

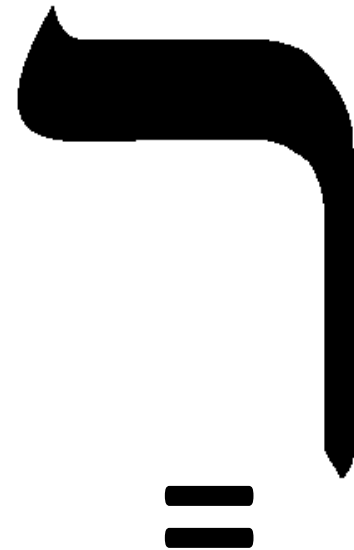


Reish

The Symbol of Choosing Between
Greatness and Degradation

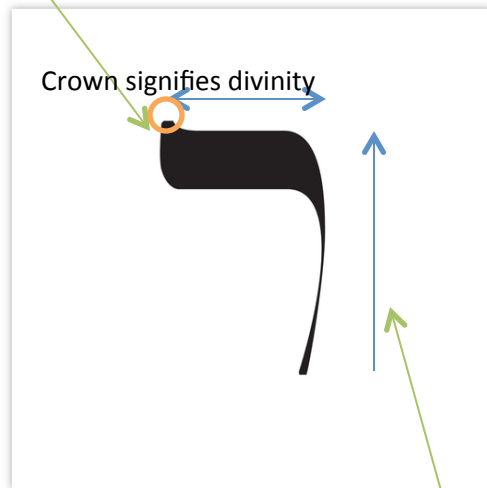
Different Kinds of Themes

- Reish symbolizes the wicked
- Condemns destructive conduct + shuns those who exhibit it
- **BUT**, even the wicked retain the potential to repent.
- Can also be read to mean Rosh, or head
- Can be seen as a passageway through which man reach upwards to heaven



Physical Form Representation

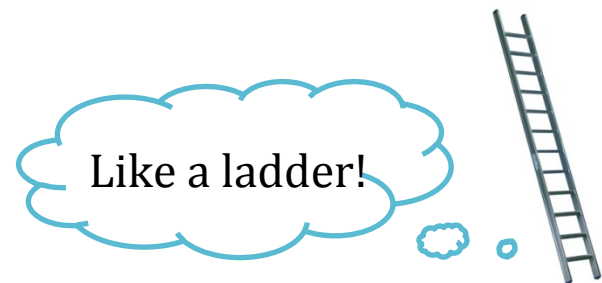
Plane of spiritual elevation (heaven)



The process of repentance

As a passageway through which man can reach upwards to heaven.

By accepting the symbolism of the Reish and repenting, you may traverse its ladder to the top plane, that of spiritual elevation.



Contradictions

Beware of the Dalet



- Very similar, but very different
- Upper right hand corner slant (Resh) vs. extrusion (Dalet)

- Dalet = firm allegiance to God's dictates and values
- Resh = idolatries of ancient vintage, unfirm, accommodating to whims of followers

Very similar, yet very dissimilar!

Relationship to the Kuf



- Strong Juxtaposition
- K → Kadosh = Holy One
- This concept contrasts that of Resh

- God's holiness (Kuf) refuses to face the Wicked (Resh)
- But NOTE: Kuf's crown turns toward Resh: "If he repents, I shall bind upon him a crown like My own" (Shabbos 104a)

Why Wicked?

- The Talmud interprets Resh to represent Rasha, or a *wicked* person.
- This makes Resh deep. Inherently, wickedness also alludes to repentance and the undeniable right to become good again
- Resh is important, too. Repentance is listed as 1 of 7 things created before the universe (Nedarim 39b)

Multiple Interpretations. Also a head!

- Resh can also mean Rosh or head
 - Fun fact: In Aramaic, Reish (in that pronunciation) is the Aramaic word for head (seems likelier?)
- Describes the eternity of God, in relation to Reashon (root of Rosh), or “first”
 - “I am first and I am last, and besides Me there is no god” (Isaiah 44:6)

Ultimately...

- Resh is seen to represent the God's eternal nature as the King and first, and also the concept of repentance, in which a sinner may always return to God's good side



Resh and YOU

- Have you ever done something that you repented for? (not limited to religiously) Did it make things better afterwards? What was your method of repentance?
- What do you think, does God turn his back on sinners like the Kuf/Resh relationship implies? Or, rather, is he accepting of all Jews, no matter of your faith or actions?

Activity:

Your turn. Find someone you know today who you have wronged recently and correct your wickedness. Ascend your own Resh towards the divine plane, and make life more divine (or happier) for everyone!

Letter Project



The lamed is a very majestic letter that towers over all others. It is positioned in the middle of the Aleph-Bet where it's towering structure is clearly displayed.



Where does Jewish purpose come from?

- ♦ The ל and the י are opposite in comparison of size, however, together they make up the word ישראל.
- ♦ The meaning of our Jewish history derives from these two letters, especially the lamed. This is because we started as a small nation and developed into a great nation!