

Living Soul – נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים – a Gateway to Creator

or
The Reason I Am Not a Robot

Why did G-d, on the last day of Creation, breathe into Adam's nostrils a living soul? Could the Ruler of the World skip the soul while endowing the first man only with the robotic faculties like moving limbs, seeing eyes, and others all topped by a thinking brain?

The soul was the only thing that G-d had not created during the six days of Creation. Therefore, the soul is intangible and eternal. It is G-d's gift, which does not belong to this material world. The Torah tells that G-d formed people in His image not since we look like G-d, but because every one of us has an innate "part" of G-d – the immortal soul.

Still, the question stays open: *why does one need a soul?* On the one hand, a philosopher pondering an answer can guess endlessly while concocting abstract claims. On the other hand, an artist expressing the soul in art evades a rational explanation. A scientist flatly rejects the soul's enigma as no test can probe its qualities. Likewise, an engineer outright dismisses the soul since no tool can size it. Not even a physician can pinpoint the soul as it leaves no trace on CT-scans or X-rays. Do our passions and desires reflect its depths? Alas, both therapists and sociologists discard the soul completely.

To find a purpose for the soul, consider how people learn about each other. We use words, emotions, and body language. In short, we communicate.

How does G-d know what is going on with each of us? There is not enough time to tell all in prayer (if one even prays!). Aside from that, G-d does not seem to attend to the modern-day channels. No aerial drones supply a live feed to the King of the World, nor do hidden cameras and eavesdropping devices relay all we do and say. Obviously, no gadgets sap our inner thoughts to G-d while absent are GPS detectors spotting everyone's location. Ironically, nobody befriends our Creator on social networks where the Master of the Universe has no account...

What if the soul is a gateway to G-d, which keeps sending G-d in real-time the full stream of your entire life? As such, the soul connects with G-d by a perfect yet mysterious link. It captures the whole and only truth – you cannot deceive the Judge of all Earth by transmitting lies. There is no way for anyone to sever, break, or shut down this connection. Your soul conducts the most secure non-stop transmission resistant to a virus or hacking. Nobody can search, intercept, or snoop upon soul messages, corrupt or jam the traffic: the soul and its path to G-d is not of this World. It is superior to Web, AI, or any tech man will ever make. And because of its tight bond with G-d, the soul sets apart a man from a robot forever.

The soul does not upload your life story onto some heavenly email server, which moves inbound posts into a trash bin. The soul reports straight to the Creator of the World. Furthermore, the soul's contact with G-d is two-way. In reverse, it returns G-d's candid feedback, which guides your life for as long as you breathe. But it is rare for one to attune the soul in this direction. Still, there is a way to cut static noise and adjust the reception: cleanse the soul by studying Torah, following commandments, and praying. Then, you might have a fantastic chance to get a message from G-d when you need it most...

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August 2020, Boris Burshteyn, Walnut Creek CA, USA*