

## Le'Ovdah ULShomrah (Ki Ha'Adam Etz HaSadeh)

Music and words by Rabbi Jonah Rank

Steady towards action ♩ = 100

C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7

Why are we here on the a - da - mah? Here's why we're here on the a - da -

E C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7 E

4 mah: Le - ov - dah ul - shom - rah. Le - ov - dah ul - shom - rah. Serve the

C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7 E

9 land, and keep it too, For the whole world is a part of you. Ki ha - a -

C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7 E

13 dam etz ha - sa - deh. Ki ha - a - dam etz ha - sa - deh. We can, we

C#m7 Bm7 E Cm7 Bm7 E

17 must, Keep the air clean. We can, we must keep the wa - ter clean. We can, we

C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7 E

21 must, pro-TECT our bi - omes. We can, we must, keep Earth our home. Le - ov -

C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7 E C#m7 Bm7

25 dah ul - shom - rah. Le - ov - dah ul - shom - rah. Ki ha - a - dam etz ha - sa -

E C#m7 Bm7 E

30 deh. Ki ha - a - dam etz ha - sa - deh.

Le'Ovdah ULShomrah (Ki Ha'Adam Etz HaSadeh)  
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C#m7

Why are we here

Bm7 E (repeat)

On the *adamah*?

Here's why we're here

On the *adamah*:

Le'ovdah

Ulshomrah.

Le'ovdah

Ulshomrah.

Serve the land,

And keep it too—

For the whole world

Is a part of you.

Ki Ha'adam

Etz HaSadeh.

Ki Ha'adam

Etz HaSadeh.

We can—we must—

Keep the air clean.

We can—we must—

Keep the water clean.

We can—we must—

Protect all biomes.

We can—we must—

Keep Earth our home.

Le'ovdah

Ulshomrah.

Le'ovdah

Ulshomrah.

Ki Ha'adam

Etz HaSadeh.

Ki Ha'adem

Etz HaSadeh.

Some Hebrew notes:

*Adamah* means “ground” or “Earth.”

*Le'ovdah ulshomrah* is a phrase that comes from Genesis 2:15: “The Lord took the human and placed humanity [on Earth] in the Garden of Eden *le'ovdah ulshomrah* [‘to serve it and to protect it’].”

*Ki ha'adam etz hassadeh* is a phrase that comes from Deuteronomy 20:19: “When you siege a city for many days to fight it, to capture it, do not destroy its tree, laying against it an axe, for you may eat of it, and you shall not uproot; *ki ha'adam etz hassadeh* [‘for is the tree of a field a human’] coming towards you in a siege?” We translate here *ki ha'adam etz hassadeh* slightly differently: “for humanity is a tree of the field.”

Taken together, all of this means that *adam* (the Hebrew word for “humanity”) has been charged with the responsibility of caring for the planet. If *adam* cannot care for the world, there can be no *adamah*, but *adam* can and must grant longevity and security to the *adamah*.