

What Tahara Can Teach Us

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אֱלֹהֵי נְשָׁמָה, שְׁכֵרִית

Elohai Neshama, Daily Morning Prayers

1

אֱלֹהֵי נְשָׁמָה שְׁנַתַּת בִּי טְהוֹרָה הִיא

My God! The soul [breathe of life] which You have given me is pure
[ready to engage in sacred action]

2

1. How do you relate to this teaching that each day our souls are renewed and restored to readiness for sacred service?
2. What does sacred service look like in your life?

Guidelines for Performing Tahara

prepared for the Chevra Kadisha of Northern New Mexico, Richard Light

“ _____ (name of the deceased), please forgive us for any indignity you may have suffered at the hands of this Chevra Kadisha in our efforts to usher you from this world to the next. We acted in good faith and did this work for the sake of All That Is Holy.”

At this time each member of the Chevra Kadisha* has the opportunity to ask the deceased for forgiveness.

*Chevra Kadisha: team that ritually prepares a body after death

Chevra Kadisha: Sacred Societies

We hold the dignity of each person who has been killed in Israel/Palestine alongside our actions for the sake of All That Is

Holy for ceasefire and a true and lasting peace.

1. What are ways that you seek to honor the dignity of each person who has died?
2. What would it look or feel like to ask forgiveness of the dead for any unintentional harm we may have caused in our living, our remembering, our sacred service?