

קה הגלמוד. המאת בקר ויהיה צדק  
קה הגלמוד. המאת בקר ויהיה צדק

THE  
SAKA EDITION

# YALKUT לקוט יוסף YOSEF

סופרים  
SOFERIM



אלה דינים והשבות. עם הלל פלוגת המה

יהושע על במתו ארץ - ויחיה וינקה דבש נסלע - וימשה ויפני מתלמידי צדק

אלו הלכות שהן גופה של תורה



*Minhag Soferim* – the descriptions given to each letter correspond to the style used today by Sefardic scribes with the approval of the great Sefardic *Poskim* of the last generation and this one. In the illustrations following, *Minhag Hasoferim* is represented by the large letter in the center of each page.

*Sefardic* – the original Sefardic style of writing as described by the *Mor Uktzi'a* and the *LeDavid Emet* was given the name *Vellish*. It is quite artistic, but it consists of more flowing lines than Ashkenazic writing and is thus easier to write. All versions of Sefardic writing and today's *minhag hasoferim* match the teachings of the Arizal.

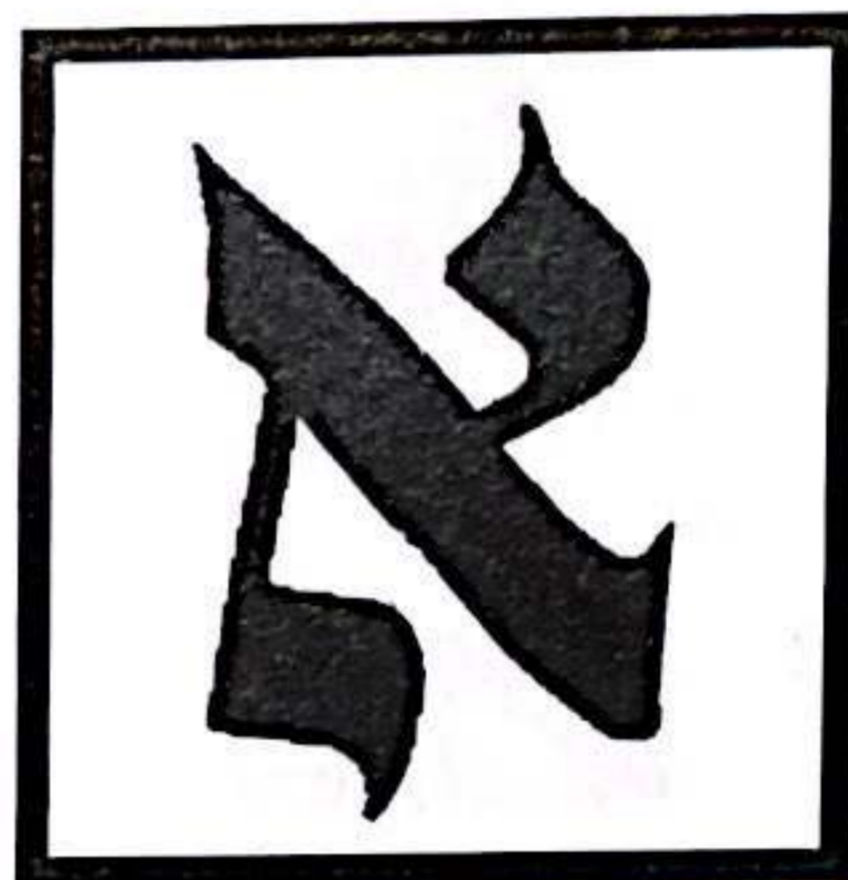
*Bet Yosef* – this is the name given to the form of writing used by Ashkenazic Jews who are not Hassidim. It is based on the description of the letters given by the *Barukh She'amar*, which was copied into the *Bet Yosef* because of its thoroughness. Hassidic Jews use this style as well, except that their scribes write a number of letters with variations based on the teachings of the Arizal.



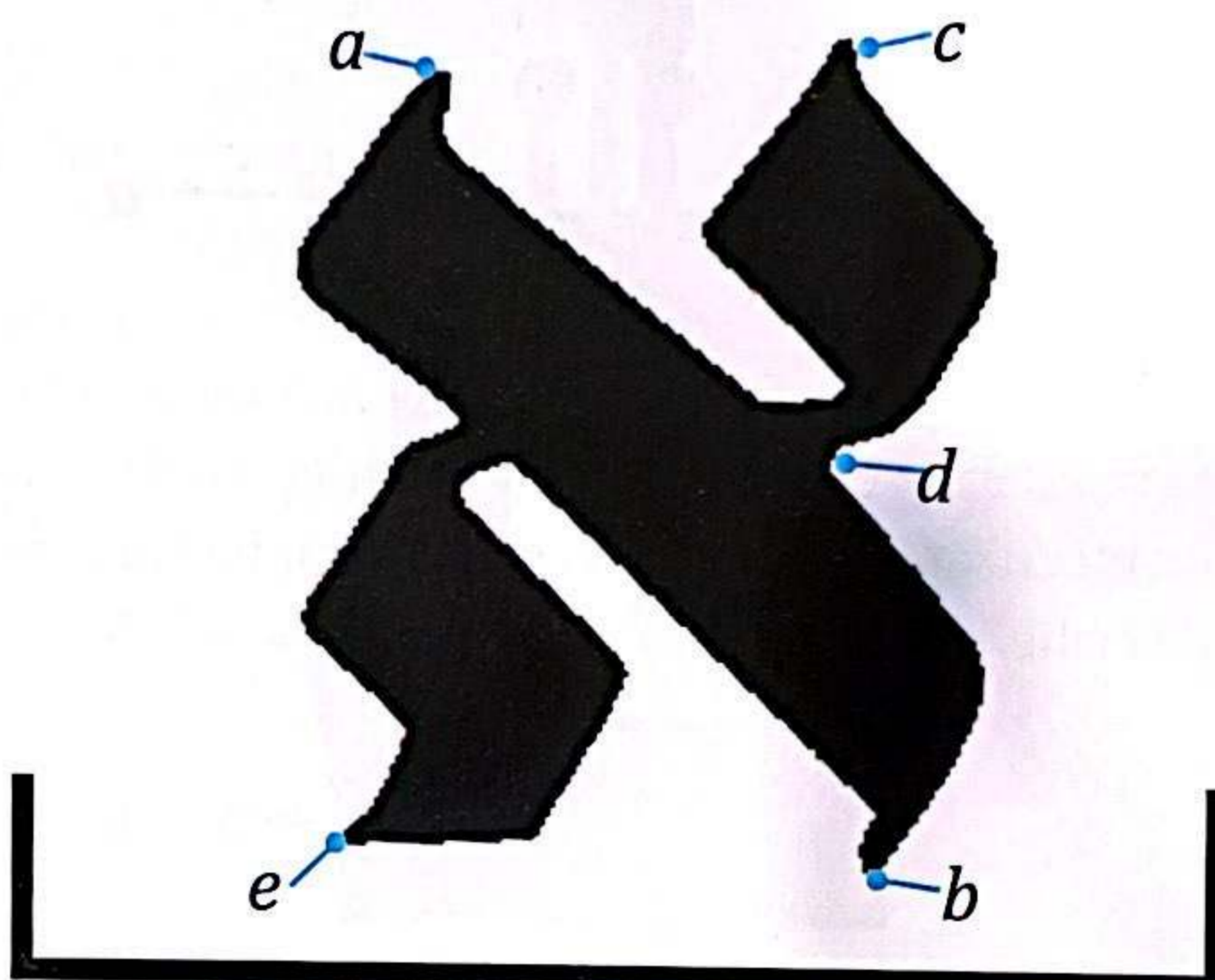
## Alef



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *alef* consists of three parts: 1) a diagonal line stretching from its top left corner to its bottom right corner, 2) a shape similar to the letter *yod* on the top right side, connected to the center of the diagonal line, and 3) another such shape on the bottom left side, connected to the upper half of the diagonal line, somewhat below the top left corner.

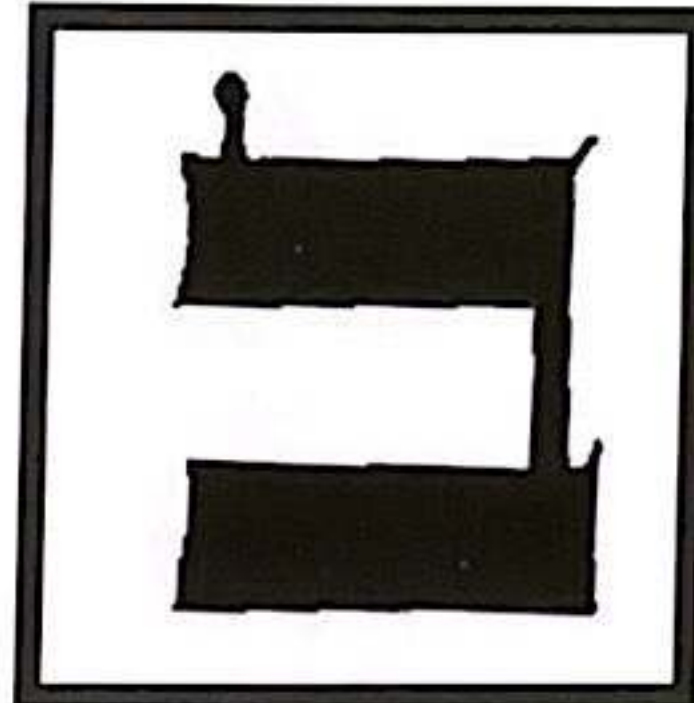
The diagonal line has a *kotz* projecting upward at the top left corner (a), slanted to the right, and another *kotz* on the bottom right corner (b) slanted to the left. The part shaped like a letter *yod* on the top right side is supposed to have a *kotz* projecting up from its top (c). It should be connected to the diagonal line by a thin line (d) perpendicular to the diagonal. The *yod* shape on the bottom left does not have a *kotz* at its top, but it does have one slanted downward at the bottom left corner (e). The bottom *yod* shape is connected to the upper half of the diagonal line by a thin line perpendicular to it. The *yod*-shaped parts are not entirely similar to the letter *yod*. Therefore, they do not have a *kotz* coming down from their bottom left corners, although we do add such a *kotz* when writing the letter *yod*.



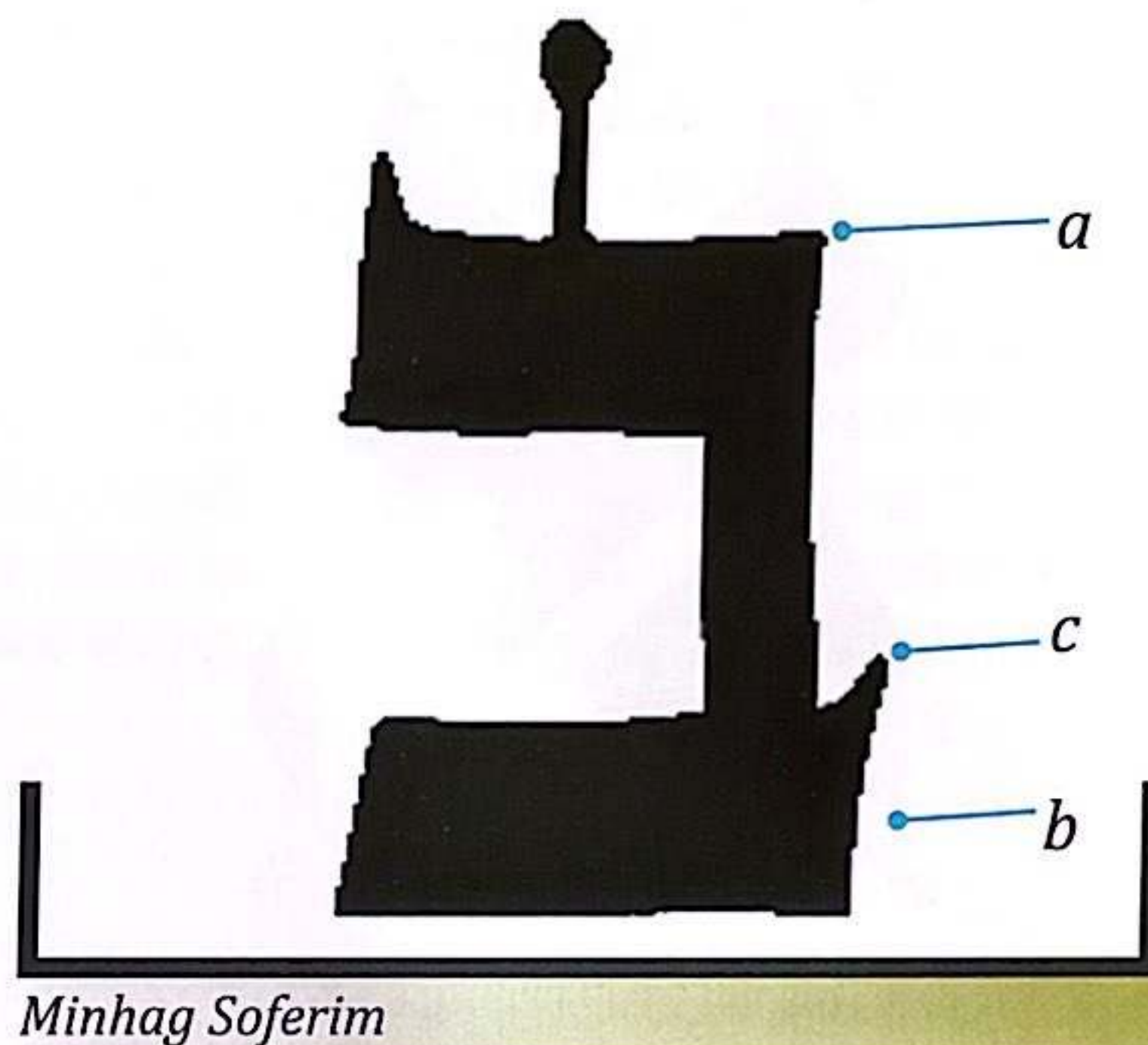
## Bet



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *bet* is a combination of the letters *dalet* with a horizontal *vav* as its base. Therefore, its top-right end must come to a sharp corner (**a**), like that of the letter *dalet*. Some Sefardic scribes had the tradition of making the outside of this corner a bit rounded, while the inside of the corner forms a right angle. Nowadays, the great majority of scribes follow the first opinion.

The *dalet* section is connected to the *vav* section near the right end of the *vav*, but not at the very end. The section of the *vav* extending to the right beyond the connecting point should be less than the width of the quill-point (**b**). At the right end of the base, a *kots* is added, pointing up (**c**). This is the "head" of the horizontal letter *vav*.



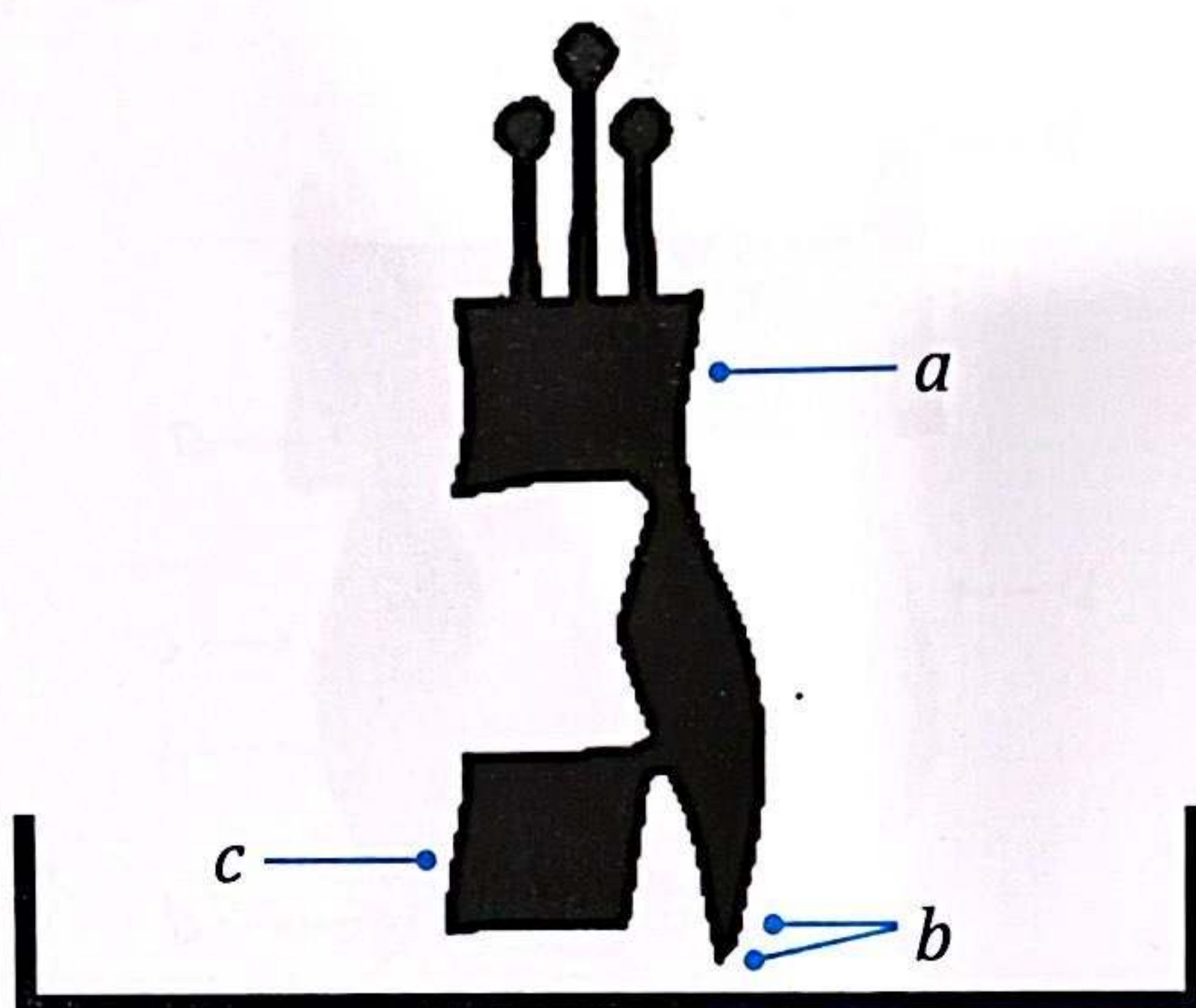
## Gimel



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *gimel* is considered to be a letter *vav* with a *yod*-shape attached near its bottom. A regular letter *vav* is rounded on its top right side, while the top of the letter *gimel* has a rectangular shape (a). The vertical line descending from the top is slanted slightly to the right, and it should descend to slightly below the *yod*-shaped left "foot" that is attached to it (b). The "foot" faces directly to the left, and it is not tilted upward (c).



