



long time ago, before there was a Beginning, 2000 years before God created this world, God created seven things:

God created the Torah written with black fire on white fire;

God built the Divine Throne in heaven, which later was placed over the heads of the Holy *Hayyot*;

God created Paradise on His right side, and *Gehenna* on His left;

and in front of God there was the Celestial Sanctuary. On the altar, God placed a stone on which the Messiah's Name was engraved.

And God's Voice calls out,

calls out and says, "Return to me, O my children, *shuvu banai*, return to Me, O My children, return, My builders."

Then God lifted up His Torah, and spoke. "I say I am King, but I do not feel like one."

The Torah, whose advice is always wise, replied, "You say You are King, but over whom? A leader cannot be a leader unless he has someone to lead. You will be King *only* when You have others surrounding You who will listen to You and obey your commands."

And God thought to Himself, "How true! How true!" And

so God created a world, but He was not pleased with it and destroyed it.

And then God created more worlds, and still He was not pleased with them, and destroyed, in turn, each world that He had created.

Finally, God decided to create another world, our world, in a different way—through the *word*.

When God decided to create our world, He turned to the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, which He had engraved with a pen of flaming fire on His crown. "I will create this world through my word," He announced. "Come before me, and present your case. State why I should create the world through you." All the letters descended, one by one, from His crown and stood before God, each petitioning God to create the world through it. Each letter, beginning with the last letter, *Tav*, pleaded with God, saying: "The positive words formed by me are surely an indication that You should create the world through me."

And each letter gave God some examples to prove its case. But God in turn rejected each letter by showing that some negative words were formed by it, too.

Finally, the letter standing next to the first letter, *Bet*, came forward and said: "*Rebono Shel Olam*, O, Lord of the World! May it be Your will to create Your world through me, for all the people in the world will praise You daily by saying, '*Barukh*, Blessed be the Lord forever.'" God found this to be good, and He decided to create the world through the letter *Bet*, starting with the word "*Bereshit*."

Only *Alef*, the first letter, remained in a corner. When God saw *Alef* standing apart, He realized that *Alef* was too modest to come forward. After all, *Bet* had already been chosen. "Have patience, *Alef*; you will have a reward, too," said the Lord. And God rewarded *Alef* by putting it at the head of the Ten Commandments.

And God created the world through His word.

*Bereshit bara Elohim et hashamayim ve'et haaretz.* In the beginning, God created Heaven and Earth. *Bereshit*, in the beginning; *bara Elohim*, God created; *et hash-*

*mayim ve'et haaretz*, Heaven and Earth. In the beginning God created three things on each day of creation. On the first day, God created Heaven and Earth,

and light—a light so luminous that one could see from one end of the world to the other.

And God saw that it was good. And it was evening, and it was morning, a *first* day.

On the second day, God created the sky which separated the earth from the heavens,

God created fire

and God created the angels.

And it was evening and it was morning, a *second* day.

On the third day, God created the dry land which God called earth and the waters, which God called seas, and God saw that this was good.

Then God created the trees and herbs of all kinds, fruit trees, and vegetables, giant trees—the cedars of Lebanon and the cypress trees—the willow and the palm, the grasses and flowers and tiny plants.

And God also created, on this day, Paradise.

And God saw that this was good. And it was evening and it was morning, a *third* day.

On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon

and the millions, and *millions*, and *millions* and *millions* of stars in the sky to shine upon the earth—and He made the comets, too.

And God saw how good this was. And it was evening and it was morning, a *fourth* day.

On the fifth day, God brought forth the fishes that swim in the seas,

and the birds that fly in the air

and God also created Leviathan, King of the fish.

And God saw that it was good. And it was evening and it was morning, a *fifth* day.

On the sixth day, God created twice as much, because He knew that the seventh day was for rest. So on the sixth day of creation, God created the cattle,



and the reptiles,  
 the beasts of the fields,  
 and *Ish*, Man, whom God called Adam,  
 and *Isha*, Woman, his partner, whose name became  
 Hava, mother of all, *after* she left the Garden of Eden.  
 And God also created demons, but because the Shabbat  
 was coming very soon, God became rushed and so had  
 no time to finish the demons' bodies, and so they re-  
 main spirits *only*, to this day.

