

## MIDRASH: The First Song of Praise.

*When was the first song of all and who sang it?*

*The masters of old teach that the first song was sung at the beginning of history.*

*The first man, Adam, sang it when his sin was forgiven.*

*The Lord had created heaven and earth in six days.*

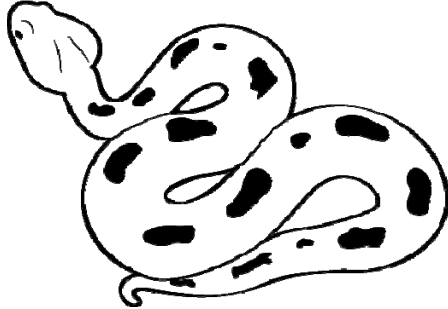
*On the sixth day, to complete His creation,*

*He gave life to man and woman.*

*So that they would live in happiness*

*He put them in the Garden of Eden.*

*But there was someone who was jealous of their happiness:*



*the serpent of old who is more cunning than any other creature.*

*He did not waste any time: straight way he laid his trap*

*and the man and the woman foolishly fell for his trick.*

*Dusk was falling,*

*the first Sabbath of the world, the seventh day, was about to begin.*

*Adam was banished from the Garden of Eden.*

*And to make sure that no-one would go in*

*God posted cherubim with flaming swords to stand guard over the garden.*

*Full of anger and horrified at the sin of man, they shouted,*

*“Don’t let Adam live through the night!*

*He wanted to know death; wild animals will tear him to pieces!”*

*Already ferocious animals were opening their jaws,*

*ready to make justice on the man and the woman.*

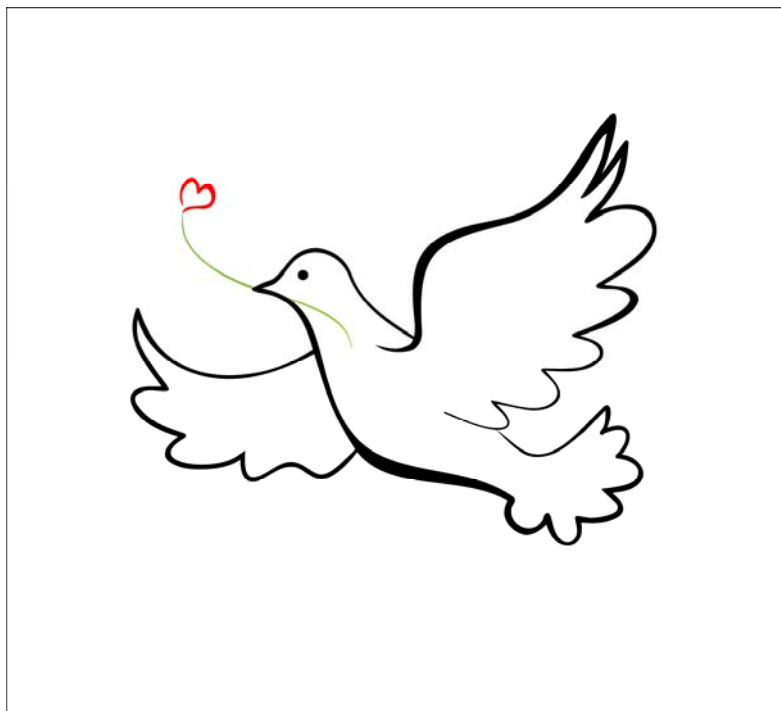
*Then Sabbath – it was the first Sabbath – presented herself before the Most High, as the defender of the first man.*

*“Sovereign of the world,” said the Sabbath,*



*“In the first six days that you created  
death did not appear in the world.  
Do you really want to begin with me?  
Was it not written of me:  
‘So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy’?  
Is this making it holy? Is this your blessing?”*

*God listened to the Sabbath day  
and withdrew the condemnation of Adam.  
Adam saw the power of the Sabbath,  
opened his mouth in amazement and said,  
“I will sing for the Sabbath day.”  
And he went on: “It is good to give praise to the Lord,  
To sing to Your Name, O Most High....  
How great are Your works, Lord!” - as it is written in Psalm 92.  
God was pleased with this first song  
but even more pleased because he had created something new:*



*FORGIVENESS*