

## I AM ADONAI WHO SANCTIFIES YOU\*

וְלֹא תַחֲלִילוּ אֶת־שֵׁם קְדֹשִׁי  
וְנִקְדַּשְׁתִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
אֲנִי יְהוָה מְקַדְּשְׁכֶם:

And you shall not profane My holy name;  
but I will be sanctified among the children of Israel:  
I am Adonai who sanctifies you.

*And you shall not profane My holy name*—That is, by “willfully transgressing” (Rashi) my words, my statutes and ordinances—the mitzvot, refusing to do good or hiding yourself in the presence of evil. *But I will be sanctified*—If rather than doing murder, idolatry, or sexual immorality, you “surrender your life” (Rashi), My name—all those attributes that I represent—will be made sacred: stirring, animating, and elevating your community and the lives of your children and your children’s children (S.R. Hirsch). *Among the children of Israel*—Even your children are obligated to sanctify the divine name in the presence of great evil, i.e., “even children may not participate in such desecrations” (S. Riskin in the name of Y. Kamenetzky and Maimonides); and the higher our station and status in the community, the greater our obligation to sanctify the name, because our “refusal to sacrifice any impulse of our being” serves as “propaganda for the powerlessness” of God (S.R. Hirsch). *I am Adonai who sanctifies you*—The dedication of all our heart and spirit in community to the will of God is the surest means by which each of us shall be lifted up in peace and lovingkindness as a creature created in the image of God.

\* Leviticus 22:32 (in Emor)