



Gimel

“Fullness of Being”

Invocation Verse:

גָּדוֹל יְהוָה וּמְהֻלָּל מְאֹד וְלֹא יִגְדַּלְתּוּ אֵין חֶקֶר

Gadol Adonai Um'hulal me'od, v'lig'dulato ayn heker

Great is the Divine and exceedingly praised; Its Greatness is beyond comprehension!

(Psalm 145)

Meaning and Mystical Associations:

Gimel means “camel.” In the *Sefer Yetzirah*, *Gimel* is one of the seven “double letters,” and represents the *middah* (quality) of *Osher* (Wealth), the astrological body of the Sun, the right ear in the human body, and Monday in time.

Genesis 24:59 – 67

וַיְבָרְכוּ אֶת־רֵבֶקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ אַחֲתֵינוּ אֵת הִנֵּי לְאַלְפֵי רֵבֶקָה וַיִּירָשׁ זְרַעָהּ אֶת שְׂעֵר שְׂנֵאָיו:

And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “O sister! May you grow into thousands of myriads; may your offspring seize the gates of their foes.”

וּמִקָּם רֵבֶקָה וַנְּעֻרְתֶּיהָ וּמִתְרַכְּבֶנָה עַל־הַגַּמְלִים וּמִתְלַכְּנָה אַחֲרַי הָאִישׁ וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד אֶת־רֵבֶקָה וַיֵּלֶךְ:

Then Rebekah and her maids arose, mounted the camels, and followed the man; and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

וַיִּצְחָק בָּא מְבֹוא בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי וְהוּא יוֹשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ הַנֶּגֶב:

Isaac had just come back from the vicinity of Beer-lahai-roi, for he was settled in the region of the Negev.

וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לְשׂוּחַ בְּשָׂדֵה לַפְּנוֹת עָרֶב וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה גַמְלִים בָּאִים:

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening and, looking up, he saw camels approaching.

וַתִּשָּׂא רֵבֶקָה אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתִּרְאֵהוּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וַתִּפֹּל מֵעַל הַגַּמֶּל:

Raising her eyes, Rebekah saw Isaac and fell from the camel.

וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל-הַעֲבָד מִי-הָאִישׁ הַלְזֶה הַהֹלֵךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה לִקְרֹאתָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַעֲבָד הוּא אֲדֹנָי וַתִּקַּח הַצֹּעֲרָה
וַתִּתְכַסּ:

*She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to greet us?"
And the servant said, "That is my master" – and she took her veil and
covered herself.*

וַיְסַפֵּר הַעֲבָד לְיִצְחָק אֵת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה:

The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

וַיְבִאֶהָ יִצְחָק הָאֵלֶּהָ שָׂרָה אִמּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-רֵבֶקָה וַתְּהִי-לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּאֱהָבֶהָ וַיִּנָּחֶם יִצְחָק אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ:
*Isaac then brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he took
Rebekah as his wife. And Isaac loved her, and thus found comfort after his
mother's death.*

Pirkei Avot 6:5

אַל תִּבְקֹשׁ גְּדֻלָּה לְעַצְמְךָ, וְאַל תַּחְמֹד כְּבוֹד, יוֹתֵר מִלְמוּדָךְ עֲשֵׂה, וְאַל תַּתְאֲוֶה לְשִׁלְחָנֶם שֶׁל
מְלָכִים, שֶׁשִׁלְחָנָךְ גָּדוֹל מִשִׁלְחָנֶם, וְכִתְרָךְ גָּדוֹל מִכִּתְרֵם, וְנֶאֱמַן הוּא בַעַל מְלֹאכְתָּךְ שֶׁיִּשְׁלַם לְךָ
שְׂכָר פְּעֻלָּתְךָ:

*Do not seek greatness for yourself, and do not crave honor. Let your
practice exceed your study. Do not lust for the table of kings, for your table
is greater than their table, and your crown is greater than their crown; and
faithful is your Employer to pay you the reward of your labor ...*