



Created in Your Image: a Blessing for Inclusion

by Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer | November 2020

*Makor HaChayim, Source of Life,
You created human beings in your image,
B'tzelem Elohim**

Each one of us a unique creation —
genetic material that holds a *neshamah***
a soul that is pure.

Our bodies and our minds
are different and diverse creations —
Full of strengths and vulnerabilities,
talents, challenges, abilities, struggles.

Some of us born into our bodies needing help
to move, to see, to hear, to talk, to eat.
Some of us will take our bodies and minds for granted
until they change with age,
reminding us that there are times
when we all need support.

The human body is a vessel that we can see, but deeper,
what is constant and in common among us all
is the unseen —
the souls that You have placed within us.

*Makor HaChayim, Source of Life,
Help us to encounter one another
as that pure soul created in Your image;
that we see ourselves and one another
as B'tzelem Elohim.*

**B'tzelem Elohim: In Genesis 1:27, we read that God created human beings in God's own image.*

***Neshamah: A Hebrew word meaning 'soul.'*

