

A Partner in Creation

בְּשֶׁעָה שָׁבָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא לְבָרוֹת אָדָם הִרְאִישׁוֹן נִמְלָךְ
בְּמַלְאָכֵי הַשָּׁרֵת. אָמַר לָהֶם: 'נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם' אָמְרוּ לוֹ: אָדָם זֶה
מָה טִיבוֹ? אָמַר לָהֶם: חֲכָמְתוֹ מְרַבָּה מִשְׁלָכֶם. הִבִּיא לְפָנֵיהֶם
אֶת הַבְּהֵמָה וְאֶת הַחַיָּה וְאֶת הָעוֹף. אָמַר לָהֶם: זֶה, מָה שְׁמוֹ?
וְלֹא הָיוּ יוֹדְעִין. הֶעֱבִירוֹ לְפָנֵי אָדָם. אָמַר לוֹ: זֶה, מָה שְׁמוֹ?
אָמַר: זֶה שׁוֹר, זֶה חֲמוֹר, זֶה סוּס, וְזֶה גָּמֶל. וְאֵתָהּ, מָה שְׁמֶךָ?
אָמַר לוֹ אֲנִי נֹאֵה לְהַקְרִיא אָדָם שְׁנִבְרָאתִי מִן הָאֲדָמָה. וְאֲנִי
מָה שְׁמִי? אָמַר לוֹ: לָךְ נֹאֵה לְהַקְרִיא אָדוֹנִי שְׁאֵתָה אָדוֹן לְכָל
בְּרִיּוֹתֶיךָ

When the Holy One, blessed be He, decided to create the first human, he took counsel with the ministering angels. He said to them: *Let us make humankind* (Genesis 1:26). They said to him: This human, what is his nature? He replied: His wisdom is greater than yours. God brought before the angels: cattle, wild animals and birds. He said to them: This one, what is its name? But they did not know. He paraded them past the human. The Holy One said to the human: This one, what is its name? He replied: This is an ox, this is a donkey. This is a horse and this, a camel. And you, God asked, what is your name? He responded: I am aptly called Human for I came from the humus [soil]. And what is my name? asked God. Adam said: For you it is fitting to be called Adonai, as you are the Adon/Master of all your creations.

Genesis Rabbah 17:4 as translated by Steven G. Sager