

SHEKHINA, THE TREE OF LIFE:

As stated in Proverbs: "Happy is the [one] who finds wisdom [SHEKHINA], and the [one] who gets understanding....She is more precious than rubies...Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasure, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her; and happy are those who hold her fast." (Proverbs, from "The Jerusalem Bible" Koren Publishers Jerusalem Ltd. Jerusalem, Israel, 1992).

Many specifics of the Kabbalist's Tree of Life, especially the ten "Sefiroth" representing the ten emanations of the whole divine, are beyond the scope of this writing. Trees of Life are universal symbols of the "Mother Goddess". See "The Tree of Life," by Roger Cook, Thames and Hudson (1992 reprint). These Trees of Life are found in almost every culture. At pg. 119, Cook further explains how the Hebrew's Tree of Life is represented by the seven candle Menorah. The Hebrew Menorah representation is two-fold. It is a symbol of the burning bush (the burning tree) and it is a symbol of the Tree of Life. Moses was instructed (See Exodus 25: 31-40) to have the Menorah produced, with at least the main structure made out of one piece of pure gold, with the design based upon the almond and the almond tree.

This Menorah is highly symbolic of Kabbalistic philosophy and Shekhina. The Menorah with its seven lights representing the one light, is indicative of the fact that light is broken down into the seven colors that we see (ie., violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red) as well as the colors that we can not see (ie. infrared, ultraviolet, etc.) The seven lights of the Menorah, illustrate that light, like the Hebrew's most Wholly prayer, is about the many and the one. It has the above and below as portrayed by the seen and unseen lights as well as the nourishment of the tree from above (sunlight, rain and leaf systems) and below (earth and root systems). The above and below of the tree inter-relate in the development of the tree. The Tree of Life contains the answer for Shekhina's return and the Messianic Era as we below affect the above. Shekhina is thought of as being the divine presence of the burning bush, and is therefore represented by the Tree of Life Menorah. Her light is the many and the one. The divine light (Shekhina) in each of us is a divine "hologram" and in each one of the many of us, is the whole image of the "many and the one."