In the twilight, between the sixth day and the Shabbat,  
 when darkness was beginning to blend in with the light,  
 God quickly created eleven more things because God knew  
 they would be needed later on in our world:

the rainbow, which remained invisible until the time of  
 Noah;  
 the manna that the Israelites would eat when they  
 crossed the desert;  
 the water springs which would provide the Israelites  
 with water in the desert;  
 the writing upon the two stone tablets which God gave  
 to Moses at Mt. Sinai;  
 the instrument with which the writing was done;  
 the two stone tablets;  
 the mouth of Balaam's she-ass;  
 the grave of Moses;  
 the cave in which Moses and Elijah would dwell;  
 the rod of Aaron, with its blossoms and its ripe al-  
 monds  
 and, oh yes,  
 the *shamir*, the wondrous worm about as big as a grain  
 of barley, which would cut through rocks so that King  
 Solomon could build the Temple in Jerusalem without  
 using iron tools.

And God saw all that He had made and found it *very*  
*good!* And it was evening and it was morning, the *sixth* day.

The Torah had told God that He could be King only if  
 there were creatures to obey Him and to praise Him. So God

had created all the angels and the Holy *Hayyot*, the various animals and birds, the fish and people, too. God had been very busy during the first six days of creation.

But now, on seventh day, the Shabbat, all of God's creations rested—and the Source of Life rested, too. Now everything on earth and in the heavens found the time to praise God. As God ascended His throne, His throne of Joy, all creation burst into song.

God was pleased! And He looked at all the faces surrounding the throne. He looked for a very long time.

"I like to look at you; it gives me great pleasure," God said.

Then God asked that all the angels walk by Him so that He could see them and greet them.

And all the angels did as He asked: There was the angel of the water, the angel of the rivers, the angel of the mountains, and the angel of the valleys, the angel of the deserts and the angel of the trees, and of the shrubs, and of the flowers, and an angel for each blade of grass, and each leaf, the angel of the sun, the angel of the moon and the angel of the stars, the angel of Paradise, the angel of *Gehenna*, the angel of the wild beasts, and the angel of mercy, the angel of dreams, the angel of love, the angel of hate, the angel of life, the angel of death, the angel of praise, the angel of smiles, the angel of tears, the angel of the rainbow, the angel of song, the angel of wind, and the angel of stories, the angel of the ants, the angel of the grasshopper, and so many many many more angels.

There were also the angels of each heaven, the chief angel of the angels, the angel of each division of the heavenly hosts, the chief angel of the Holy *Hayyot*, the chief angel of the cherubim, the chief angel of *ofanim*, and all the other splendid, terrible, and mighty angels. They all appeared before God and sang and danced. They rejoiced as they played the timbrel, the harp, other stringed instruments, and the flute and sang: "Let the Glory of God endure forever! Let God rejoice in His works."

In the midst of all the celebration, God invited the angel of the Shabbat to sit upon the throne of glory. And God



turned to all the angels and proclaimed: "Shabbat it is unto God!" and all of heaven responded: "Unto God it is Shabbat!" And God said: "Shabbat is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever."

And it is said that *Ish* and *Isha*, the partners that God had created, were allowed to ascend to the highest heaven, *Arabot*, the seventh heaven, to join in the rejoicing over the first Shabbat.

*Ish* and *Isha* turned to God and said: "Every day we will bless You, and we will praise Your name for ever and ever."

And all the angels sang: "All Your works shall praise You, O God, and Your faithful ones shall bless You."

And together they proclaimed: "The Lord is King; the Lord was King; the Lord will be King forever and ever. *Hallelujah!*"

In this way, by sharing the Shabbat joy with all of God's creatures, God dedicated His creation.

This was the celebration of the first Shabbat in heaven by God, by all the angels, and by the first people in our world.