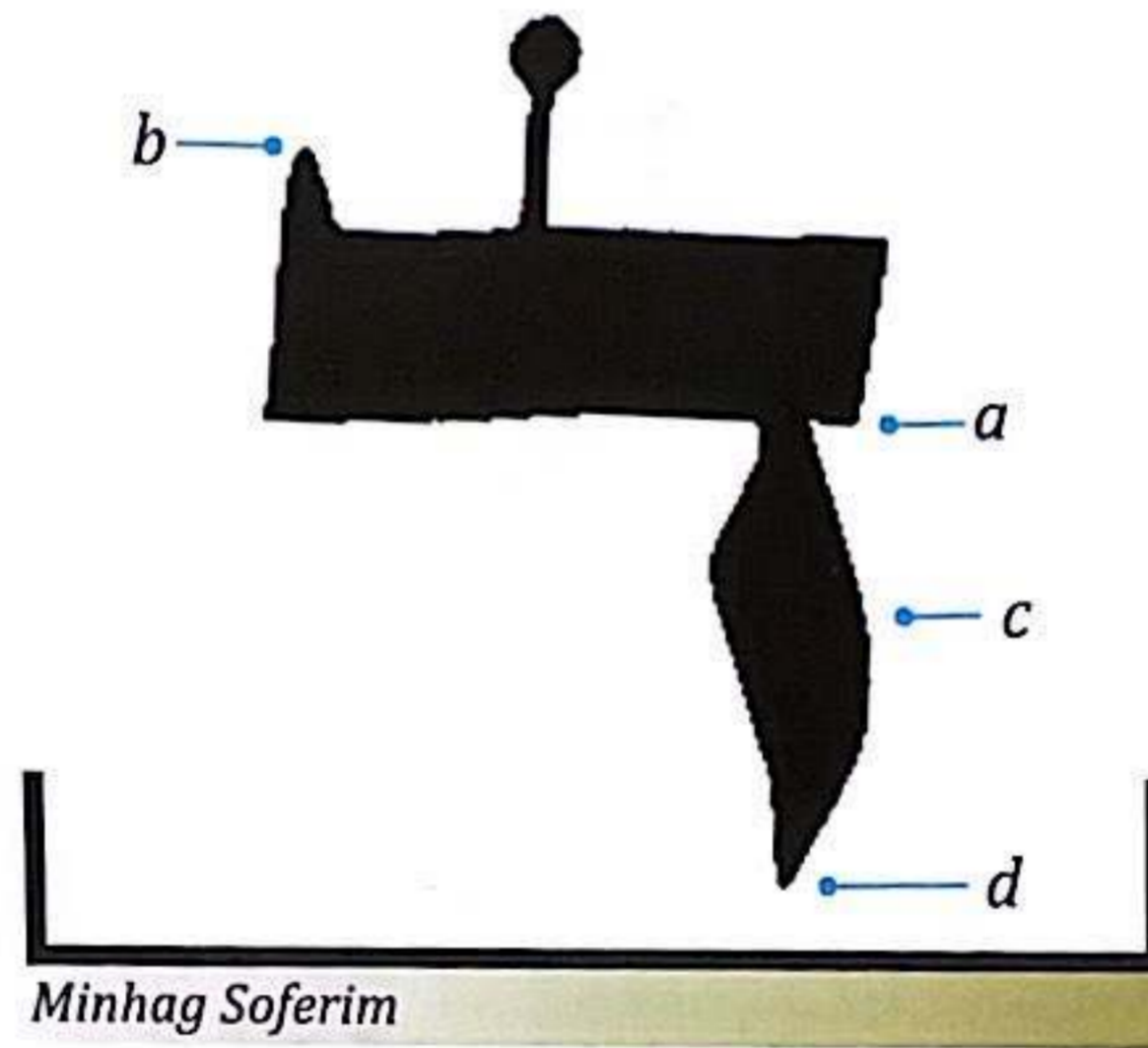
## Dalet



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



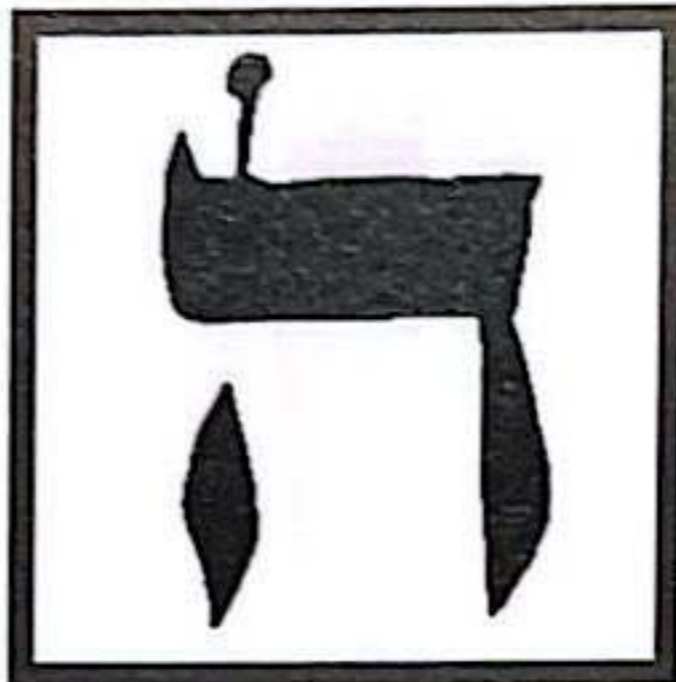
Minhag Soferim

The letter *dalet* consists of a backward vertical letter *vav* and a backward horizontal letter *vav*. Therefore, the horizontal line must protrude a bit to the right past the point where it meets the vertical line. The part that protrudes to the right serves as the "head" of the vertical *vav* (a). On the left end of the horizontal *vav*, there must be a *kots* rising up, which serves as the "head" of that *vav* (b).

The vertical *vav* should not be slanted at all. It should be narrowest at the point it is connected to the horizontal *vav*, and gradually widen as it descends to its midpoint (c). Then it should taper gradually until it comes to a point at the bottom (d). The scribe must take care not to make the vertical *vav* too long, for then the letter will appear to be a *khaf sofit*. Also, he must make sure to make the horizontal *vav* long enough to the left to ensure that no one would mistake the letter for a *zayin*.



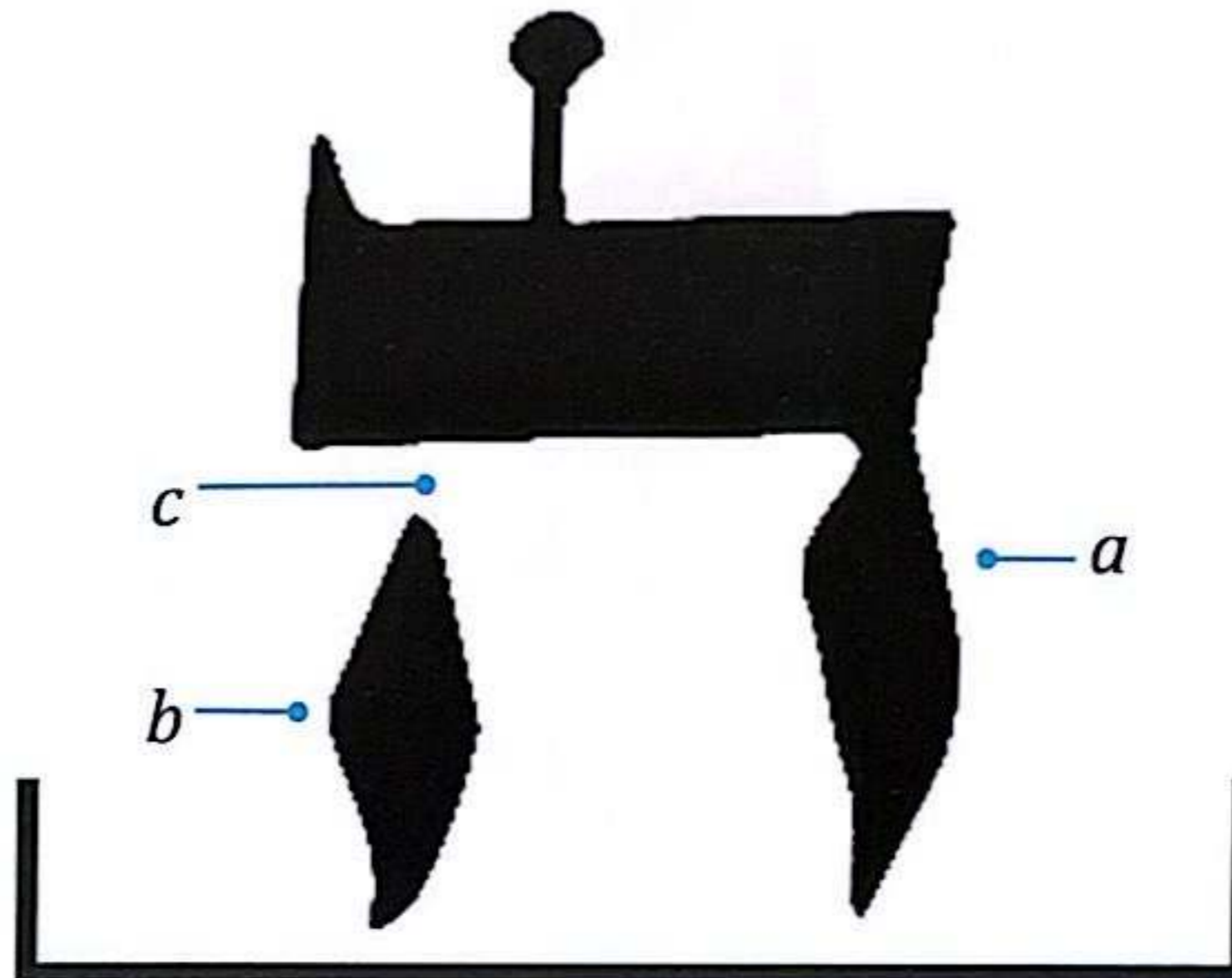
## He



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

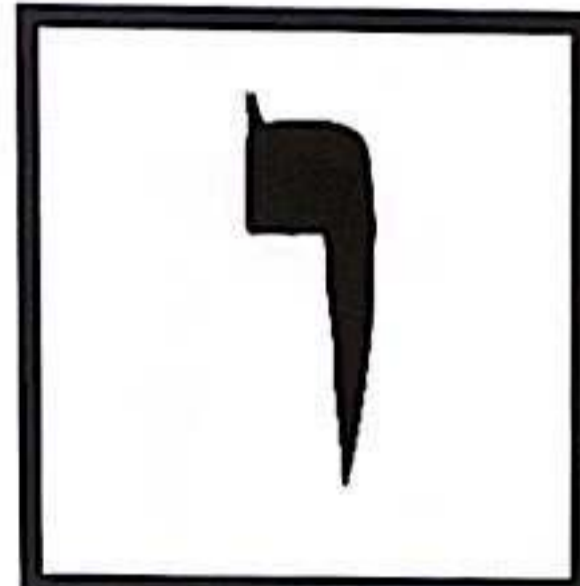
The right leg of the letter *he* is identical to that of a letter *dalet* (a). The left leg is a smaller line, but it also tapers to points at its top and bottom, while it is wider at its mid-height (b). The left leg must be positioned under the left end of the letter's "roof," and not under its center. The left leg's length should be equal to that of a letter *yod*, and there should be enough space between it and the letter's "roof" so that it a reader can see at a glance that they are not connected. On the other hand, the space should be no wider than a quill's point (c).



