

Our shiur began with the Mishnah which deals with several Halochos regarding the Chazzan who is leading the davening. We must remember that in the time of the Gemorah, there were no siddurim, and the davening was done by heart. Zugt de Mishnah;

העובר לפני התיבה וטעה - If the chazzan made a mistake, as Rashi explains, he left out a brocho, and is unable to go back and resume davening,

יעבור אחר תחתיו another person should take his place. However, ולא יהא סרבן באותה שעה - he should not decline at that time.

As the Gemora brings a Braiso; generally one should decline the first request to lead the davening. This is done to show that he feels unworthy of the honor to lead the davening. After the second request he should indicate some willingness. Only after the third request should he go to the Amud. In this case however, he should not decline at all, since prolonging the interruption, would be disrespectful of the T'fillah.







The Mishnah continues;

הה שטעה הברכה מתחיל, מתחיל - He begins from the brocho that the first person omitted. This is explained in the gemorah.

Out of concern that the chazzan might get confused, the Mishnah teaches another two Halochos.

לא יענה אמן אחר הכהנים מפני הטירוף He should not answer Amein, with the tzibbur, after each one of the Brochos of Birchas Kohanim, lest he become confused.

3 ואם אין שם כהן אלא הוא, לא ישא את כפיו - Even if he is the only Kohein, he should not perform Birchas Kohanim, because he might get confused and will be unable to continue the davening.

ואם הבטחתו שהוא נושא את כפיו וחוזר לתפלתו רשאי - If he is confident that he will be able to resume his davening, he may perform Birchas Kohanim, if there are no other Kohanim.

The משנה continues...

מהיכן הוא מתחיל מתחלת הברכה שמעה זה

He BEGINS from the ברכה

the first person OMITTED

Out of concern

the might get CONFUSED...

לא יענה אמן אחר הכהנים מפני המירוף

He should

NOT answer

מfter the הרכת כהנים מ



Regarding the halocho of going back to the brocho that was omitted, the Gemora elaborates/explains as follows; The Shmoneh Esrei is divided into three segments.

- The first 3 Brochos -
- The middle brochos -
- The last 3 brochos -

As Rav Chanina taught;

רבו לעבד שמסדר שבח לפני רבו - When reciting the first storochos we are like a servant praising his Master as we begin to present our T'fillah.

פרס מרבו - The middle brochos are when/where we make our requests from Hashem.
- When we recite the last 3 brochos we are like a servant who had his requests fulfilled, and thanks his Master as he takes leave of Him.





Review



Therefore, says Rav Yehuda:
לעולם אל ישאל אדם צרכיו לא בשלש ראשונות ולא בשלש אחרונות אלא
באמצעיות

One should not make personal requests during the first or last segment, because they are for the purpose of praise and thanks, respectively. Rather, we should add our personal requests during the middle brochos which are requests. The Ritva adds, that those requests should be inserted in the brocho that relates to those matters.



As a result, where the second chazzan begins, depends as follows; טעה בשלש ראשונות חוזר לראש - If the first chazzan omitted/left out one of the first 3 brochos, the second chazzan has to start from the very beginning of Shmoneh Esrei. As Tosfos explain, since they are one inyan of שבח they are like one long brocho.

Likewise; טעה בשלש אחרונות חוזר לעבודה - If he omitted/left out one of the last 3 brochos, the second chazzan has to start from אבד, the beginning of the third segment. Here too, since they are one inyan of הודאה, they are like one long brocho. באמצעיות - If he omitted one of the middle brochos, we have a machlokes.









7 Rav Huna holds, חוזר לאתה חונן - He must start from the first brocho of the middle brochos. Because, like the ג' ראשונות and the ג' אחרונות and the אכוצעיות - the first and last segments, he considers the אכוצעיות - the middle brochos, one complete segment.

Rav Assi holds, אכזצעיות אין להן סדר - The middle brochos are not required to be in order.

Therefore, according to Rashi, the second chazzan just says the omitted brocho, and then continues from where the previous chazzan left off, even though the omitted brocho is now out of order. According to Tosfos, the second chazzan goes back to the omitted brocho, and continues from there in order.

The Gemora continues with various halochos of T'fillah. First, the gemora relates two incidents which indicate, that at times it is preferred to engage in lengthy prayer, and sometimes - when appropriate - one should rather say a very short t'fillah.

Both are learned from Moshe Rabbeinu. After the חטא העגל, he went back up to heaven, and was מתפלל ארבעים יום וארבעים לילה forty days and forty nights. When he was לילה Miriam, he said a brief prayer of 5 words, קל נא רפא נא לה. The Gemorah also learns from this posuk, that when you pray for someone in their presence, you need not mention their name, as Moshe did not mention Miriam by name.

The gemorah now teaches the rules of bowing during certain brochos.

