

*Veahatah le'reyaha TRADITIONAL Hebrew text*

(Kol Haneshamah p. 151) Leviticus: 19:18

*Ve-ahavtah le-rey'aha kamohah* וְאַהֲבַתְּ לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ

*VARIATION 1*

*Ve-ahavti le-rey'i kamoni* וְאַהֲבַתִּי לְרֵעִי כְּמוֹנִי

*VARIATION 2*

*Ve-ahavu le-rey'eynu kamonu* וְאַהֲבוּ לְרֵעֵינוּ כְּמוֹנוּ

## Leviticus 19:18 Ve-ahavtah

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And you shall love your fellow-creature (friend, neighbor)  
as yourself

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This innovative prayer in Kol Haneshamah siddur is one of the first statements of the Morning Service. It comes from a Sephardic variant from Ashkenazic traditional liturgy, recited before coming together as a community for davvening. On page 150 in Commentary below the line, R. Arthur Green explains that only by obligating ourselves to love others as ourselves are we allowed to enter the human community of prayer.

**V.1**

And I shall love my fellow (friend, neighbor, human) as myself. (Variation: first person singular)

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This variation changes the second person obligatory quotation of the traditional Hebrew text in KH to a first person singular affirmation. See below.

**V.2**

And we shall love our fellow-creatures (friends, neighbors, humans) as ourselves. (Variation: first person plural)

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This variation changes the text to a first person plural affirmation.