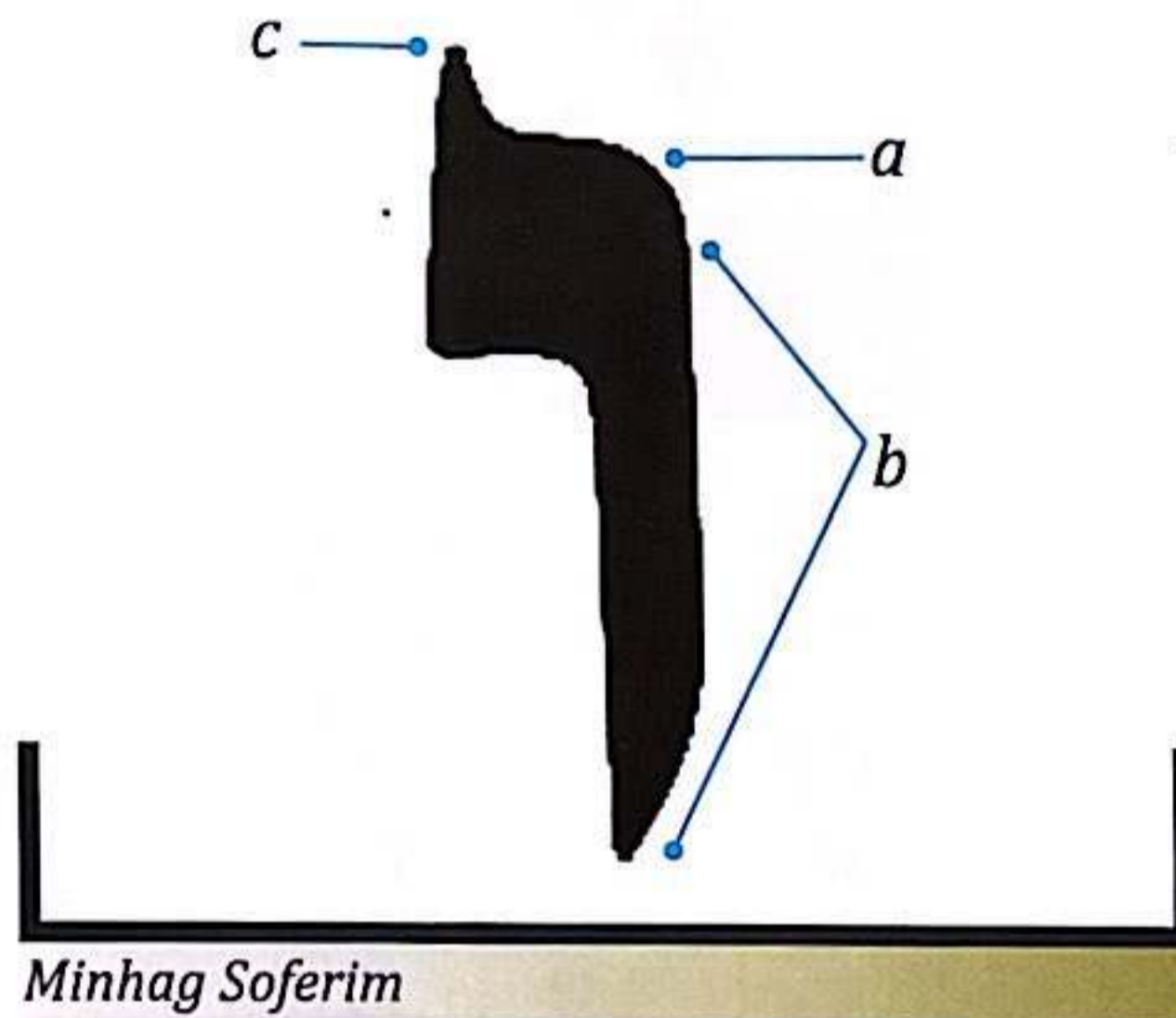
## Vav



Sefardic



Bet Yosef

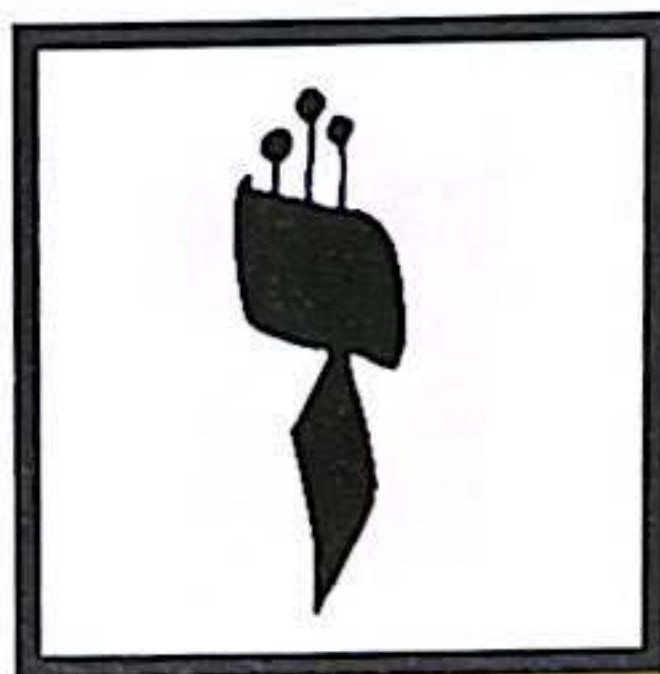


Minhag Soferim

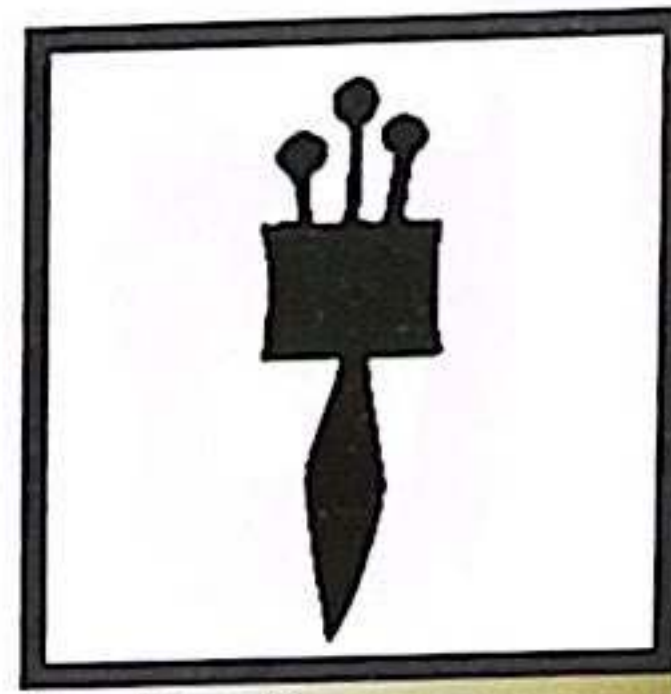
It is very important for the top right corner of the letter *vav* to be rounded (**a**) so that it will not resemble a letter *zayin*. The letter's "head" must not be wide, so that it will not resemble a letter *resh*. The vertical line should be as long as the other letters (**b**). If it is shorter, it might resemble a letter *yod*, and if it is too long it might resemble a letter *nun sofit*. The custom is to add a *kotz* (**c**) rising up from the left end of the "head."



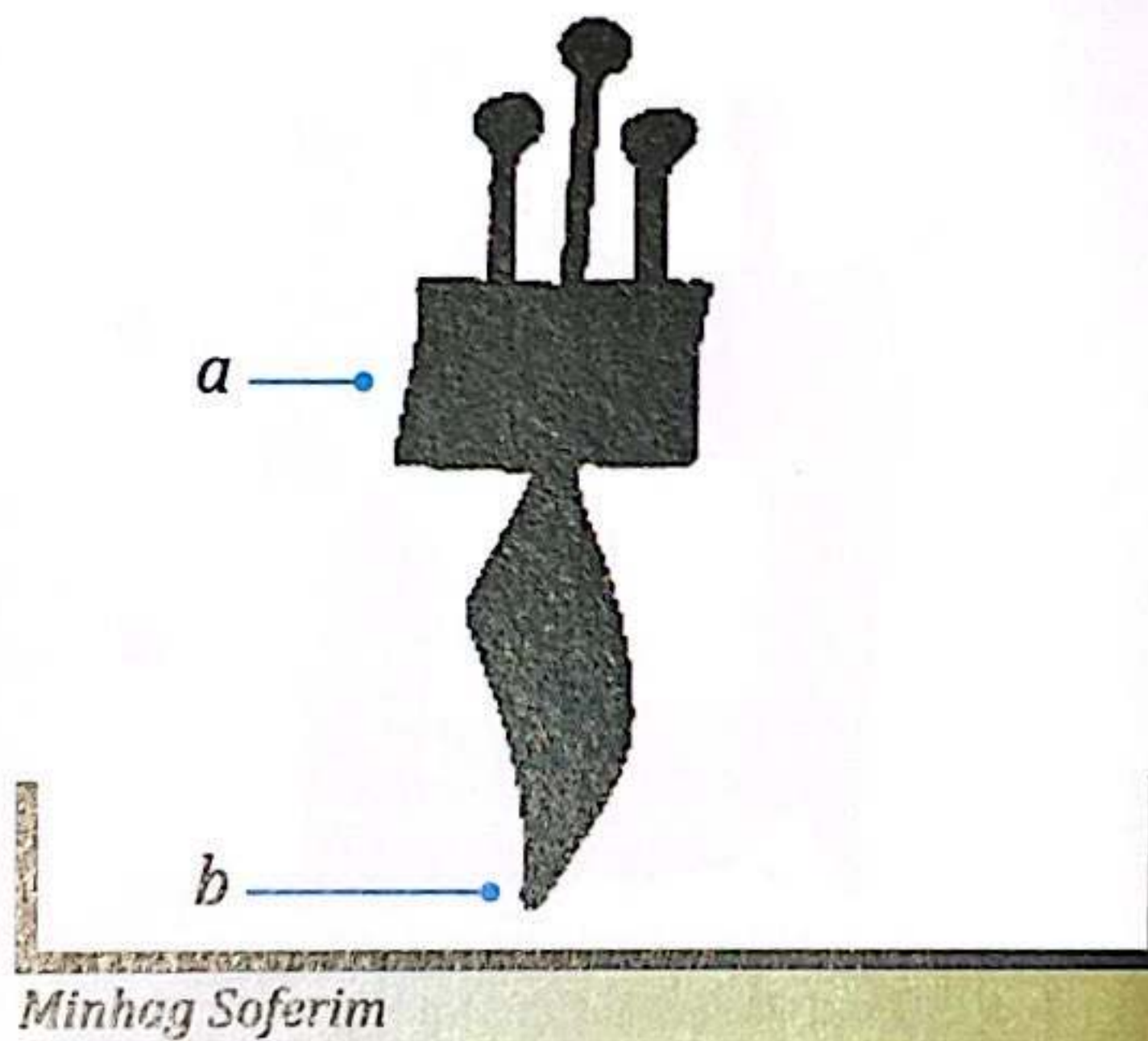
## Zayin



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

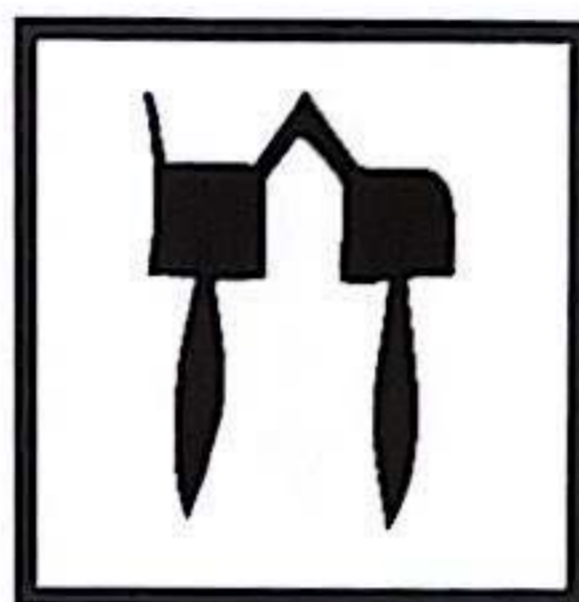
The "head" of the letter *zayin* must be wide and rectangular (a), centered over its vertical line. The vertical line must not be too long, lest it resemble a letter *nun sofit*. The vertical line should be narrowest at the point it is connected to the "head," and gradually widen as it descends to its midpoint. Then it should taper gradually until it comes to a point at the bottom (b).



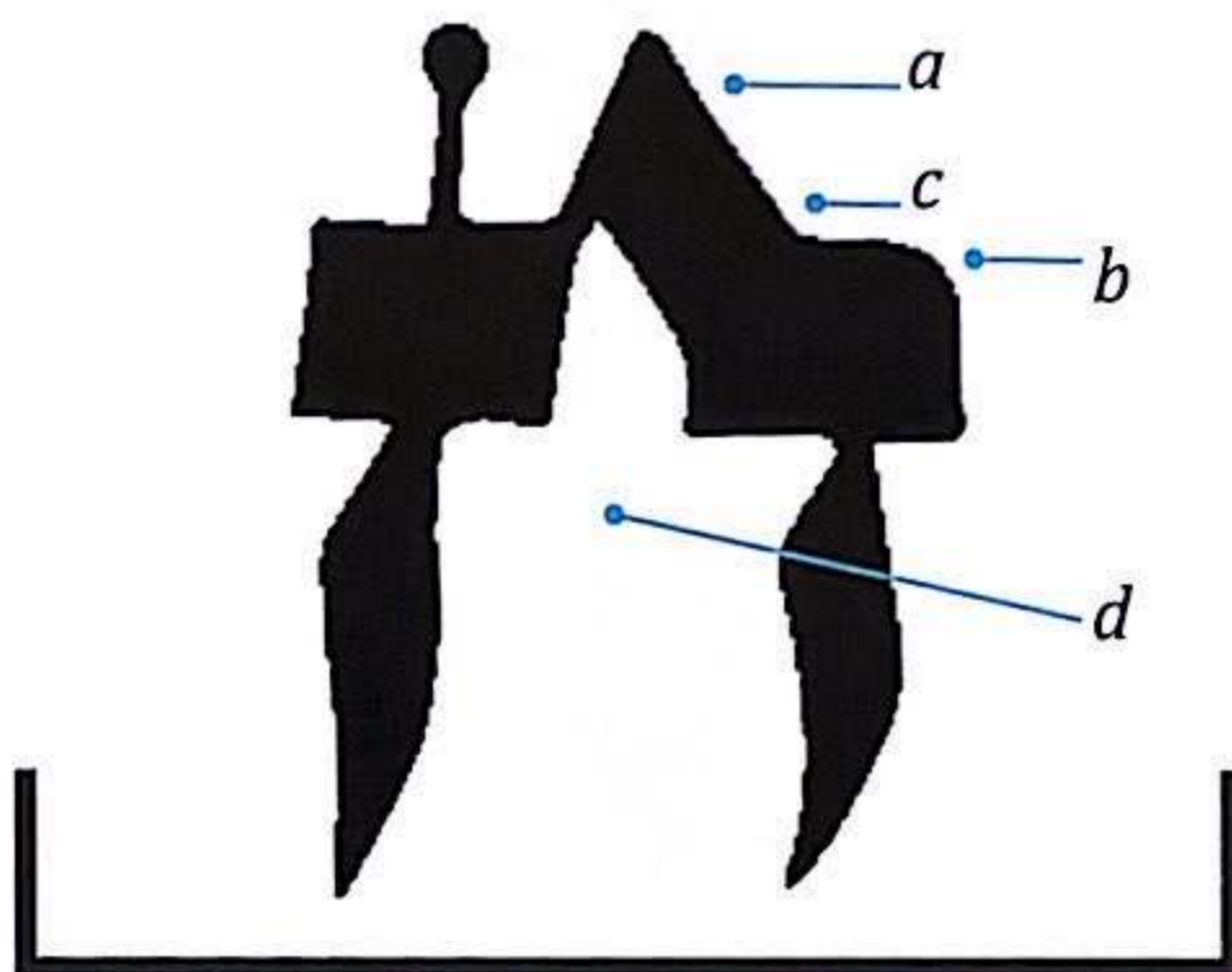
## Het



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



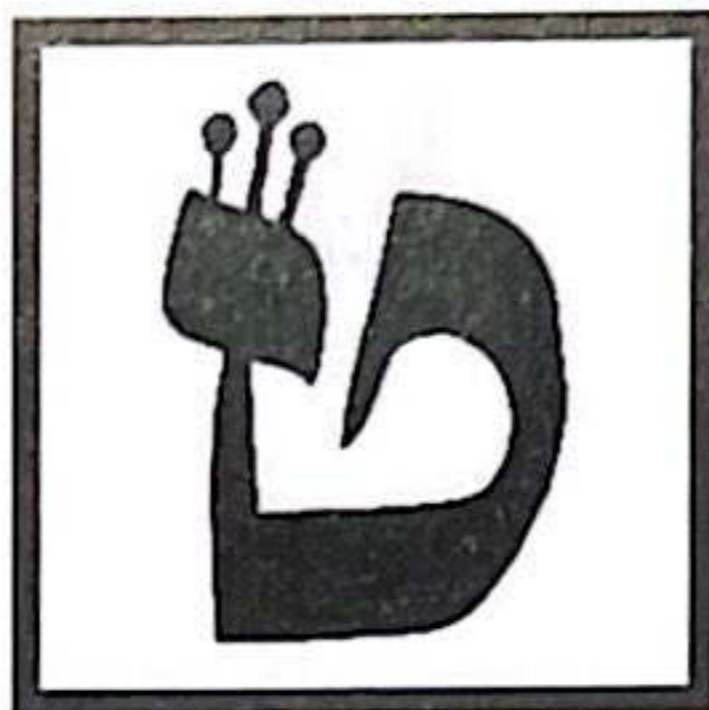
Minhag Soferim

The letter *het* consists of two parallel letters *zayin* connected by an upside-down V (**a**). It is best that the right-hand *zayin* be rounded on the top right corner (**b**). Also, the line of the V protruding from the right-hand *zayin* should be a bit thicker than the line protruding from the left-hand *zayin* (**c**). The space between the two letters *zayin* should be at least as wide as a quill-point (**d**). A single *tag* is added on top of the left-hand *zayin*.

