

# Sha'arei Orah - שערי אורה

## Gates of Light

*Excerpts from Sha'arei Orah, by Rabbi Joseph Gikatilla z"l,  
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### Introduction

The true definition of the traditional covenant is that the one who wishes to achieve his desires regarding the Holy One, Blessed be He, is the one who exerts himself with all his power to grasp the meaning of each and every Name of these Holy Names that are mentioned in the Torah. For example: Ehyeh is Keter Elyon; Yah is Hokhmah; YHVH is Binah; Adonai is A'teret; El is Hesed; Eloah is Tifereth; Elohim is Pachad; Shaddai is Yesod; Tzevaoth is Netzach and Hod.

One must know and understand that all of these Names are like keys to everything that one needs for anything in the world. When one meditates upon these Names, he will find that all of the Torah and the Commandments depend upon them. And when one knows the meaning of all of these Names, he will realize and know the greatness of "He Who spoke, and the world came into being." One will fear and be in awe of Him, and he will long for and yearn and eagerly desire to cleave to Him through the knowledge of His Names, may He be blessed. Then he will be near the L-RD, and his prayer will be received. Regarding this it is written, "I will keep him safe, for he knows My Name; he shall call upon me, and I will answer him" [Tehillim 91:14-15]. The text does not say, "I will keep him safe because he mentions My Name," rather, "because he knows My Name." Knowledge is essential. After this, "he shall call upon me, and I will answer him," saying that when one needs to speak, he will focus his intention on that Name upon which the need depends, then "I will answer him."

### Gate 1

[Malkhuth - מלכות]

"O Lord [Adonai], open my lips and let my mouth give You praise." (Psalms 51:17)

Adonai (L-rd) - **אדני**  
Berakhah (Blessing) - **ברכה**  
Bereikhah (Pool, Receptacle) - **ברכה**  
Be'er (Well) - **באר**  
Be'er Sheva (Well of Seven, Seventh Well) - **באר שבע**  
Yam (Sea) - **ים**  
Yam HaHokhmah (Sea of Wisdom) - **ים החכמה**  
Kol (All) - **כל**  
Even (Stone) - **אבן**  
Even HaRoshah (Cornerstone) - **אבן הראשה**  
Even Sappir (Sapphire Stone) - **אבן ספיר**  
Rosh Pinah (Chief Cornerstone) - **ראש פנה**  
Beth HaMikdash (The Holy Temple) - **בית המקדש**  
Shekhinah (Dweller, Immanent Presence) - **שכינה**  
Ohel Moed (Tent of Meeting) - **אהל מועד**  
Tzedek (Righteousness) - **צדק**  
Elohim (G-d) - **אלהים**  
Cherev Nokemet Nakam Brit (The Sword that Avenges the Covenant) - **חרב נוקמת נקם ברית**  
Ani (I) - **אני**  
Malkuth (Kingdom) - **מלכות**  
Malkhuth Beth David (Kingdom of the House of David) - **מלכות בית דוד**  
Nesher (Eagle) - **נשר**  
Mikveh HaMayim (Pool of Water) - **מקוה המים**  
Yabashah (Dry Land) - **יבשה**  
Tefillin Shel Yad (Phylacteries of the Hand) - **תפילה של יד**  
Koh (Thus) - **כה**  
Petach Eynayim (Entrance to Eyes) - **פתח עינים**  
Etz HaDa'ath (Tree of Knowledge) - **עץ הדעת**  
Eretz HaChayyim (The Land of Life) - **ארץ החיים**  
Sefer HaChayyim (The Book of Life) - **ספר החיים**  
Zot (This) - **זאת**  
Amirah (Saying, Utterance) - **אמירה**  
Shaddai (Almighty) - **שדי**  
Heh Acharonah Shel Shem (Final Heh of the Name) - **הא אחרונה של שם**  
Knesset Yisrael (Community of Israel) - **כנסת ישראל**  
Eretz Yisrael (Land of Israel) - **ארץ ישראל**

