

EPHRAIM KALISH

Rediscovering the  
**God-Called Artist**



The Father of  
Those Who Play the Harp and Flute

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR CREATIVITY

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# Introduction.

## The Translator from the Language of the Heavens

Just as the horse is born for running, the ox for plowing, and the dog for searching, so man is born for two things — for understanding and for action, as a mortal god. A.F. Losev<sup>1</sup>

Yuval<sup>2</sup>, the son of Lemech, is the first musician in human history.

In the genealogies of the early chapters of the Book of Genesis, it is written: "this one lived so many years and begot sons and daughters."<sup>3</sup> Not so with Yuval. In his case, the biblical writer shares something grand: he became the father of all musicians [*Gen. 4:21*]. And he begot... King David! Yes, David ben Yishai (the son of Jesse), who lived three thousand years after Yuval, was his disciple, for he played the harp and flute masterfully.

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<sup>1</sup> A.F. Losev, A.A. Takho-Godi. Plato. Aristotle. A.F. Losev was a philosopher, classical scholar, and writer.

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 4:19–21. The original names of the characters differ in the KJV translation: "And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Tzilah. And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal..."

<sup>3</sup> In the genealogy of Seth's (Sif's) descendants, the name of any daughter or wife is not mentioned, which all the more underscores the significance of the mention of Naamah, the sister of Yaval, Yuval, and Tuval.

When he was a shepherd from Beit-Lehem in the territory of the tribe of Yehudah, the Psalmist became well-known for his musical talent even within the Benjaminite court of King Shaul<sup>1</sup> [1 Sam. 16:15-23]. All his life — as a shepherd, warrior, and ruler of the kingdom of Israel — King David served the Lord with the talent of a poet-musician and was a continuer of the musical school of Yuval.

It is important to note that in the ancient world, music was one of the most important instruments for seeking God and for understanding oneself. The ancient Greeks saw music as a language conveying the meanings of the heavens, a language of communication between the gods and men.

Thus, the Book of Acts tells the story of the inhabitants of Lys-tra, who almost made a sacrifice to the apostles, thinking them to be gods. The Lycaonians believed that before them were Olympian gods: they took Barnabas for Zeus, as he had an impressive appearance, and the apostle Paul for Hermes<sup>2</sup>, as Paul was the chief speaker. According to the Greeks, Hermes<sup>3</sup> was

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<sup>1</sup> KJV translation: Saul.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 14:11–12: “And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.”

<sup>3</sup> The Greek god Hermes is one of the few mythological figures mentioned in the Bible [Acts 14:12]. Hermes was a god, a messenger, and herald of the gods, as well as the patron of eloquence, commerce, interpreters, and the like.

skilled in speech and served as the messenger of the gods, possessing the gift of translating the messages of the gods into the language of men. The dwellers of Olympus spoke in a divine language, inaccessible to mortals, and Hermes translated the language of the Olympians into the language of men, thus bringing the meanings of the divine world to earth.

The Greeks attributed the invention of the lyre and the flute to Hermes. Therefore, music, according to Greek myths, is a gift from the heavens, a language of the transcendent. And this language connects the divine with man, making the heavenly revelation accessible to people. Myth, in this way, uncovers one of the mysteries of musical creation.

The great Rabbi and mystic Baal Shem Tov<sup>1</sup> saw in musical art a colossal power capable of raising a person to prophetic heights.

At the origins of the revelation of music, according to the Bible, stood Yuval. He became the intermediary between heaven and earth. The name Yuval in Hebrew means "stream, brook." If translated into German, it would give the word "Bach", the

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<sup>1</sup> Baal Shem Tov — The founder of the Hasidic movement in Judaism, Rabbi (1698–1760). He developed a system of attaining knowledge of God based on fervent religious devotion (as opposed to intellectual pursuit), accessible to ordinary people, with the ultimate goal of uniting with God.

surname of the greatest musician. Isn't it true that God has an exceeding sense of humor? This is the providence of the Almighty: the greatest composer, the father of modern music Johann Sebastian Bach, devoted his entire creative service to the Blessed One. Bach is a disciple of Yuval. He was guided by the Spirit of God, just as his teacher, the father of all musicians, was five thousand years before him. Yuval is the eighth generation from Adam. And though this pertains to the pre-flood<sup>1</sup> world, the revelations of the first music teacher have not lost their relevance today.

To perceive a picture, to understand its design, it is important first to view it from a distance and only then approach it, examining the details. To draw nearer to the patriarch of music, it is necessary to become acquainted with his family. Therefore, let us begin by speaking of those who were the parents and teachers of Yuval, to understand why he is as he is and how the Divine plan is realized in him.



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<sup>1</sup> There are discrepancies between biblical chronology and the commonly accepted historical timeline. Ten generations passed before the Almighty brought the Flood upon the earth. According to the historian E. Shulman, this occurred in the year 1656 (from the creation of man) (Eliezer Shulman, *The Sequence of Events in the Bible*).

# PART I

## Adam. The Creation of the Artist



The study of the legacy of the first teacher of all musicians begins with the one who taught him. We must return to the origins, that we might discover the seed planted by the Creator. And then, through the prophetic messages of the Bible, we will behold the future and envision the tree with its fruits.

God gives a masterclass of the great Artist and Architect, revealing His plan for the creation of the first human. He shows the path of creativity and invites Adam to partake in the creation of himself and his world. Just moments ago, He created the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them. Now, He calls man to be His co-creator.

Adam had the privilege of creating in the unique conditions of the Garden of Eden<sup>1</sup>. It is impossible to bypass his experience when speaking of his descendant, Yuval. Yuval is the image of what God initially envisioned for Adam.

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<sup>1</sup> The Garden of Eden (Heb. - Gan Eden) Eden [Gen. 2:8].