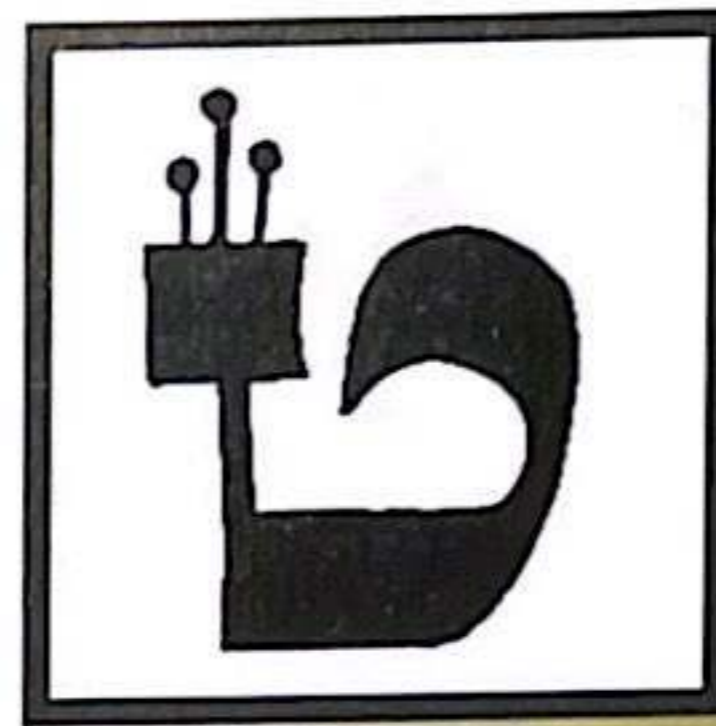


תורה  
שמות  
למנוח  
אברהם  
אבינו  
אמן

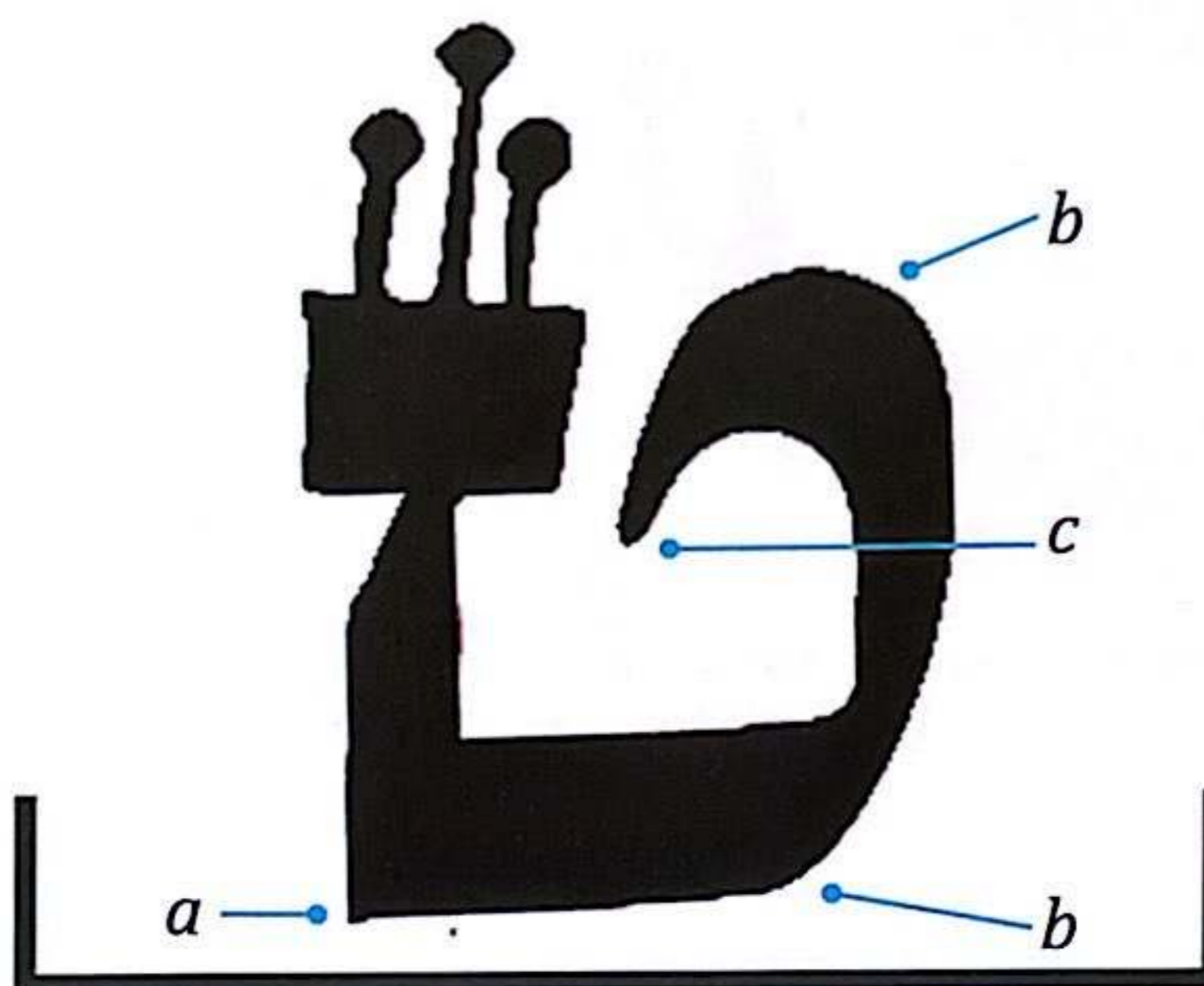
# Tet



Sefardic



Bet Yosef

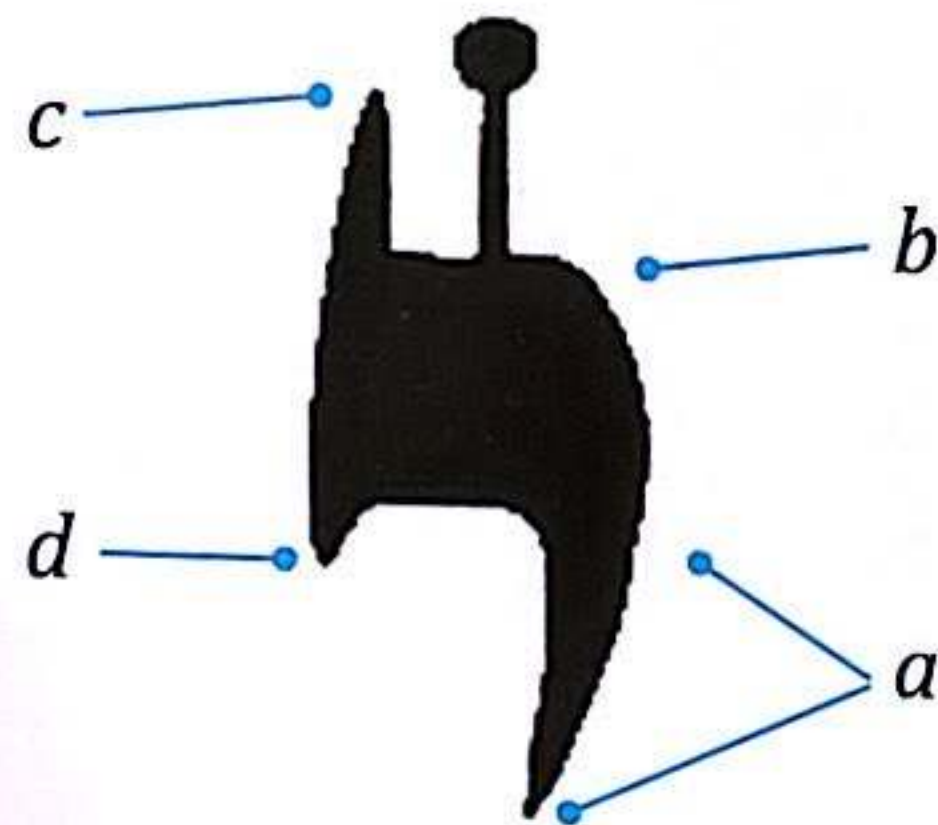
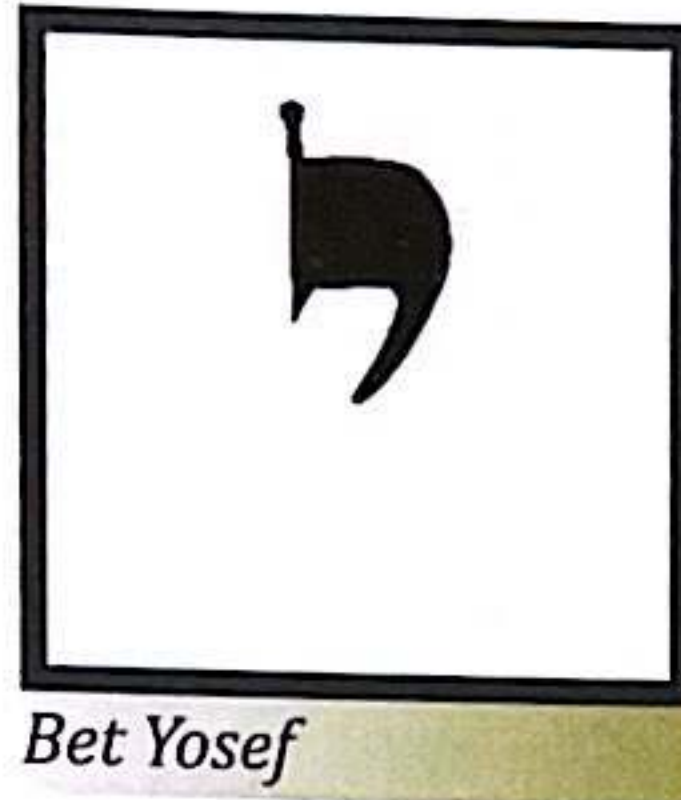


Minhag Soferim

The letter *tet* is basically composed of the letters *kaf* and *zayin* connected at the bottom. The bottom left comes to a sharp corner (**a**), but the right side is rounded on top and bottom (**b**). Unlike a regular letter *kaf*, the left part of a *tet* has no flat top. Instead, the left top section of this letter is curved, reaching down into the center of the letter (**c**).



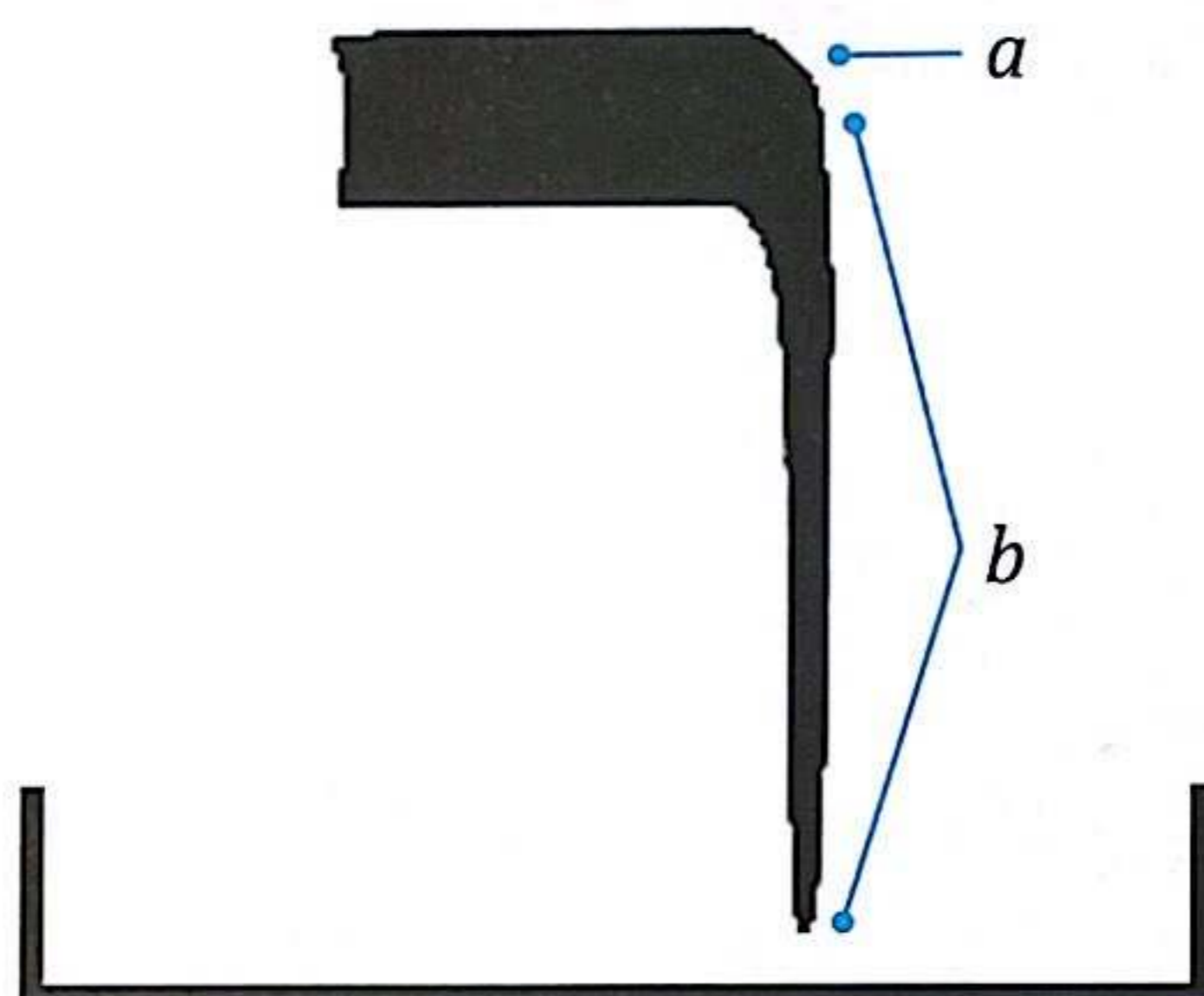
## Yod



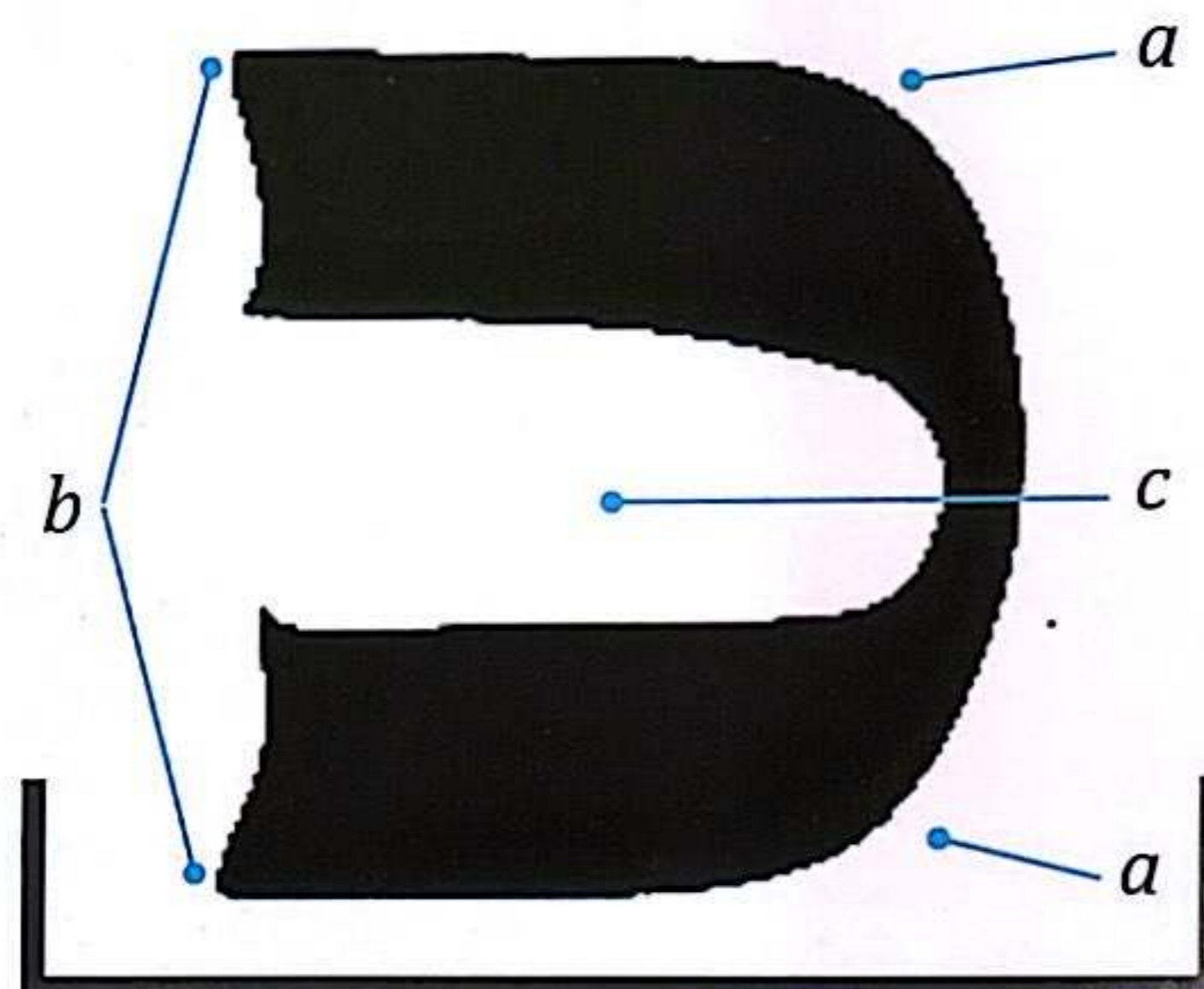
The line descending from the body of the letter *yod* must be no longer than a quill-point (**a**), so that it will not resemble a letter *vav*. The top right corner should be rounded (**b**), and a *kotz* rises from the top left corner (**c**). A second, smaller *kotz* descends from the bottom left corner (**d**). The scribe must take care not to make this second *kotz* too long, for if he does the letter will resemble a miniature letter *het*, possibly making it not kosher.



## Kaf / Khaf Sofit



Bet Yosef | Sefardic | Minhag Soferim



Bet Yosef | Sefardic | Minhag Soferim

### **Kaf sofit**

The top right corner of the letter *khaf sofit* should be rounded (**a**). The vertical line should be twice as long as the horizontal line (**b**), so that if it was possible to bend it over to the left it would form a regular letter *kaf*. The horizontal line must be long enough so that the letter does not resemble the letter *nun sofit*, but it must not be so long that the letter resembles the letter *resh*.

