What’s Love Got to Do With It? Love – self, divine and everything in between with Naomi Less

How does Judaism deal with love? Our tradition gives us ample opportunity in Liturgy and the Torah. How do the ancients’ words stack up to our modern concepts of love? Using text as inspiration, Naomi Less writes music that delves deep into love, its sources and manifestations in life.

Self-love:

Elohai Neshama - authorless
Elohai Neshama Sh’natata Bi
Elohai Neshama Tehorah hi

My god My soul My breath that you placed in me
My god My soul My breath is pure and free

The Real Me - by Naomi Less

Love of the Divine:

Adon Olam – Attributed to Solomon ibn Gabirol, Rav Hai Gaon and even to Yohanan ben Zakkai

In the hand I commit my spirit/in the time of sleep and awakening, even if my spirit leaves/G-d is with me, I shall not fear.

Spread Your Love – Hashkiveinu

“Help us, God, to lie down in peace, and awaken us to life again. Spread over us your shelter of peace, guide us with your good counsel. Save us because of your mercy. Shield us from enemies and disease, starvation, violence and sorrow. Remove the evil forces that surround us.”

Dah – Know before whom you stand - Talmud Mashechet Brachos 28b

Love of others:

What You Give – Ahava Rabbah

Deep is Your love for us, abiding Your compassion. We have put our trust in You, and You have taught us the laws of life. Be gracious to us so that we may understand and follow the teachings of Your word.

An Unending Love - by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

“We are loved by an unending love.
We are embraced by arms that find us -even when we are hidden from ourselves.
We are touched by fingers that soothe us - even when we are too proud for soothing.
We are counseled by voices that guide us - even when we are too embittered to hear.
We are loved by an unending love.
We are supported by hands that uplift us - even in the midst of a fall.
We are urged on by eyes that meet us - even when we are too weak for meeting.
We are loved by an unending love.
Embraced, touched, soothed, and counseled, - Ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices;
Ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles; - We are loved by an unending love.”

Because You’re near me - by Naomi Less

Questions? Stay in touch: www.naomiless.com naomiless@gmail.com