

Man—Body, Spirit, Soul

The Scriptures recognise man as composed of two elements, body and spirit. These two produce soul, sentient being, intelligence, the man himself, the being, or soul. The term “body” applies merely to the physical organism. It neither relates to the life which animates it, nor to the sentient being which is the result of animation. A body is not a man, although there could be no man without a body. The spirit of life is not the man; although there could be no manhood without the spirit of life. The word “spirit” is, in the Old Testament Scriptures, from the Hebrew word ruach. Its signification primarily is breath; and hence we have the expression “breath of life”, or “spirit of life”, because the spark of life once started is supported by breathing.’ —At-One-Ment Between God & Man, p. E307

הֵיכֶמָּא דְלִיתָךְ יָדַע אִיכְדִין יְהִלִּיךְ רוּחַ נְשַׁמְתָּא דְחַיִּי בְּגוּף
עוֹלִימָא שְׁלִילָא דְשָׂרִי בְּמַעֲיָנָא דְאַמִּיהָ מַעְבְּרָא וְהֵיכֶמָּא
דְּלֹא תַנְדַּע אִי דְכַר אִוּ נִוְקְבָא עַד זְמַן דְּאִתְּלִיד הַכְּדִין
לִיתָךְ יָדַע יְתָ עוֹבְדָא דִּי דְעַבְד בְּחֻכְמָתָא יְתָ כּוֹלָא:

ARAMAIC TARGUM TO ECCLESIASTES 11:5
SEFARIA COMMUNITY TRANSLATION

Just as you do not know how the breath of the spirit of life enters the body [of an embryo] which is lying in its pregnant mother's womb, and as you do not know if it will be male or female until the time it is born, so you do not know the work of הַי who does everything in His wisdom.

I WILL PRAISE THEE; FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS; AND THAT MY SOUL KNOWETH RIGHT WELL.

(PSALMS 139:14)

