

Meditations from the ARI for the 3 Weeks Period

<http://www.yeshshem.com/3weeks.htm>

- [Who is the ARI http://www.yeshshem.com/ari.htm](http://www.yeshshem.com/ari.htm)

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Who is Rabbi Isaac Luria also known as the ARI?

Simply put! The ARI - Rabbi Isaac Luria - is the best known Kabbalist since the writing of the Zohar. He developed an understanding of the *Kabbalah* called the Lurianic system.

All Kabbalists since his birth follow his system. There are no exceptions. It is for this reason that his recommendations are taken to heart by almost all teachers of the Kabbalah

He also teaches that the last 9 days of the 3 week period are the toughest and he chose to leave this world on the 5th day of the 5th month. Hey B'Av so that we can utilize his essence to help balance the period.

See more at: <http://www.yeshshem.com/ari.htm#sthash.psEEJzlg.dpuf>

- [What is the 3 Weeks Period http://www.yeshshem.com/whatis3weeks.htm](http://www.yeshshem.com/whatis3weeks.htm)

The 3 Weeks Meditations from the ARI

Some people say the Amidah (a Jewish prayer) 3 times a day. Other people do these meditations just once per day outside of a formal prayer. Which method you use is up to you. If your normal practice is to say the Amidah then utilize the meditations within the saying of the Amidah. If your normal practice is to not say the Amidah then utilize these meditations at least once per day. Feel free to utilize them 3 times a day as well.

The meditations consist of 5 components. The first 3 meditations veil/conceal the Name of God called the Tetragrammaton by using a less strong Name of God. The other two are more direct Kavanah (intentions) that cause us to veil our desire for oneself alone and transform it into a desire to receive in order to share.

The First Meditation is done in the Amidah at the First Blessing "Magen Avraham."

When one sees the Tetragrammaton - יהוה' one transforms/veils that name by visualizing each letter as one letter to the "right." So it becomes - **יהוה** . Outside of

the Amidah one sees the Tetragrammaton as one letter to the Right - **טדה** .See below for the 5 specific meditations to scan.

The Second Meditation is done in the Amidah at the Second Blessing "Mechayeh HaMaitim." When one sees the Tetragrammaton - **יהוה** one transforms/veils that name by visualizing each letter as one letter to the "left." So it becomes - **זוז** . Outside of the Amidah one sees the Tetragrammaton as one letter to the Left - **זוז** . See below for the 5 specific meditations to scan.

The Third Meditation is done in the Amidah at the Third Blessing "HaAle HaKadosh." When one sees the Tetragrammaton - **יהוה** one transforms/veils that name by visualizing each letter as a ATBASH substitution which is thought of as one letter to the "Center." So it becomes - **מצפץ** . Outside of the Amidah one sees the Tetragrammaton as one letter to the Center (this is called an ATBASH substitution - **מצפץ** . See below for the 5 specific meditations to scan.

Explanation of Letter substitutions above

Letter to the Right: Aleph becomes Tav; Bet becomes Aleph; Gimmel becomes Bet; Dalet becomes Gimmel, etc.

Letter to the Left: Aleph becomes Bet; Bet becomes Gimmel; Gimmel becomes Dalet; Dalet becomes Hey, etc.

Letter to the "Center" or ATBASH: Aleph becomes Tav; Bet becomes Shin; Gimmel becomes Reish; Dalet becomes Koof, etc. The First letter is substituted for the last letter. The second letter is substituted for the second to the last letter. The third letter is substituted for the third from the last letter. The fourth letter is substituted for the fourth from the last letter, etc.

The Fourth Meditation is done in the Amidah at the word Retzay - **רצה** in the first of the last three Blessings. This word Retzay means Desire. It has the same letters as Tzarah - **צרה** which means Trouble or Distress. When one considers that a desire during this 3 week period usually will manifest as a trouble or distressing situation, one can transform Troubles into an Opportunity by rearranging the Hebrew letters from **צרה** Trouble into **רצה** Desire to receive in order to share. Outside of the Amidah one

sees the transformation from צרה Trouble into Desire which is an opportunity רצה . See below for the 5 specific meditations to scan.

There are also *Gematria* kavenot for the 4th meditation. The Name of God Elohim when spelled out has a *Gematria* of 295 which is the same as Retzay and Tzarah. Eloheim is a name dealing with judgment. The *Gematria* of the letter shin when spelled out שין is 360. When one takes Retzay (desire) and adds the name Adonai אדני which is 65 to the 295 than one gets 360. 360 is the spelled out Shin and also represents balance since the Shin is made from 3 Vavs which represent the 3 column system of *Kabbalah*. With this *Gematria* we bring balance to our desires and change the desire to receive for one self alone into the desire to receive in order to share. This is the essence of balance. Also, the *Gematria* of the 3 veiled/concealed Names of God (טדהד כוזו מצפץ) is 361 which represents the fully spelled out Shin plus the Colel.

The Fifth Meditation is done in the Amidah at the Next Blessing at the words Sim Shalom. The *Gematria* of these 2 words is 726. When one connects to one Shin (balance) = 360; therefore 2 Shins (balance in the 2 columns (right and left) = 720. When one adds the 6 names of God (טדהד כוזו מצפץ אלהים אדני יהוה), the *Gematria* is 726. Essentially when one says/utilizes these meditations and Kavenot one is connecting to two Shins and bringing Peace to this period of negativity represented by the 3 Weeks period between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. Outside of the Amidah one utilizes the same meditation around Sim Shalom שום שלום. Utilizing all of these Names of God to bring Peace and balance into this period. See below for the 5 specific meditations to scan.

This completes the special meditations from the ARI when said in the Amidah (Standing Prayer).

Below are the 5 meditations to be scanned if one does not utilize the Amidah each day.

Meditation 1

יהוה = טדהד,

Meditation 2

יהוה = כוזו

Meditation 3

יהוה = מצפץ

Meditation 4

רצה = desire; same letters in different order **צרה =**trouble; change troubles into opportunities

Gematria of Retzai (desire) is 295 = Elohim spelled out (אלף למד יוד הי מם) + Adonai (אדני' 65)

Shin = 360 when spelled out **שין**. Shin represents balance which is what is needed during this period.

Meditation 5

שים שלום = Sim Shalom = Bring Peace through balance from the 2 Shins.

The *Gematria* of 2 Shins is 720. The Gematria of Sim Shalom is 726. There are 6 names of God used during these meditations. Therefore, the 2 words Sim Shalom are = to the 2 Shins plus the 6 Names of God.

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