



Yeshiva University

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Office of the President

20th Nov 1954

Mr. Stuart Fischman  
POB 1190  
Efrat, Israel

Dear Stuart Fischman י"נ:

Thanks for your recent letter inquiring about R. Hayyim's use of נשמתא דנשמתא.

I do not have before me the Sondel Berman edition of the נפש החיים, but any standard text will confirm the changes in gender which you observed.

In פרק כ"ח, 4 mentions of the term including the possessive (i.e., דיילה, דיליה) and 3 without the possessive. Of the first 4, three are feminine, one masculine. Possibly, the change is consistent, in that the three feminines all refer to a feminine noun, such as חכמה, תורה, סתרי תורה; the single masculine refers to Abraham. Over all, however, one can't make too much of such grammatical changes, because most of our *Gedolim* of that period (and later too!) were not overly attentive to grammatical niceties. They did not bother with gender distinctions, singular-plural, etc.

Nevertheless, it is encouraging to know that people, such as yourself, study important and sacred works of our *Gedolim* with such analytic attention to details. ירבו כמותך בישראל!

With best wishes for a happy Purim and, shortly thereafter a חג כשר ושמח,

NORMAN LAMM