ADJECTIVES

Adjectives modify nouns by giving information about their attributes [qualities] and their states [absolute or determined/emphatic -- see Nouns]. Attributes are fixed: a person is tall or short, an action is good or bad. Much of what is presented here is drawn from Kaddari’s Dikduk. ¹

1- Adjectives may have a corresponding noun:
   adj. מַכּוֹרָה - poor I.3b    n.m. מַכּוֹרָה - a poor person I.104a

   or a corresponding adverb:
   adj. שְׁפִּירָה קָפָרָה - a beautiful maiden [II.95a]
   adv. שְׁפִּירָה קָפָרָה - you have spoken well [I.13a]

2- Aramaic adjectives usually follow the nouns they modify:
   קְחָוָה מְקַיַּמְתּוֹן בְּנֵרֹת הַכּוֹרָה - black light with white light [I.12a]
   בְּנֵי לֹא אֶמְסֵא מְפַכְּכָה - no nation is as lowly [II.17a [Marg.]
   בָּהָיֶרֶךְ קָפָרָה תְּוִיעֵר - a thin, small ray [I.11a]

   they may also precede the noun:
   מְפַכְּכָה - short faced [III. 65a]  קְרִיֵּר אָפִק - long faced [III.289a /Z]

3- Adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify:
   מִטְפִּיבָתָה עֲלָה - the Heavenly Academy [I.2a]
   מִצְבִּי רַבָּה - the faithful ones [I.2b]
   מִרְעֵי בְּנֵישֵׂים - bad illnesses [I.11a]
   מֵימִי עֶלְפָּאָה - the upper waters [I.13a]

   They agree in state only if they are attributive [if they describe a quality].
   An attributive adjective with a determined/emphatic noun is also in the determined state:
   הָאָרֶץ רַבָּה - the great sea [I.3b]
   נָוַי חָצֵא - Joseph the worthy [II.145b]
   אִירָאָה קִדְיָה - the Holy Land [II.151b]
   לְעַסְיָּא קִדְיָה - and to His holy and glorious name(II.206a)

   In contrast, there is the predicative adjective: an adjective that gives information about the subject, separated by a linking verb. Such an adjective is in the absolute state:
   הְמָאָר יָרְקַס אֶבֶּר - this one is empty [II.107b SdM ]

   The pattern is: noun [determined] - linking verb - adj. [absolute] :

   בָּטַתְרָא חַד תַּב - in one aspect is good [I.12a]


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ADJECTIVES

4- The Zohar uses special forms for the comparative and superlative degree, and also uses syntax for their expression.

a- The Comparative: adjective + מ - the praise of Abraham was greater [III.188a]

b- The Superlative has different ways of expression.

combining two forms for the same adjective by means of מ - מ - the concealed of all concealed [1.2a]

combining nouns with a similar meaning by means of מ - מ - the secret of secrets [III.128a]

the words מ - מ for She is last of all [III.68b]

Note: an aid to memorizing adjectives is to
1- consider their root: what related nouns and verb have this root?
2 - try grouping them into synonyms, then group them into antonyms
[Here is where making flashcards of vocabulary proves quite helpful.]