

Afterthoughts

- Yocheved Bienenfeld

BOREI N'FASHOT RABOT #3

Aside from the previous entries on this blessing, another understanding of it can be gleaned from the insights of Rav Soloveitchik zt"l:

ET SH'NEI HAM'OROT HAG'DOLIM - "Gd's diminution of the Moon, P'GIMAT HAL'VANA, is symbolic of the fact that Gd left Creation incomplete. This imperfection is reflected in the fact that Man constantly struggles with nature and its catastrophes. Nature's hostility to Man is represented by P'GIMAT HAL'VANA. Gd wants Man to rule and be victorious over nature. Man must symbolically reverse P'GIMAT HAL'VANA and thus become a partner with Gd in Creation." (Chumash Masoret HaRav, B'reishit p.9)

The blessing that admits imperfection and lack of completion - BOREI N'FASHOT RABOT V'CHESRONAN - who creates many souls and their lackings - indicates that that is exactly how Gd wanted the world to be. Indeed, He wanted Man to partner with Him in the completing of the work and, in so doing, L'HACHAYOT BAHAM NEFESH KOL CHAI - to give life through them to all living beings; to add life to ourselves as individuals

and to Creation as well.

Seeing Gd as an integral part of this process with us is also evident in the words of this blessing. He created His many souls on this Earth with CHESRONOT, with needs and lacks, for one purpose, L'HACHAYOT BAHAM NEFESH KOL CHAI, to enable them to achieve true life - in this world and in the next. For, in effect, by creating us incomplete, Gd has set up a situation where we must turn to Him, relate to Him and ask Him for help in fulfilling these needs. As such, we must be constantly mindful of, and in touch with, Him. And this connectedness with Him, this ever-present consciousness is what gives our lives true meaning and value and paves the way for our share in the world to come.