ת"ר אלו ברכות שאדם שוחה בהן, באבות תחלה וסוף, בהודאה תחלה וסוף One bows at the beginning and end of the first brocho of shmoneh esrei, which is called Avos. One also bows at the beginning and end of the brocho of Modim. An ordinary person should not bow at the other brochos.









Review



However, we have a machlokes in the gemorah regarding a Kohein Gadol and a Melech.

According to the first opinion, the Kohein Gadol bows at the end of every brocho, and the king bows at the beginning and end of every brocho.

The second opinion is, that the Kohein gadol bows at the beginning and end of every brocho. The king, after having bowed at first, remains bowed until the end of shmoneh esrei. Rashi explains, that the greater he is, he must show more humility before Hashem.

Since we mentioned bowing, the gemora explains, there are 3 Hebrew expressions of bowing. Each describes a different type of bow.

- bowing and bringing the face to the ground - crimber - going down on the knees - crimber - lying down, fully on the ground

The next Mishnah continues the discussion of errors during davening.

Zugt de Mishnah;

המתפלל וטעה סימן רע לו - If one makes a mistake during shmoneh esrei, it's a bad omen for him. And if he is the Chazzan, it's a bad omen for the entire tzibbur/congregation, for he is their שליח - their agent.

The Gemorah explains, that this applies only to אבות, the first Brocho. As Rashi explains, since it is the beginning of Shmoneh Esrei, the error is an indication from Above that his prayers are not wanted.









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The gemorah brings another Halocho which applies only to the first brocho of אבות.

The Braissah says, that ideally one should fully concentrate during the entire shmoneh esrei. However, ואם אינו יכול לכוין - If he cannot concentrate during all the brochos, he should concentrate at least during one brocho. This one brocho is the first brocho of אבות.

The Mishnah quotes ר' חנינא בן דוסא who would say after his davening for the sick - זה חי וזה מת- this one will live, and this one will die. When asked how he knows, he explained; אם שגורה תפלתי בפי יודע אני שהוא מקובל - If my tfillah is fluent in my mouth, then I know it was accepted. If it is not fluent, then I know that it was not accepted.





The gemrah relates two stories, which show the great סד of R' Chanina ben Dosa.

כ מעשה שחלה בנו של רבן גמליאל - The son of R' Gamliel once got sick, and R' Gamliel sent two Talmidei Chachomim to R' Chanina ben Dosa, so that he should be mispalel for him. R' Chanina ben Dosa went up to his attic and davened for him. Upon coming down, he said to them;

חמה אחלצתו שחלצתו you can go back to R' **G**amliel, for his fever has let up.

אמה לו וכי נביא אתה - They said to him, "Are you a prophet?" אמר להן - He said to them; אנכי ולא בן נביא אנכי לא נביא אנכי ולא להן - I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet.

אלא כך מקובלני - However, I have a tradition אלא כך מקובלני - אלא מקובל, ואם או יודע אני שהוא אם שגורה תפלתי בפי יודע אני שהוא יודע אני שהוא - If my tfillah is fluent in my mouth, then I know it was accepted. If it is not fluent, then I know that it was not accepted.

These two messengers marked down the time when R' Chanina ben Dosa said this. When they got back to R' Gamliel, he said; It was at that exact time that his fever abated and he asked for some water to drink.

מעשה שחלה בנו של רבן גמליאל...

תלמידי חכמים sent two רבן גמליאל to
מתפלל he should be ר' חנינא בן דומא
מתפלל went up to his ATTIC and davened
Upon coming down He said

שמרו לבו שחלצתו חמה
אמרו לו His fever has let up
אמרו לבו שחלצתו חמה
אמרו לו Are you a prophet?
אמר להן
אמר להן אלא כך מקובלני
אמר לא נביא אנכי ולא בן נביא אנכי
אם שגורה תפלתי בפי יודע אני שהוא מקובל
ואם לאו יודע אני שהוא מפורף
ואם לאו יודע אני שהוא מפורף

The messengers

marked down the time he said this

It was at that EXACT time
his fever abated
and asked for some water



Review



16 ושוב מעשה - And another story;

R' Chanina ben Dosa went to learn Torah from R' Yochanan ben Zakai. At that time, the son of R' Yochanan ben Zakai got sick, and R' Yochanan ben Zakai asked R' Chanina ben Dosa to daven for him.

הניח ראשו בין ברכיו ובקש עליו רחמים וחיה - R' Chanina ben Dosa placed his head between his knees, davened for him and he lived. R' Yochanan ben Zakai remarked, had I done that, even all day, it would not have helped. Upon which, his wife asked him וכי חנינא גדול ממך is Chanina, your student, greater than you? He replied "No." However,

הוא דומה כעבד לפני המלך ואני דומה כער לפני המלך. He is like a servant before the king, who is a member of his household, and goes in and out of the king's chambers all the time. Therefore his T'fillah was readily accepted. I am like a minister who only sees the king for important matters and by appointment, and therefore is not always heard.

הדרך עלך אין עומדין



הדרך עלך אין עומדין