Kallah (Bride) - **כלה**  
Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) - **ירושלים**  
Gan (Garden) - **גן**  
Hekhal (Palace) - **היכל**  
Aron (Ark) - **ארון**  
Torah SheBa'al Peh (Oral Torah) - **תורה שבעל פה**  
Rachel (Rachel, the Matriarch) - **רחל**  
Mizbeach (Altar) - **מזבח**  
Bath (Daughter) - **בת**  
Ishah (Wife) - **אשה**  
Shemittah (Sabbatical Year, the Seventh Year) - **שמיטה**  
Nun Kefufah (Bent Nun) - **נון כפופה**  
Mitzvah (Commandment) - **מצוה**  
E'th (Time, Season) - **עת**  
Shamor (Keep, Guard) - **שמור**  
Tefillah (Prayer) - **תפילה**

## Gate 2

[Yesod - **יסוד**]

"My soul thirsts for God, the living God [El Chai]; O when will I come to appear before God?" (Psalms 42:3)

El Chai (Living G-d) - **אל חי**  
Elohim Chayyim (Living G-d) - **אלהים חיים**  
El Shaddai (Almighty G-d) - **אל שדי**  
Makor Mayim Chayyim (Fount of Living Waters) - **מקור מים חיים**  
Tzaddik (Righteous One) - **צדיק**  
Tov (Good) - **טוב**  
Sekhel Tov (Good Understanding) - **שכל טוב**  
Shalom (Peace) - **שלום**  
Zikharon (Memory, Remembrance) - **זכרון**  
Zakhor (Remember) - **זכור**  
Shabbat (Sabbath, Rested) - **שבת**  
Menuchah (Resting Place) - **מנוחה**  
Yesod (Foundation) - **יסוד**  
Yesod Olam (Foundation of the World) - **יסוד עולם**

Goel (Redeemer) - **גואל**  
 HaMalakh HaGoel (The Redeeming Angel) - **המלאך הגואל**  
 Brit (Covenant) - **ברית**  
 Brit Milah (Covenant of Circumcision) - **ברית מילה**  
 Oth (Sign) - **אות**  
 Shevuah (Oath) - **שבועה**  
 Ki Tov (It Was Good) - **כי טוב**  
 Chok (Decree) - **חוק**  
 Har (Mountain) - **הר**  
 Har Tzion (Mount Zion) - **הר ציון**  
 Tzion (Zion) - **ציון**  
 Kol (All) - **כל**  
 Avir Ya'akov (Mighty One of Jacob) - **אביר יעקב**  
 Avir Yisrael (Mighty One of Israel) - **אביר ישראל**  
 Hesed Tachton (Lower Mercy) - **חסד תחתון**  
 Hasdei David HaNe'emanim (The Faithful Mercies of David) - **חסדי דוד**  
**הנאמנים**  
 Har HaKodesh (The Holy Mountain) - **הר הקדש**  
 HaHar HaTov (The Good Mountain) - **ההר הטוב**  
 Katzeh HaTachton Shel Vav (The Lower End of the Vav) - **קצה התחתון של**  
**ואו**  
 Chai HaOlamim (The Life of Worlds) - **חי העולמים**  
 Milah (Circumcision) - **מילה**  
 Brit HaKesheth (Covenant of the Rainbow) - **ברית הקשת**  
 Ben (Son) - **בן**  
 Yod Ketanah (Small Yod) - **יוד קטנה**  
 Yod Tachtonah (Lower Yod) - **יוד תחתונה**  
 Shevarim (Broken Sounds of the Shofar) - **שברים**  
 Dar (Dweller) - **דר**

### Gates 3 and 4

[Hod and Netzach - **הוד נצח**]

"O Lord, God of Hosts [YHVH Elohim Tzevaoth], hear my prayer; listen, O Lord of Jacob. Selah." (Psalms 84:9)

"O God of Hosts [Elohim Tzevaoth], restore us; cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved." (Psalms 80:8)

"The Lord of Hosts [YHVH Tzevaoth] is with us. The God of Jacob is our high tower. Selah." (Psalms 46:8)