### **Kaf**

The right side of the letter *kaf* must be rounded both on top and bottom; it must have no corners (**a**), so that it will not resemble a letter *bet*. The top and bottom horizontal lines should be of equal length (**b**), and the space between them should be at least as wide as a quill-point (**c**). The horizontal lines must be long enough so that the letter does not resemble a letter *nun*.



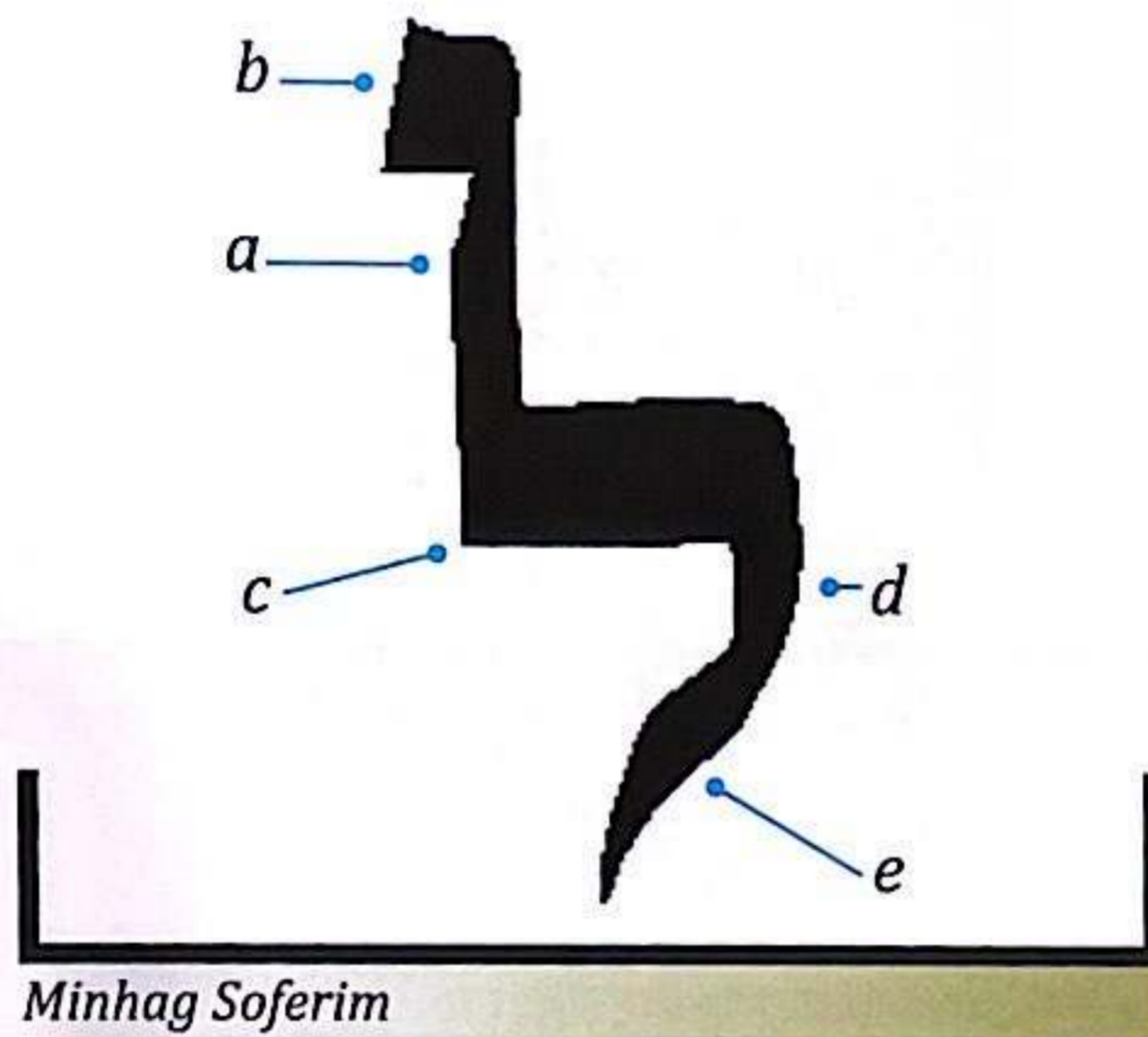
## Lamed



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *lamed* is composed of a *vav* sitting on top of a *kaf*, and therefore the vertical line should be as long as a regular letter *vav* (a), topped by a "head" facing left (b). This *vav*-part connects to the *kaf*-part to form a sharp corner (c). The right end of the horizontal line should be rounded, similar to the corner of a letter *resh*. From the top right corner, a short vertical line descends (d), and then it bends diagonally toward the left as it continues to its bottom (e).



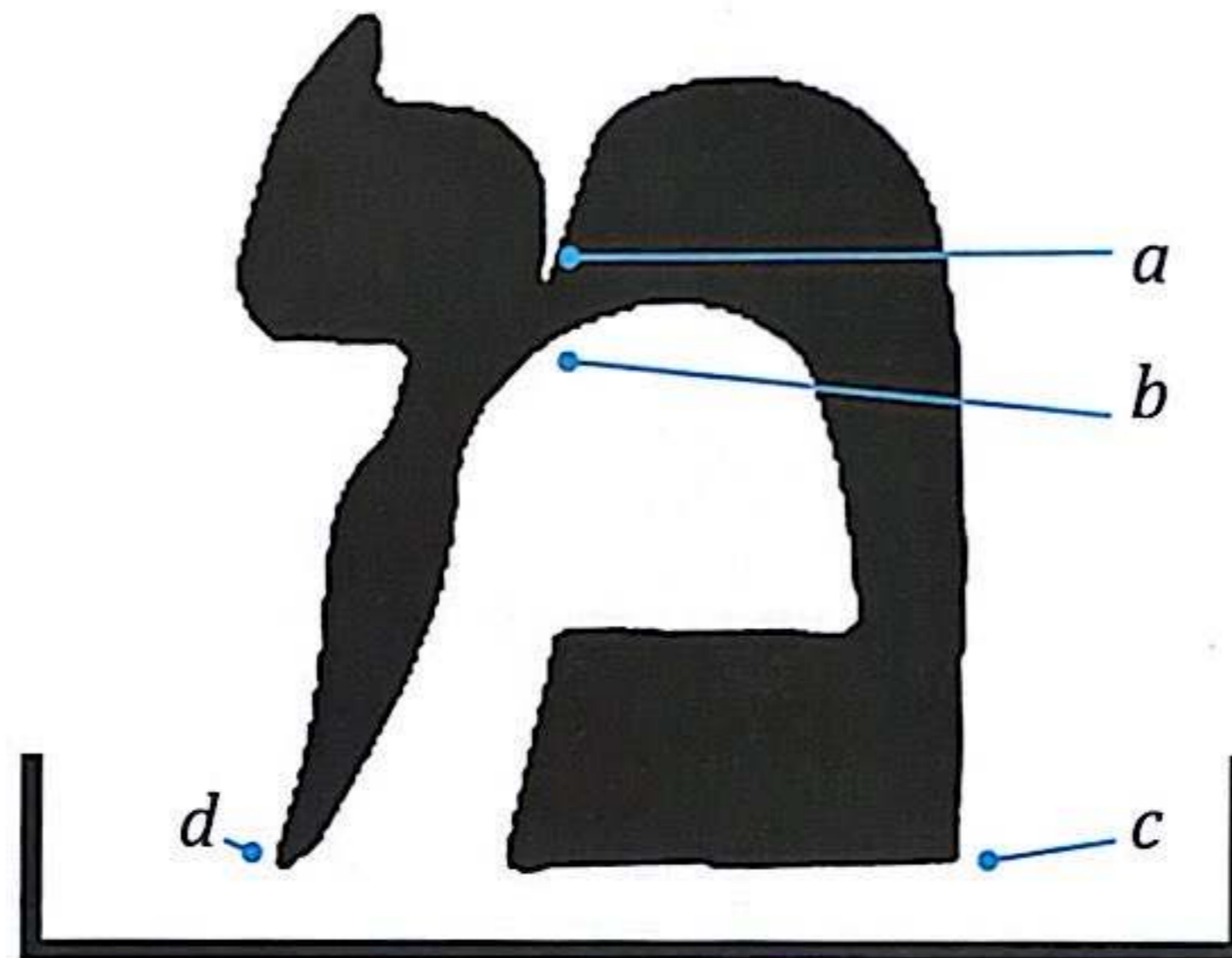
## Mem



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

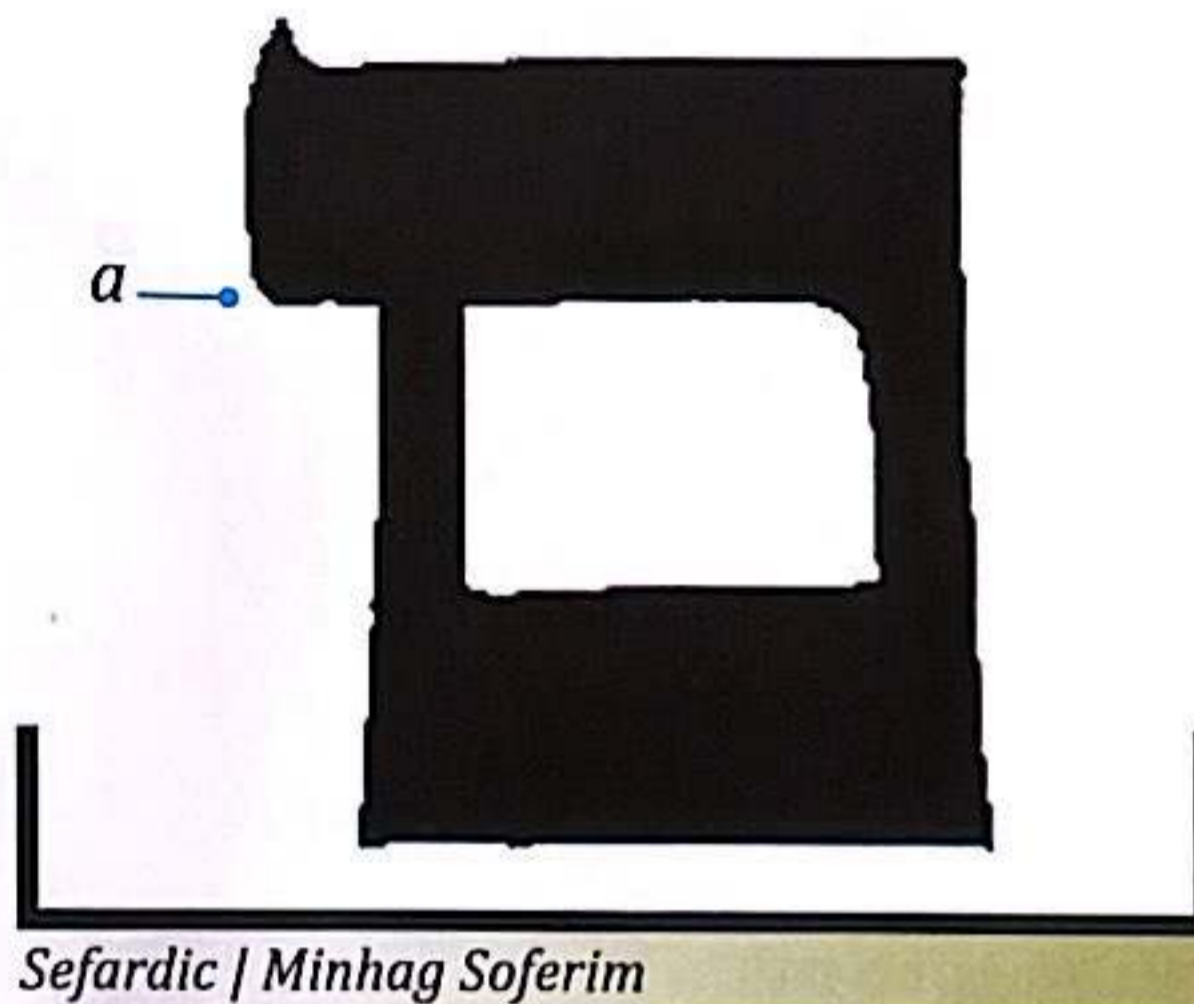
The letter *mem* is composed of a *nun* and *vav* connected near their tops (**a**). The top of the *nun*-part is curved, similar to right part of the letter *tet*, but it does not descend so far into the center of the letter (**b**). The bottom right corner comes to a sharp point (**c**), since that is a feature of a *mem sofit* as well. The *vav*-part should descend to the same level as the base of the *nun*-part (**d**).



## Mem Sofit



*Bet Yosef*



*Sefardic / Minhag Soferim*

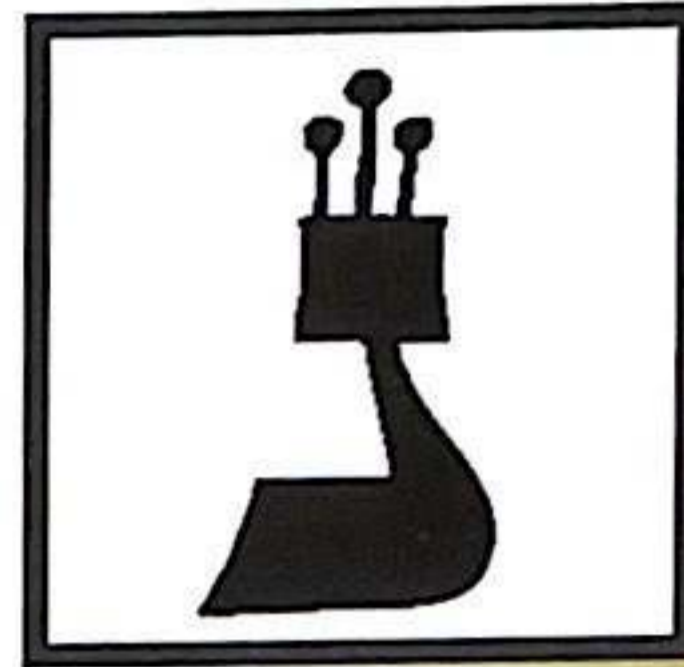
The letter *mem sofit* is rectangular, and has no rounded corners at all so that it should not resemble a letter *samekh*. On the top left corner, the "roof" extends beyond the left vertical line for the width of a quill-point (**a**).



