult symbolism.

In this revised and expanded version of her classic book, Bethsheba Ashe tackles questions which have been asked for as long as the Bible has existed: why Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden; how Moses parted the Red Sea; whether Elijah riding the fiery chariot to heaven was real. These can be answered through the art of Gematria and are detailed in *Behold!*, the most advanced and thorough study of the subject published to date.

The ciphers in the book can be decoded by utilising the Shematria Gematria Calculator, which was created by the author herself to assist readers, guiding them through the ancient Hebrew system. *Behold!* should be read as a student handbook, a history and an invaluable reference text; within its pages readers will find everything needed to detect and read hidden Gematria calculations.

‘A Kabbalistic tour de force. For the modern Kabbalist (who might be tempted to be dismissive of the scriptural roots and applications of the qabalah), *Behold!: The Art and Practice of Gematria* is perhaps the most valuable contribution to the study of modern qabalah in over a century.’

Lon Milo DuQuette, author of *The Chicken Qabalah of Rabbi Lamed Ben Clifford*

‘Bethsheba Ashe has immersed herself in the study of the mathematic secrets hiding in the Torah. She takes a difficult subject and explains it expertly.’

Judith Dillon, author of *The Alphabet and the Mystery Traditions*

Bethsheba Ashe is a fifty-one year old tea-drinking cryptographer who broke the Gematria ciphers to the Bible and the Book of the Law. She is the CEO of Lightwood Studio, creator of the popular ‘Shematria’ online calculator, and inventor of the Galay writing script. Currently she lives in Pennsylvania and is creating an open-world VR Island adventure game with her boyfriend, two cats and a cockatoo, but she says she owes all her success to Tetley.

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