Elohim Tzevaoth (G-d of Hosts) - **אלהים צבאות**  
YHVH Tzevaoth (L-RD of Hosts) - **יהוה צבאות**  
Hod (Majesty, Glory) - **הוד**  
Hodaoth (Thanksgiving) - **הודאות**  
Boaz (Left Pillar in the Holy Temple) - **בועז**  
Yakin (Right Pillar in the Holy Temple) - **יכין**  
Shechakim (Skies) - **שחקים**  
Etzem HaShamayim (The Essence of Heaven) - **עצם השמים**  
Makom HaEtzah (The Place of Counsel) - **מקום העצה**  
Netzach (Victory) - **נצח**  
Netzachim (Victories, Eternity) - **נצחים**  
El Emunah (Faithful G-d) - **אל אמונה**  
Regel Yamin (Right Leg) - **רגל ימין**  
Regel Semol (Left Leg) - **רגל שמאל**  
Shokayyim (Legs, Thighs) - **שוקיים**  
Birkkayim (Knees) - **ברכים**  
Vav Shel Shem (Vav of the Name) - **ואו של שם**  
Shevarim (Interpretations of Dreams) - **שברים**

## Gate 5

[Tifereth - **תפארת**]

"Hear my prayer O Lord [YHVH]; give ear to my cry; do not disregard my tears; for like all my forebears I am an alien resident with You." (Psalms 39:12)

YHVH (HaShem) - **יהוה**  
YHVH Elohim (L-RD G-d) - **יהוה אלהים**  
Kav HaEmtza'i (Central Line) - **קו האמצעי**  
Etz HaChayyim (The Tree of Life) - **עץ החיים**  
Torah SheVaketav (The Written Torah) - **תורה שבכתב**  
Emet (Truth) - **אמת**  
Tifereth (Beauty) - **תפארת**  
Da'ath (Knowledge) - **דעת**  
Nora (Awesome) - **נורא**

Mishpat (Judgment) - **משפט**  
Atah (You) - **אתה**  
Ya'akov (Jacob) - **יעקב**  
Yisrael (Israel) - **ישראל**  
Midat Yom (Measure of a Day) - **מדת יום**  
Briach HaTikhun (Central Pillar) - **בריח התיכון**  
Av Yisrael (Father Israel) - **אב ישראל**  
Anavah (Humble One) - **ענוה**  
Adir (Mighty One) - **אדיר**  
Shalom (Peace) - **שלום**  
Shlemah (Complete, Whole) - **שלמה**  
Shlishi (Third) - **שלישי**  
Shamayim (Heavens) - **שמים**  
Ish Tam (Perfect Man, Mild Man) - **איש תם**  
HaKadosh Barukh Hu (The Holy One, Blessed be He) - **הקדוש ברוך הוא**  
Ze'ir Anpin (Small Countenance) - **זעיר אנפין**  
Rachamim (Compassion) - **רחמים**  
Zakhar (Male) - **זכר**  
Moshe (Moses) - **משה**  
Chalav (Milk) - **חלב**  
Devash (Honey) - **דבש**  
Tzur (Rock) - **צור**  
Yom (Day) - **יום**  
Menorah (Candelabrum) - **מנורה**  
Yerach (Month) - **ירח**  
Anokhi (I) - **אנכי**  
Adam (Man) - **אדם**  
Vav Shel Shem (Vav of the Name) - **ואו של שם**  
Tefillin Shel Rosh (Phylacteries of the Head) - **תפילין של ראש**  
Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) - **ספר תורה**  
Chen (Grace) - **חן**  
Dibbur (Speech) - **דבור**  
Rakia' (Firmament) - **רקיע**  
Chut HaShidrah (Spinal Cord) - **חוט השדרה**  
Ben (Son) - **בן**  
Tekia'th Shofar (Simple Blast on the Shofar) - **תקיעת שופר**  
Kol Gadol (Great Voice) - **קול גדול**

## Gate 6

[Gevurah - **גבורה**]

"O God [Elohim], hear my prayer, listen to what my mouth says." (Psalms 54:4)