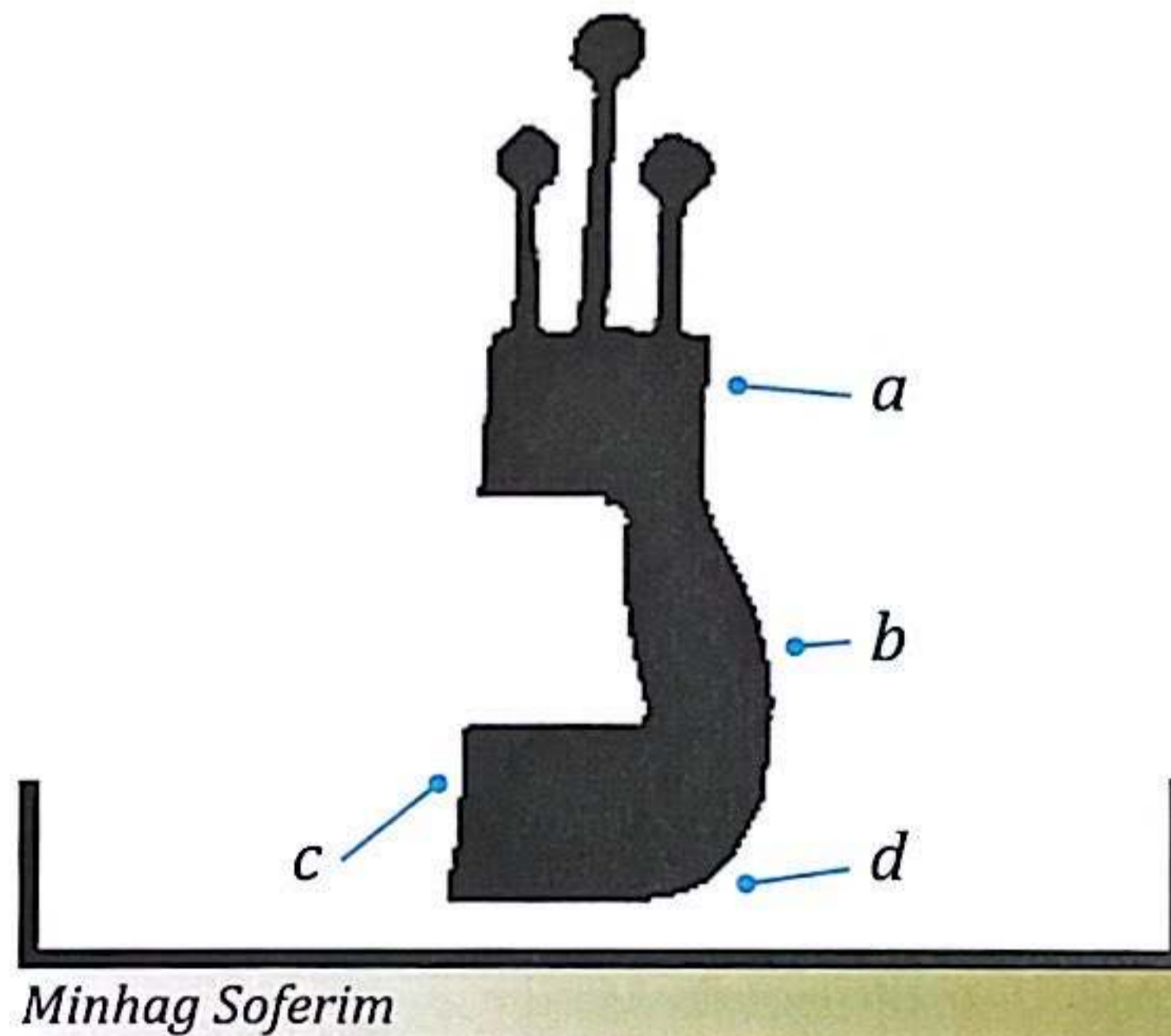
## Nun



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

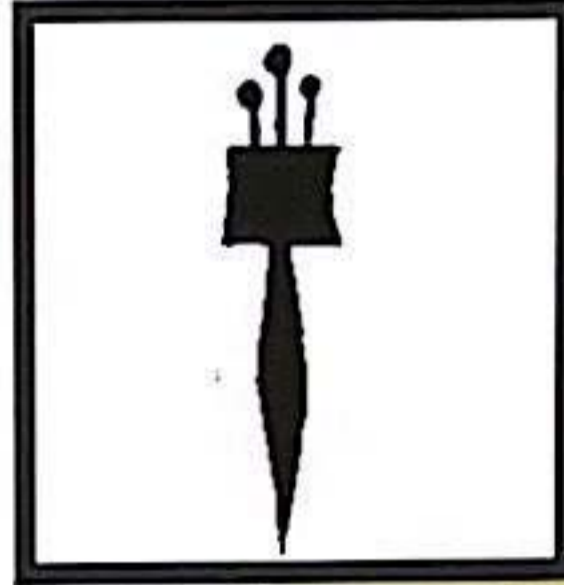
The top segment of the letter *nun* is similar to the head of a letter *vav*, except that it is rectangular without any rounded corners (**a**). It must not be too wide so that it will not resemble a letter *bet* or *kaf*. The vertical line descending from the head is slanted slightly to the right, and therefore it is somewhat wider than other vertical lines (**b**). The bottom base begins at the bottom of the vertical line and ends under the left end of the head, or very slightly beyond it (**c**). In this way, it is possible to position the following letter close enough to the *nun* so that it is obvious that they both belong to one word. The bottom right corner of a *nun* is rounded (**d**).



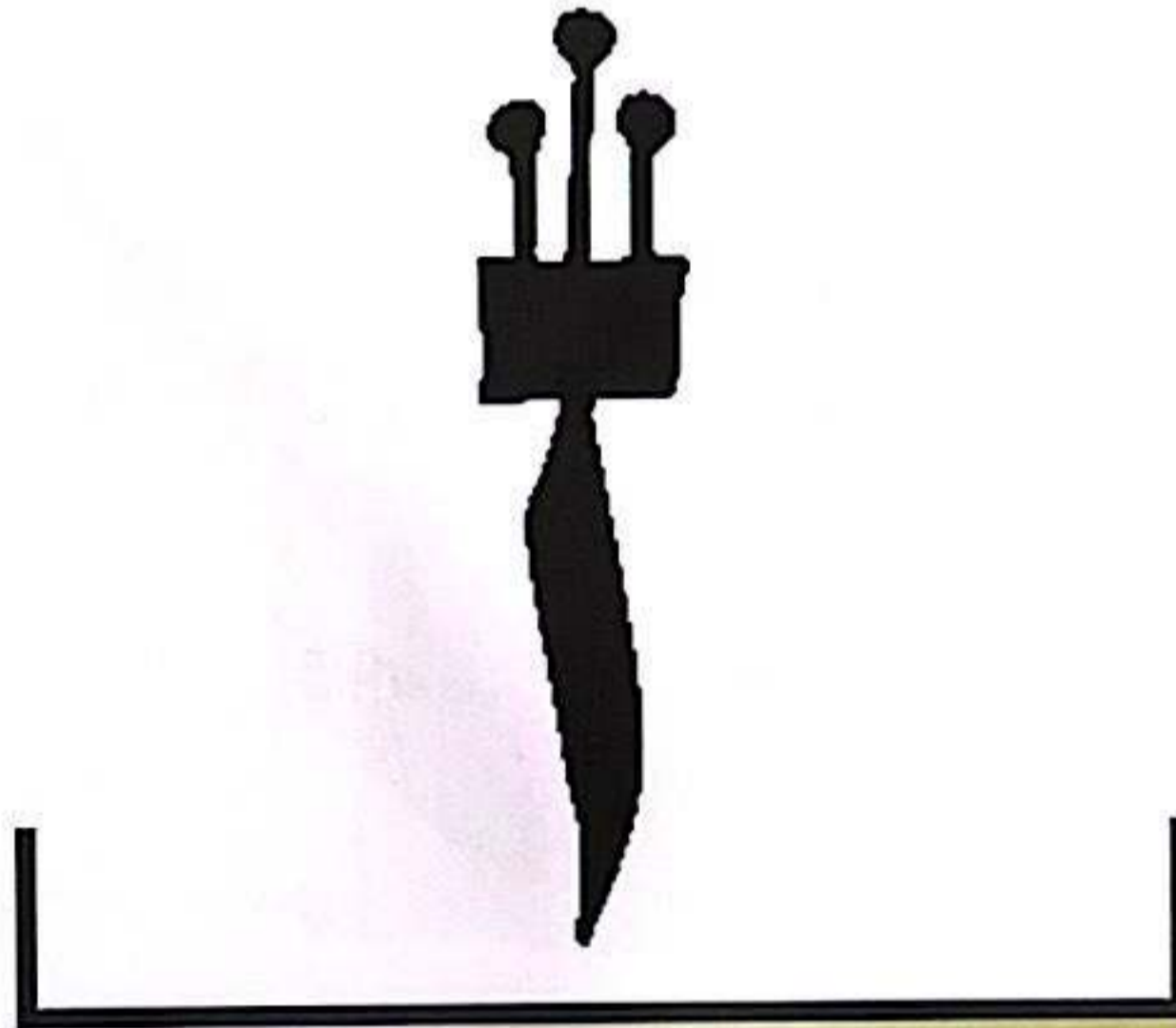
## Nun Sofit



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

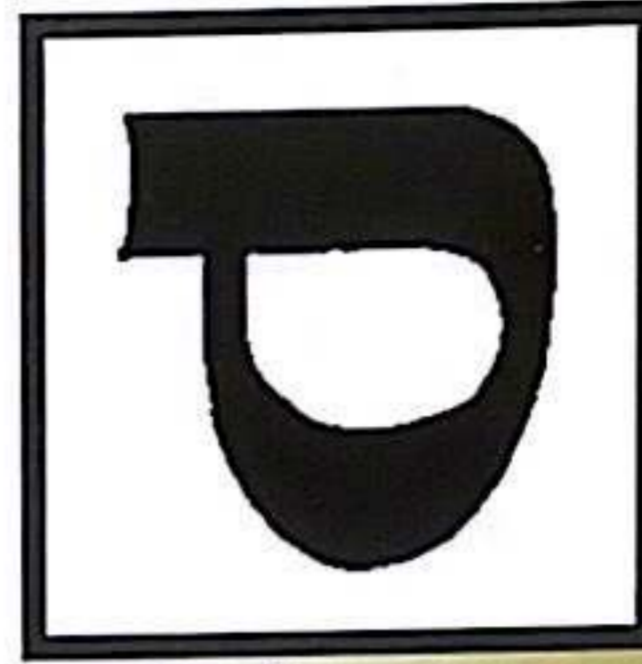
The letter *nun sofit* appears exactly like the letter *zayin*, except that the vertical line is longer. It should be written long enough so that if it would be possible to bend the line to the left it would form a regular letter *nun*. It is vital to make sure that the line is not too short, for then it would resemble a letter *zayin*.



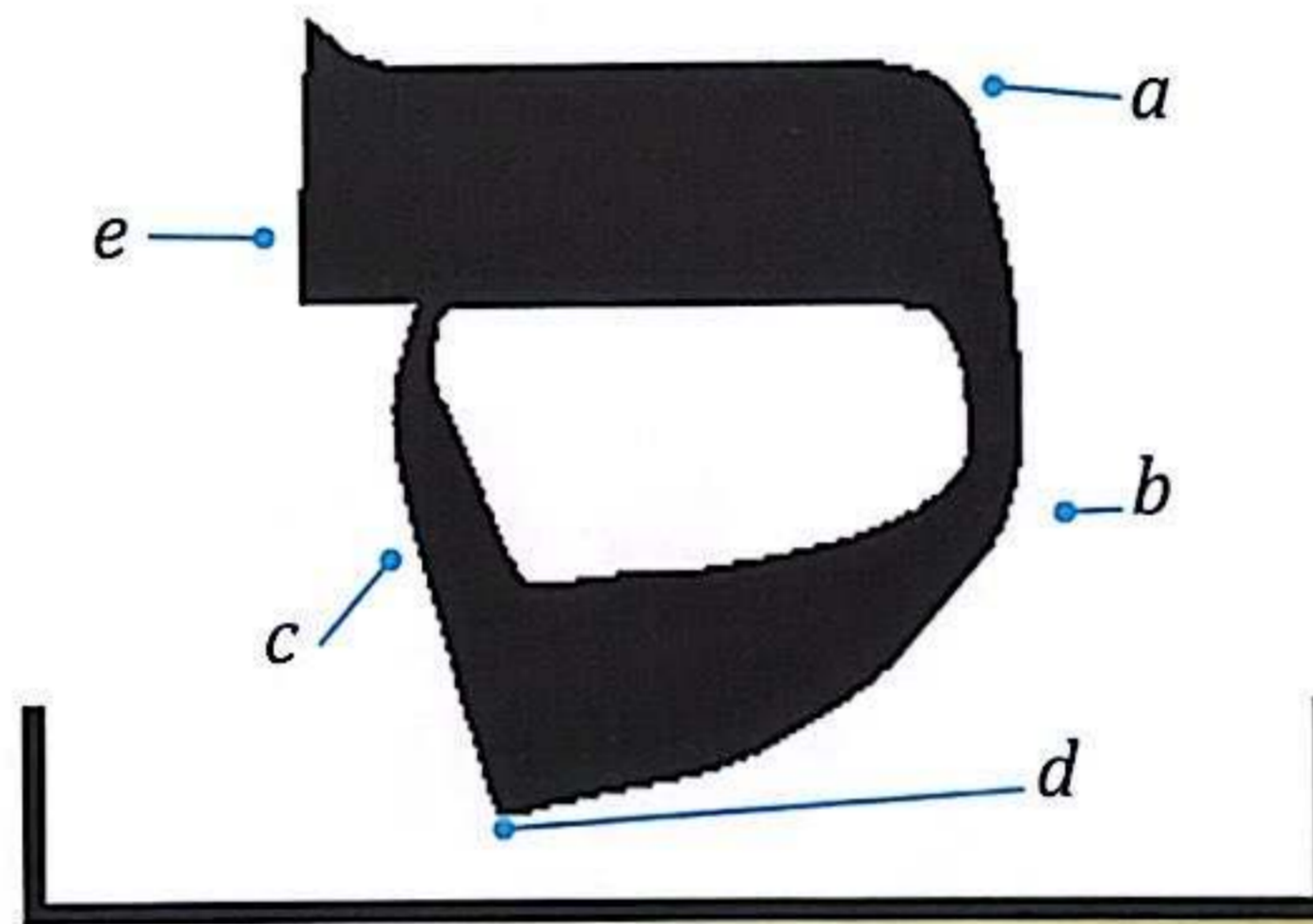
## Samekh



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

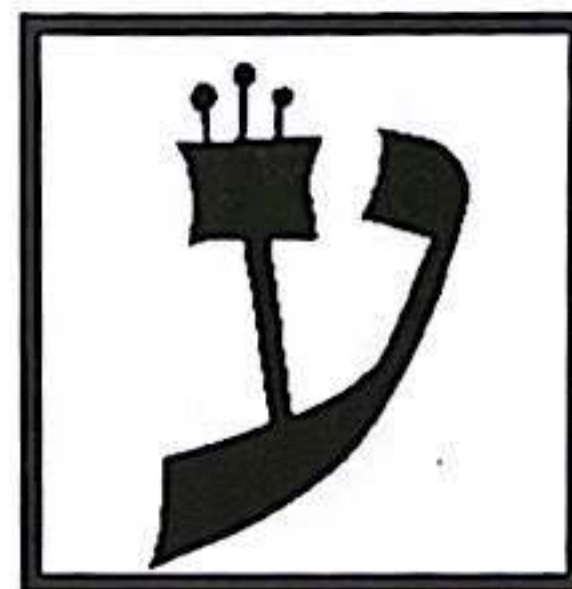
The letter *samekh* has a horizontal "roof" but the top right corner is rounded (a). The line descends from that corner and begins to curve toward the left (b). Another line descends from the right side of the roof, curving slightly (c) until it meets the other line at the bottom. The bottom may be rounded but the custom is for it to come to a soft point (d). The horizontal roof extends a quill-point beyond the top of the right-hand vertical line (e).



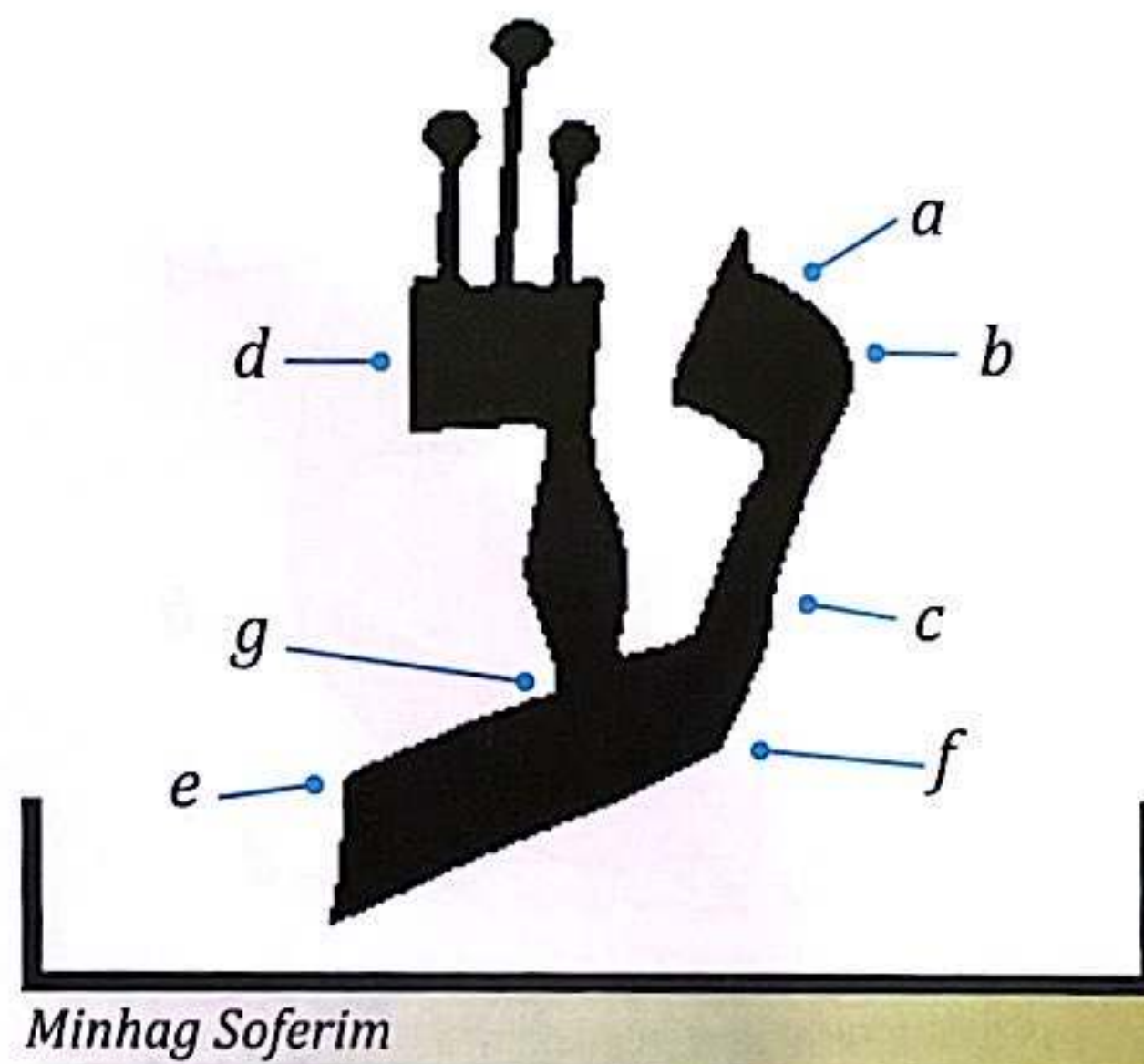
## Ayin



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *ayin* consists of two letters *vav* connected to a base on the bottom. The right-hand "head" is like that of a letter *vav* except that it slants downward from left to right (**a**). The top right-hand corner is rounded (**b**), and the line descending from this head is slanted slightly to the left (**c**).

