

# MODERNITY ART

## Symbolism in „Shamati” by Erik Kučera

Shamati (I heard) is a picture created in reference to the notebook of Rabbi Baruch Shalom Halevi Ashlag (the Rabash) . This notebook had many of the transcriptions of conversations with his father, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Halevi Ashlag. In September of 1991 Rabbi Ashlag called his prime disciple to his bedside as he knew he was not long for this world and he gave him the notebook which only had the word Shamati on the cover. He asked that his students would learn from it and pass its knowledge on to the world to help disseminate the wisdom of Kabbalah. The notebook was then published just as it was written.

Within the text are 243 chapters which cover so many aspects of the teaching of Kabbalah and its sage wisdom in guiding us how to live. The topics cover the gambit from the meaning of Shabbat, Passover, to the essence of war and the purpose of work and faith and pleasure.

In the middle of the work “Shamati” we see the eye of G-d which looks over all and sees what is around us as well as what lies within our hearts. When we look into the center of the eye we see a seed from which is growing a universe. This seed is the reminder that G-d is eternal and life is eternal. As from the seed grows another life and from that life more seeds are created, thus perpetuating the eternal existence.

The eye is growing also out of a sort of tree. From this tree we see that it grows alone from out of the universe to bring forth life and knowledge to all that can benefit from its growth. The color around the eye is purple to bring together the joining of man and woman (man as blue and woman as red) as they are both needed to find balance and perpetuate life.

The light on the left side is representative of the Kabbalah as the bringer of enlightenment to humans so that when they study and learn the Kabbalah shines a light upon all that is dark to help them better understand its meaning and how to bring these concepts into everyday life.

To the right side we see an image that looks like a black hole. This is symbolic of the cycle of life, birth, death and rebirth that we see in the universe. The black hole is near to us and exists in our universe, but thank G-d far enough away that we do not suddenly fall into it and are destroyed.

In the bottom right of the eye of G-d we see a watch winder. This is created to represent that time is relative to every being dependant on their own perspective. For the May fly the one day of his existence is a lifetime which for us can be, G-d Willing, more than one hundred years, but in the eye of G-d is just a blip in the timeline of existence.

Growing out from other sides of the eye we see water which flows to symbolize both water as the giver and sustainer of life and as a powerful element when moving at great force and that water is always moving and changing direction just like life and the universe.

In the lower left we see a symbol of 3 triangles placed in a pyramid form. When placed together in this fashion they create 5 triangles (three with points up and one in the middle inverted, and all together creating one large triangle. Each one of these 4 triangles is representative of different attributes.

The bottom left is wisdom emanating from Intelligence, Knowledge and Experience.

The bottom right is strength consisting of willpower, courage and power

The upper triangle is representative of beauty – born out of love harmony and divinity

The middle inverted triangle is created not by a visible structure, but by being fenced in from the sides of the other three triangles and there within we find True Self - this consist of the conscious perception of now and of confidence and faith. Lastly is the large triangle which encompasses all others. This triangle is divine nature of mankind only to be reached while cultivating and maintaining all of the attributes found within.

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