Elohim (G-d) - **אלהים**

Gevurah (Strength) - **גבורה**

Beth Din Shel Ma'aleh (The Heavenly Court) - **בית דין של מעלה**

Zekhut (Merit) - **זכות**

Tzafon (North) - **צפון**

Yad Kahah (Restraining Hand) - **יד כהה**

Midath HaDin HaKasheh (Attribute of Harsh Judgment) - **מדת הדין הקשה**

Beth Din HaE'lyon (The Supernal Court) - **בית דין העליון**

Pachad (Fear) - **פחד**

Yitzchak (Isaac) - **יצחק**

Pachad Yitzchak (Fearsome Isaac) - **פחד יצחק**

HaEsh HaGedolah (The Great Fire) - **האש הגדולה**

Esh Ochlah (Consuming Fire) - **אש אוכלה**

Memshalah (Dominion, Government) - **ממשלה**

Din (Judgment) - **דין**

Samol (Left) - **שמאל**

Zahav (Gold) - **זהב**

Lechem (Bread) - **לחם**

Malach (Salt) - **מלח**

Nachash (Serpent) - **נחש**

Yayin (Wine) - **יין**

Choshekh (Darkness) - **חשך**

Laylah (Night) - **לילה**

A'nan (Dark Cloud) - **ענן**

A'rafel (Thick-Darkness) - **ערפל**

Basar (Meat, Flesh) - **בשר**

Devorah (Bee) - **דבורה**

Soleth (Flour) - **סלת**

Shulchan (Table) - **שלחן**

Shemesh (Sun) - **שמש**

Esh (Fire) - **אש**

Sinai (Mount Sinai) - **סיני**  
Mishpat (Justice) - **משפט**  
Even (Stone) - **אבן**  
Yad (Hand) - **יד**  
Mizbeach HaNechsheth (The Brass Altar) - **מזבח הנחשת**  
Adamah (Ground) - **אדמה**  
Elohim Emet (G-d of Truth) - **אלהים אמת**  
Shamayim (Heavens) - **שמים**  
Admoni (Reddish) - **אדמוני**  
Zerua' (Arm) - **זרוע**  
Vav Shel Shem (Vav of the Name) - **ואו של שם**  
Ben (Son) - **בן**  
Shor (Bull) - **שור**  
Tzur (Rock) - **צור**  
Lishkat HaGazit (Chamber of Hewn Stone) - **לשכת הגזית**  
Teruah Shofar (Successive Blasts on the Shofar) - **תרועה שופר**  
Yirah (Fear) - **יראה**

## Gate 7

[Hesed - **חסד**]

"And You, O Lord, are a merciful and pardoning God [El], long-suffering and abundant in kindness and truth." (Psalms 86:15)

El (G-d) - **אל**  
El Elyon (Most High G-d) - **אל עליון**  
Chesed (Mercy, Lovingkindness) - **חסד**  
Chesed Avraham (Lovingkindness of Abraham) - **חסד אברהם**  
Yamin (Right) - **ימין**  
Kadosh (Holy) - **קדוש**  
Mayim Elyonim (Upper Waters) - **מים עליונים**  
Adir (Mighty One) - **אדיר**  
Chesed Olam (Eternal Mercy) - **חסד עולם**  
Shamayim (Heavens) - **שמים**  
Gedulah (Greatness) - **גדולה**  
Zerua' (Arm) - **זרוע**  
Aryeh (Lion) - **אריה**



Ben (Son) - **בן**  
Vav Shel Shem (Vav of the Name) - **ואו של שם**  
Eloha (G-d) - **אלוה**  
Eleh (These) - **אלה**  
Rachum (Merciful) - **רחום**  
Chanun (Pardoning) - **חנון**  
Erech Apayim (Long-suffering) - **ארץ אפים**  
Rav Chesed (Abundant in Lovingkindness) - **רב חסד**

## Gate 8

[Binah - **בינה**]

"The Lord [YHVH, pronounced Elohim] God is my strength, Who makes my legs like the deer's, and lets me stride upon the heights." (Habakkuk 3:19)

YHVH (Pronounced as Elohim) - **יהוה**  
Binah (Understanding) - **בינה**  
Yovel (Jubilee) - **יובל**  
Teshuvah (Repentance, Return) - **תשובה**  
Tzedek Elyon (Uppermost Righteousness) - **צדק עליון**  
Be'er Sheva (Well of Seven) - **באר שבע**  
Melitz Elyon (Supernal Advocate) - **מליץ עליון**  
Rechovot HaNahar (The River Channels) - **רחובות הנהר**  
Levanon (Lebanon) - **לבנון**  
Geulah (Redemption) - **גאולה**  
Heh Rishonah Shel Shem (First Heh of the Name) - **הא ראשונה של שם**  
Socheret (Red Marble, Onyx Stone) - **סוחרת**  
Mi (Who) - **מי**  
Neder (Vow) - **נדר**  
Shekhinah Ila'ah (Upper Shekhinah) - **שכינה עילאה**  
Makor Chayyim (Source of Life) - **מקור חיים**  
Kippurim (Atonement) - **כפורים**  
Leah (Leah, the Matriarch) - **לאה**  
Olam HaBa (The World to Come) - **עולם הבא**  
Shofar Gadol (The Great Ram's Horn) - **שופר גדול**  
Gevuroth (Mighty Acts) - **גבורות**  
Tehillah (Praise) - **תהלה**