The left-hand "head," is rectangular without any rounded corners (**d**). The base is not horizontal, but rather slopes gently down from right to left so that this letter reaches lower than all the other regular letters (**e**), but not as far down as the *sofit* letters. The right-hand *vav* is connected to the right end of this base (**f**), and the left-hand *vav* is connected somewhere along the right half of the base (**g**).



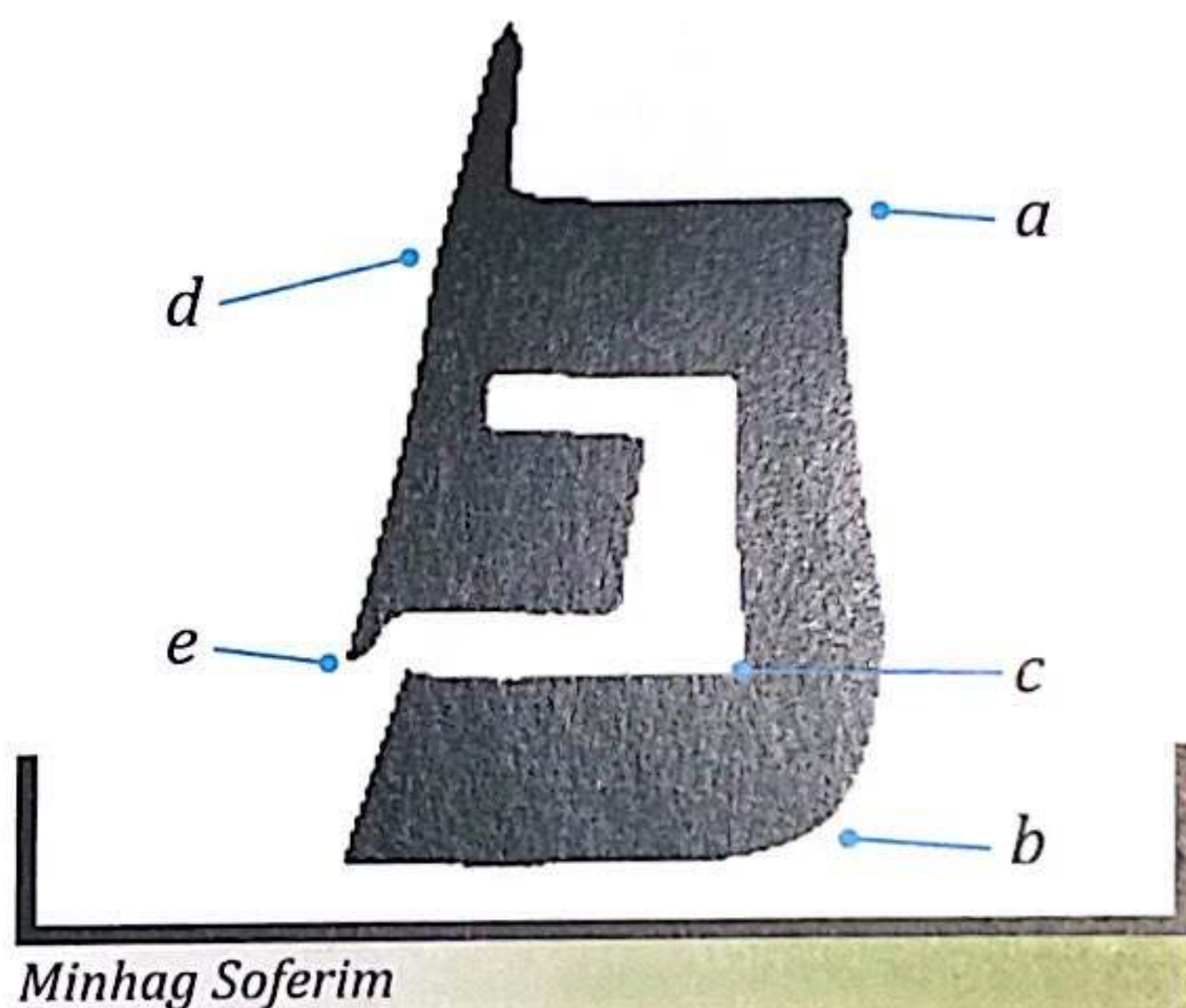
## Pe



*Sefardic*



*Bet Yosef*



*Minhag Soferim*

The letter *pe* consists of a *kaf*-like shape connected to an upside-down *vav*. The top right corner of the letter comes to a point (**a**), but the bottom right corner is rounded on the outside (**b**) while it and forms a right angle on the inside (**c**).

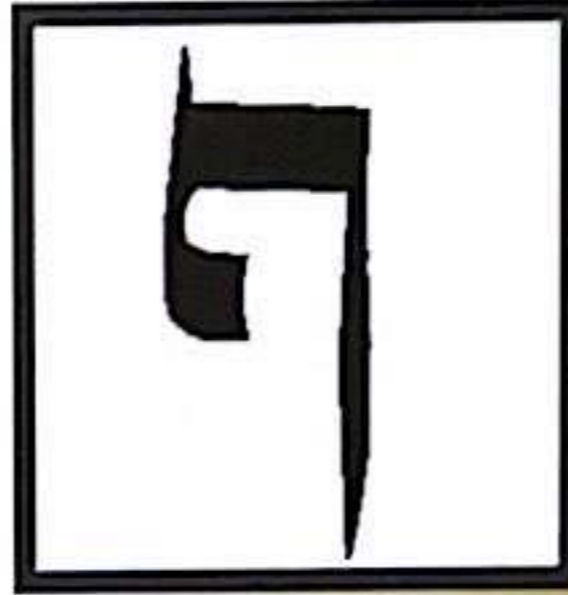
The center of the upside-down *vav* is connected to the top left end of the *kaf*-like shape (**d**). Ideally, a *kotz* should descend from the left bottom corner of the upside-down *vav* (**e**).



## Fe Sofit



Sefardic



Bet Yosef

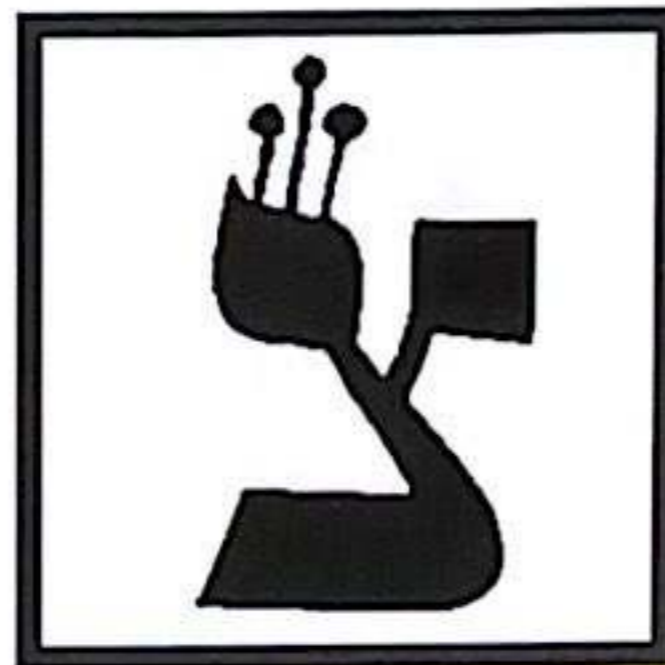


Minhag Soferim

The letter *fe sofit* consists of a *khaf sofit* connected to an upside-down *vav*. The top right corner is not rounded (**a**). The vertical line should be long enough so that if it would be possible to bend it over to the left it would form a regular letter *pe*.



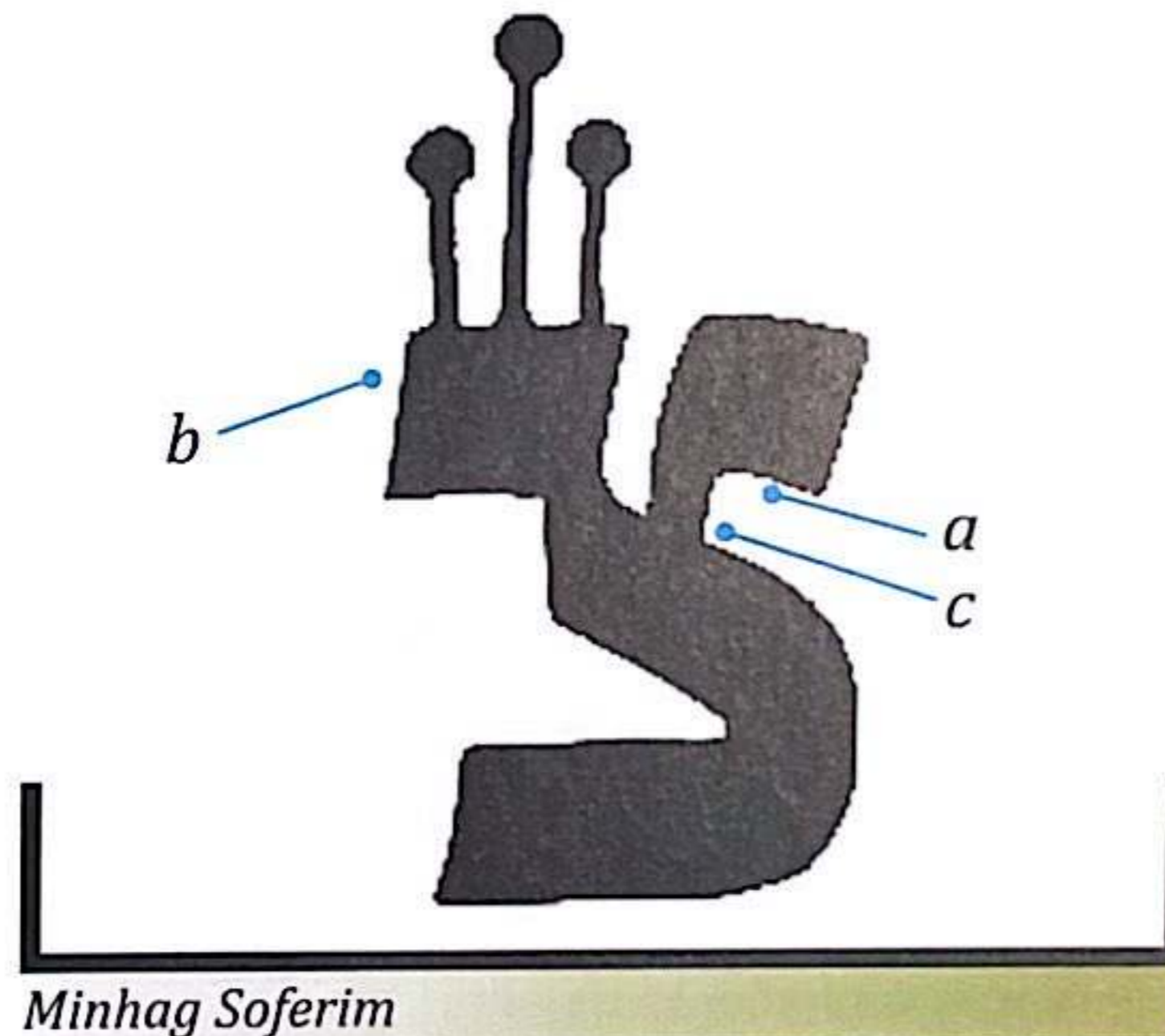
## Tzadik



Sefardic



Bet Yosef

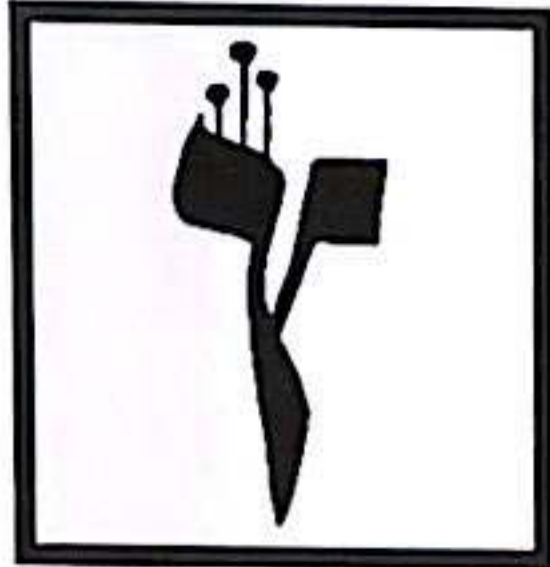


Minhag Soferim

The letter *tzadik* consists of a contorted letter *nun* or *kaf* connected to a backward letter *yod*. The backward *yod* is slightly slanted downward from left to right (a). (This feature is common to each of the right-hand “heads” of the letters *shin* and *ayin* as well.) The “head” on the left side is a rectangle without any rounded corners (b). The two segments are connected in the center of the letter (c).



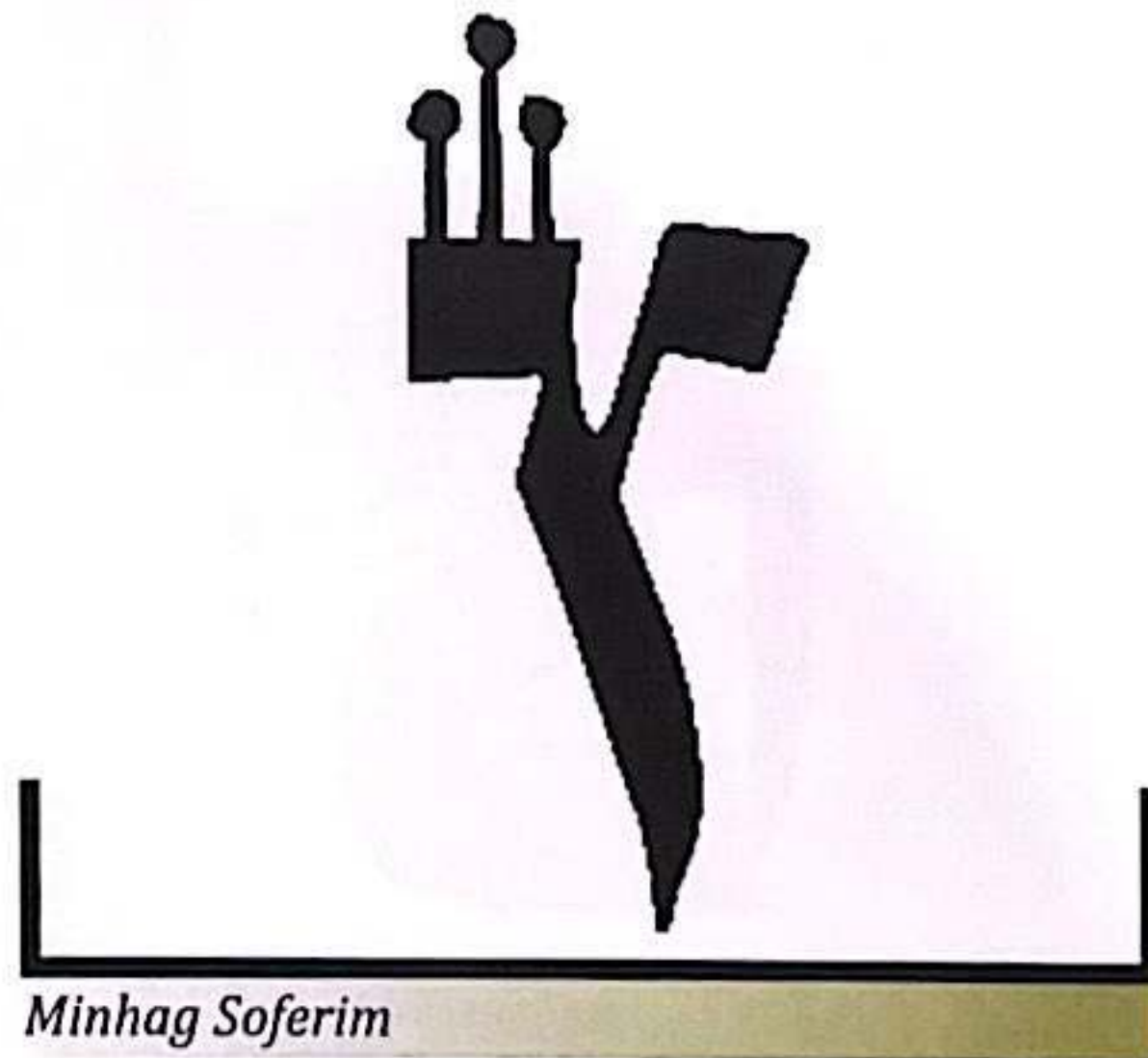
## Tzadik Sofit



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letter *tzadik sofit* has "heads" identical to those of a regular letter *tzadik*. The vertical line should be long enough so that if it could be bent over to the left it would form a regular *tzadik*.



