

SHOFAR (RAM'S HORN) שופר: This album begins with the sounding of the shofar. This is an ancient instrument which is still used by the Hebrew people to usher in the New Year. The dramatic sound of the shofar helps to awaken the people to change and renewal (similar to the use of the rattle by shamans). The shofar's spiral shape is of great significance. The new year begins with the sound going through the spiral, which is symbolic of the creation of the world with the word (perhaps the Tetragrammaton being spoken). The word "world" is made of the "word" with the "l" for love, symbolizing the passion force of creation. In fact, the word "universe" is derived from the word (verse) coming from the great "yoni" spiral womb. The shofar is the Hebrews' spiral womb, similar to the spiral caves of the Stone Age (which are located all around the earth) where rebirth took place. Modern exploration shows that "Black Holes" may in fact be the great wombs where "matter" (which means "mother" in latin) is created and distributed throughout the universe.

The concept of the word creating the world is very important because in the microcosm, our word creates our world. Prayer works. We often think prayer does not work because our world does not seem to reflect our special prayers. Once we understand that all our "word" (thoughts, art form, acts) is prayer, then we can see how our world really does reflect our prayers. David Tame, in "The Secret Power of Music" (pg. 216-217) describes physics experiments that show how vibration does create. For instance, @ 1800 Ernst Chladni developed violin shaped metal plates with sand on top. When the plate was bowed, formations that imitated life-like forms, beyond coincidence, would appear. Experiments continued, such as those by Swiss scientist Hans Jenny who developed a tonoscope where vibration was shown to create such images as the "early stages of cell division."

The word creating the world at the beginning of the Bible is similar to the Hindu creation myth of the "OM" vibration creating the world. The "OM" is a vibration (perhaps the pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton?) which can create and destroy, like the shofars destroying the walls of Jericho. The Shofar can also sound the destruction of those things we want to change for our renewal in the New Year. Destruction is a necessary part of renewal, and is part of Judaism as in "Goddess Spirituality" (such as illustrated by the Goddess Kali Ma of the Hindus). After all, it is the death upon the earth in winter which provides the fertilization for the spring. Every Yom Kippur, Hebrews destroy that which does not serve them and make way for renewal. Indeed, Shekhina has her own destroyer aspect, much like Kali.