

## Elohai N'shama

אֱלֹהֵי, נְשָׁמָה שְׁנַתַּתָּ בִּי טְהוֹרָה הִיא. אַתָּה בְּרָאתָהּ, אַתָּה יָצַרְתָּהּ, אַתָּה נִפְחַתָּהּ  
בִּי, וְאַתָּה מְשַׁמְרָהּ בְּקִרְבִּי.

E-lo-hai n'sha-ma she-na-ta-ta bi t'ho-ra hi. A-ta v'ra-ta a-ta y'tzar-ta, a-ta n'fakh-ta bi,  
v'a-ta m'sham-ra b'kir-bi. E-lo-hai n'sha-ma she-na-ta-ta bi t'ho-ra hi.

My God, the soul You placed in me is pure. You created it, You fashioned it, You breathed it into me, You keep it in me.

## D'rash

**My God, the soul You placed in me is pure**—*The part within me that is created uniquely in Your image, both separating and joining me with all the rest of Your creation, is “capable of all that is good and pure, holy and divine” (S.R. Hirsch)—not limited in any way. You created it, You fashioned it, You breathed it into me, You keep it in me*—*That I am capable of goodness and holiness is not my virtue but Your continuing gift.*

## Iyun Tefilla

### DON'T PUT OUT THE LIGHT

For You  
Who made the light  
And blew it into me,  
Who gave me  
My soul  
To be a lantern  
In Your hand,  
Saying,  
Don't put out the light!  
Let me keep pure  
This filament,  
My body.  
Let it be  
According  
To Your will,  
A sheath for light,  
That I may lift  
My lamp  
Into Your hands.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.