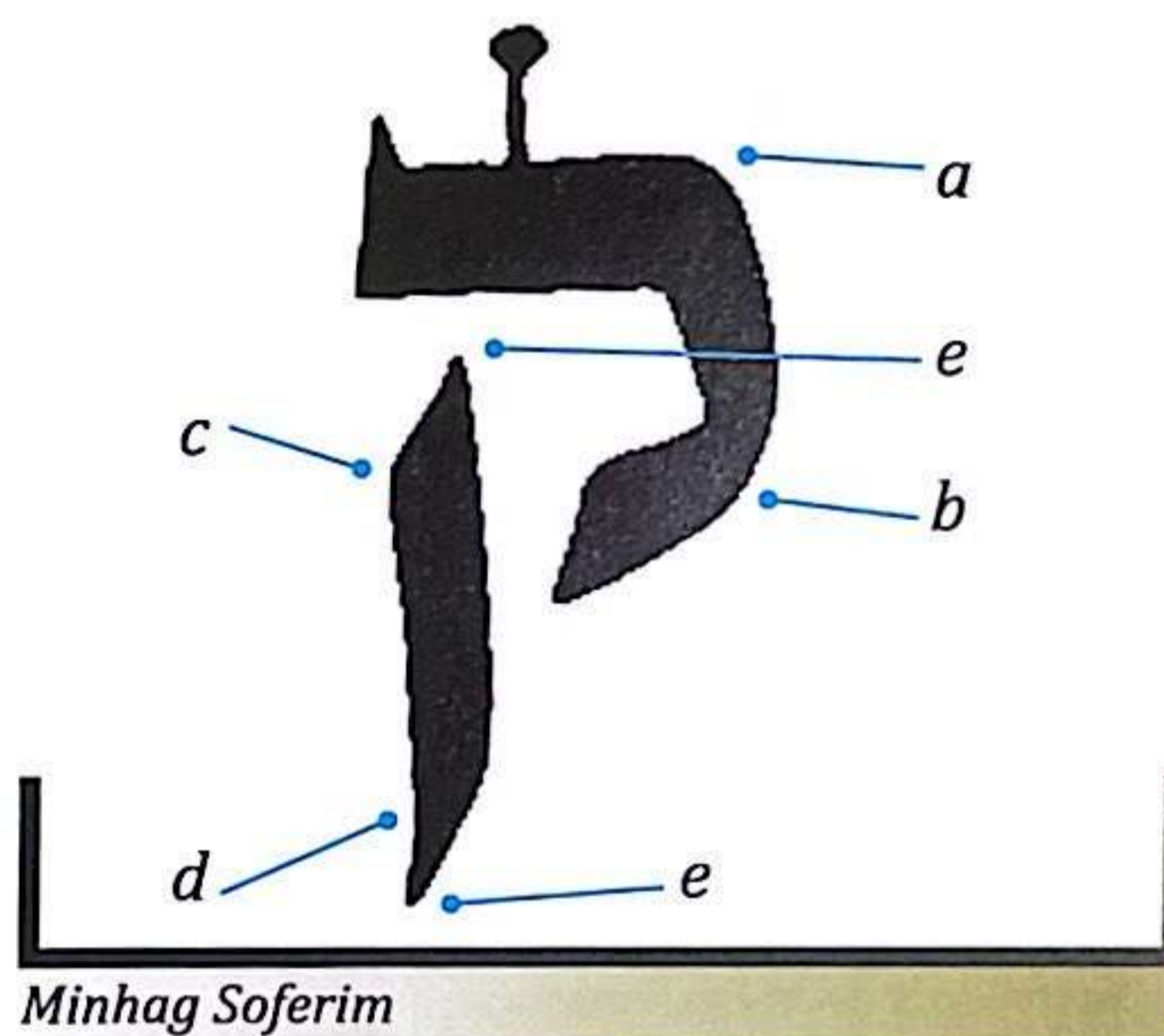
## Qof



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



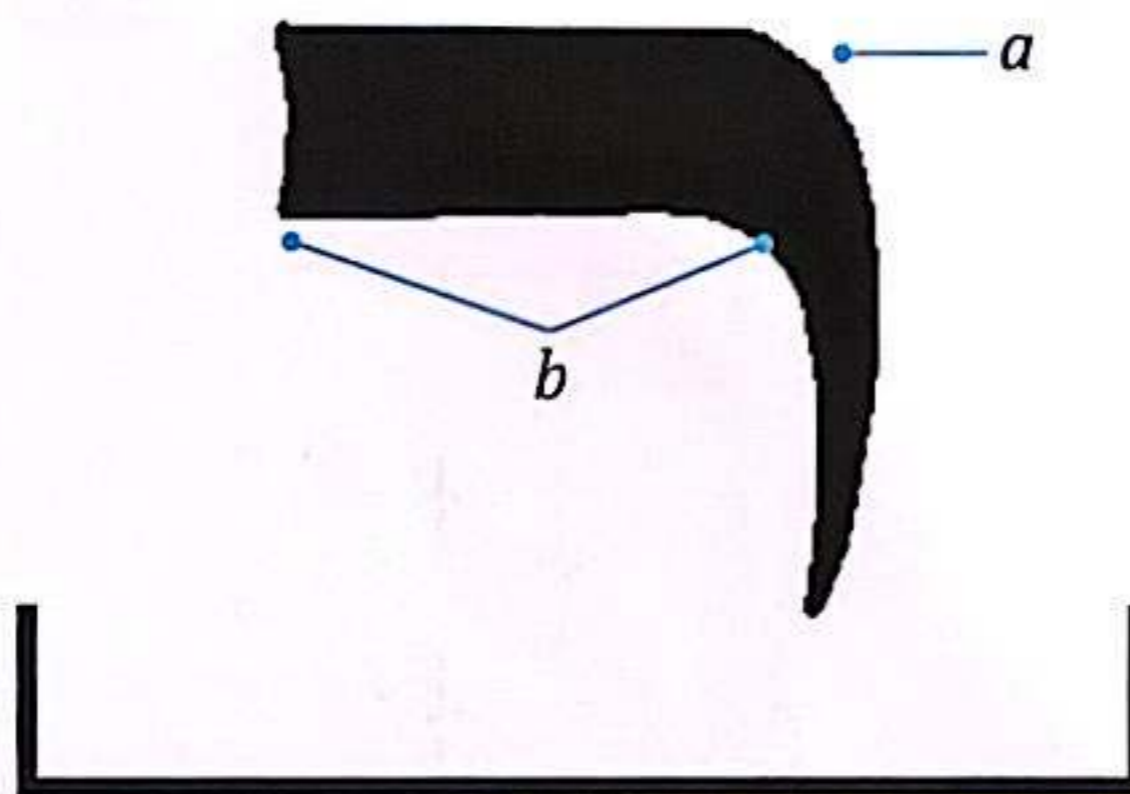
Minhag Soferim

The letter *qof* consists of two separate segments. The first is similar to a letter *resh*; its top right corner is rounded (**a**). Its vertical part, however, is different from a *resh* since it turns diagonally to the left at its half-way point (**b**).

The left "leg" of the letter hangs below the left end of the *resh* segment (**c**), and it continues at least one quill-point lower than the bottom of that segment (**d**). It should come to a point at its top, and near the bottom it should taper to another point (**e**).



## Resh



*Bet Yosef | Sefardic | Minhag Soferim*

The letter *resh* must be well-rounded at the top right corner (**a**), so that it will have no resemblance to a letter *dalet*. The vertical line must not be too long, so that it will not resemble a letter *khafsofit*. [Ideally, the horizontal line should be as long or longer than the vertical line.] The horizontal line should be at least three quill-points long (**b**), so that it will not resemble a letter *vav*.



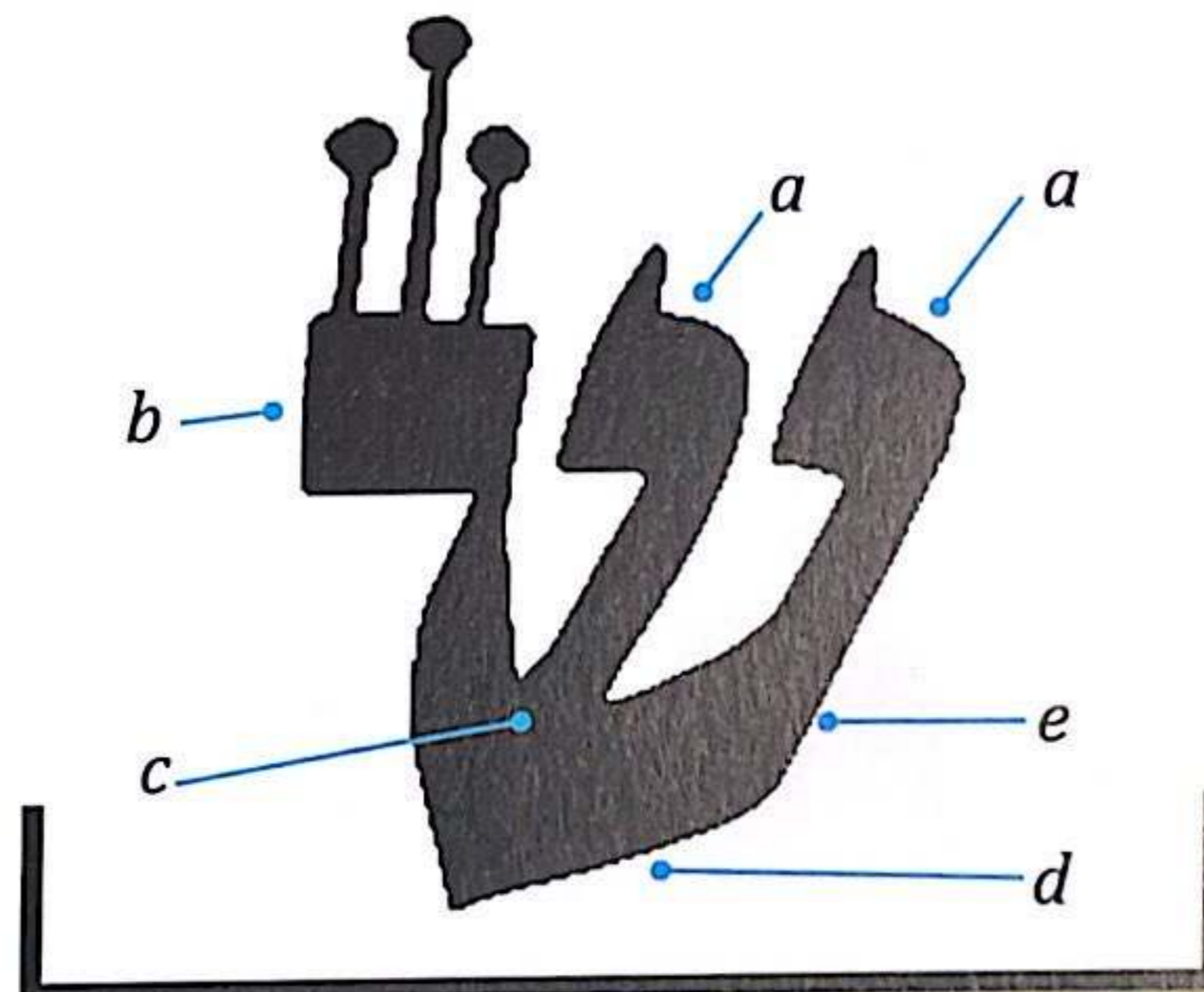
## Shin



Sefardic



Bet Yosef



Minhag Soferim

The letters *shin* and *sin* have three “heads.” The right-hand head and the middle head are each shaped like the head of a letter *vav*, but they are slanted down from left to right (a). The left-hand head is rectangular, without any round corners (b).

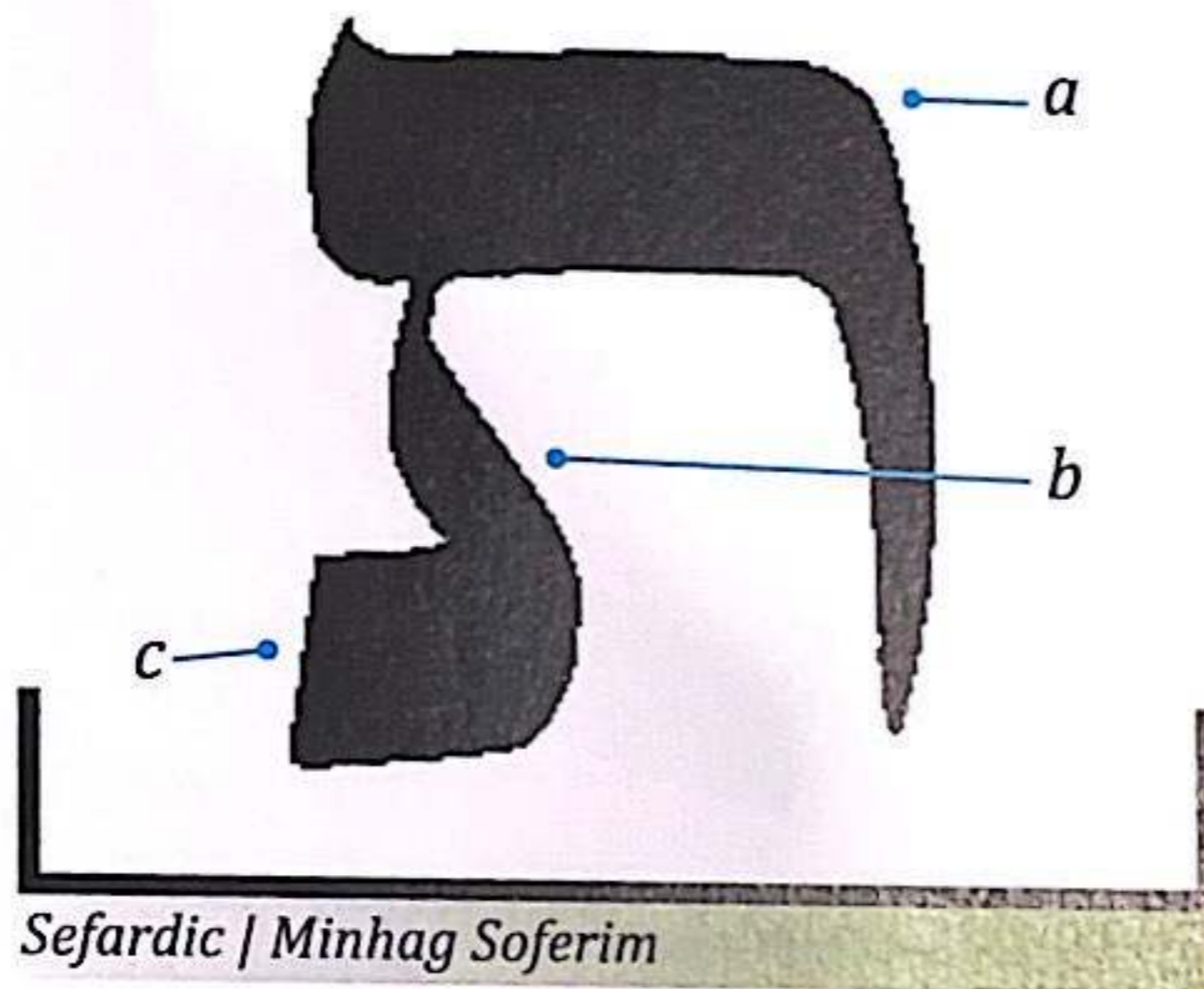
The left-hand prong and the middle prong meet together at the left end of the letter’s base (c). The base, which is shorter than the space taken up by the three “heads,” is not flat like the base of other letters. Instead, it slants downward from right to left (d). The right-hand prong is connected to the right end of the base (e). See *Siman* 32:161.



## Tav



Bet Yosef



Sefardic | Minhag Soferim

The letter *tav* is composed of a letter *resh* (a) and an upside-down letter *vav*. The vertical line of the *vav* segment is slanted down to the right (b), but at its bottom it turns to face left, ending directly under the left end of the *resh* segment (c).