



The Whare Atua Temple Order

# Whare Atua Temple

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## Notes of the Hebrew Alphabet 1

By Frank Salt

Care should be taken to write these letters very carefully. In later use the accuracy of the form is important and one must resist the temptation to write them hurriedly or carelessly. One caution, within the first page of *Genesis* and for a very special reason the first letter, Beth is ב written larger than usual.

Generally, each letter is written as if a square or in or in the right side of a square, as with Gimel, Vau, Zayin, Yod, Nun each occupy only the right half of a square, while Lamed and Qoph extend above and below the square respectively.

Some letters look very similar e.g. ד Daleth and ר Resh, but so do our C & G and they will be easily distinguished after a little use.

Hebrew is written from right to left, and the texts are very carefully checked. One method of checking is that as each letter has also a numerical value, the total enumeration of each verse can be compared with the original.

Five of the letters change their form and significance if they end a word, and it was the custom to elongate a letter at the end of a line to maintain uniform length of line.

If the name of any letter is spelled out, e.g. ALPh the first letter is the Hebrew word for 'Ox'. Now if we consider the symbolism of the ox in ancient times, it was the only source of power, hence we now include atomic power, i.e. power per se rather than just 'ox' and it is the symbolism we are to study rather than the literal reading.

We need not learn Hebrew as a language with its grammatical peculiarities, for in our sense Hebrew is its own dictionary, and we will be interested in single words rather than in sentences.

At this stage it is only necessary to memorise the alphabet and the outer meaning of each letter thoroughly, so that they are clearly imprinted in our memory or sub-conscious mind. This achieved, the sub-conscious will automatically associate the meaning with the letter, though the conscious mind may be a bit slow to interpret a group of letters. There is much more to this but that will ensue easily.

Pronunciation is an academic exercise, widely disputed by experts, but we settle for the sounds here given and forget the arguments. Rabbis from different nations can waste their time on how to pronounce the words.

As we have said, the sub-conscious mind associates impressions very well, and as we add to the symbolism to the letters, so will the subconscious collate all impressions instantaneously, hence the importance of accurately formed letters, for the sub-conscious will be distracted by inaccuracies. This applies to a work with symbols.

The letter aleph has a numerical value of 1, but when written at length ALP or when written larger than usual, it means "'thousands'.

The original Hebrew writings had no vowels. It was written for contemplative study. Only later, about the time of the rebuilding of the Temple were vowels indicated by dots and lines within or under the letter. We ignore these as irrelevant to the symbolism of the letters.

**Note:** We will investigate each of the Hebrew letters in turn within the '*Of the Hebrew Alphabet Series*'. Refer Neophyte Files section.