Em (Mother) - **אם**  
Imma (Mother) - **אמא**  
Em Ila'ah (Upper Mother) - **אם עילאה**  
Tevunah (Understanding) - **תבונה**  
Even Gedolah (The Great Stone) - **אבן גדולה**  
Yoe'tz (Counsellor) - **יועץ**  
Lashon (Tongue, Language) - **לשון**  
Peh (Mouth) - **פה**  
Pe'er (Tiara, Diadem) - **פאר**  
Chutma (Nose) - **חוטמא**  
Chayyim (Life) - **חיים**  
Bamatey Aretz (High Places of the Earth) - **במתי ארץ**  
Yam Ila'ah (Upper Sea) - **ים עילאה**

## Gate 9

[Hokhmah - **חכמה**]

"From the dire straits I called to the Lord [Yah], answer me with generosity, Lord [Yah]." (Psalms 118:5)

Yah (L-rd) - **יה**  
Yesh (There Is, Substance) - **יש**  
Hokhmah (Wisdom) - **חכמה**  
Ratzon (Will, Desire) - **רצון**  
O'mek HaMachshavah (The Depth of Thought) - **עומק המחשבה**  
O'mek Ram (Deep Height) - **עומק רם**  
Yirah (Awe, Fear) - **יראה**  
Yod Shel Shem (Yod of the Name) - **יוד של שם**  
Machshavah (Thought) - **מחשבה**  
E'den (Paradise, Pleasure) - **עדן**  
Abba (Father) - **אבא**  
Av (Father) - **אב**  
Pele (Wonder) - **פלא**  
Peliyth Hokhmah (Wonders of Wisdom) - **פליאות חכמה**  
Ta'alumoth Hokhmah (Mysteries of Wisdom) - **תעלומות חכמה**  
Hokhmah Ila'ah (Upper Wisdom) - **חכמה עילאה**

## Gate 10

[Kether - **כתר**]

"Who is a God [El] like You, forgiving iniquity and remitting transgression? Who has not maintained His wrath forever, against the remnant of His own people, because He loves Mercy [Chesed]." (Micah 7:18)

Ehyeh (I Will Be) - **אהיה**

Ayin (Nothing) - **אין**

Keter (Crown) - **כתר**

Mizrach HaElyon (Upper East) - **מזרח העליון**

Mazal Elyon (Supernal Configuration) - **מזל עליון**

Makor Elyon (Supernal Source) - **מקור עליון**

Hesed HaElyon (The Highest Mercy) - **חסד העליון**

Makor HaRatzon (The Source of Will, or Desire) - **מקור הרצון**

Aleph Gedolah (Large Aleph) - **אלף גדולה**

Chasadim Tovim (Good Mercies) - **חסדים טובים**

Kedem (Ancient, Before, East) - **קדם**

Tal Harmon (Dew of Mount Hermon) - **טל הרמון**

Y"G Midoth HaRachamim (The Thirteen Attributes of Mercy) - **י"ג מדות**

**הרחמים**

A'yin HaRachamim (Eye of Compassion) - **עין הרחמים**

Hu (He) - **הוא**

Anavah (Humility) - **ענוה**

Zaken (Elder) - **זקן**

Atika Kadisha (Ancient Holy One) - **עתיקא קדישא**

Dikna Ila'ah Kadisha (Supernal Holy Beard) - **דיקנא עילאה קדישא**

Atik Yomin (Ancient of Days) - **עתיק יומין**

Rosh (Head) - **ראש**

Rosh HaLavan (The White Head) - **ראש הלבן**

Sea'roth HaZaken (The Hairs of the Elder) - **שערות הזקן**

Nun Peshutah (Simple, Final Nun) - **נון פשוטה**

Kotzo Shel Yod Shel Shem (Tip of the Yod of the Name) - **קוצו של יוד של שם**