

Today we began the seventh perek שלשה שאכלו כאחת חייבין לזמן שלשה Our mishna began by teaching that three people who eat a meal together should join together in saying ברכת המזון - ברכת המזון ברכת המזון.

3 people מתני... שלשה שאכלו כאחת חייבין לזמן

3 people who eat together

Join together for

ברכת המזון

ברכת המזון

The mishna then goes on to list numerous types of people and foods - when eaten exclusively - that cannot be counted as part of a Zimon group.

One who ate forbidden food, such as out cannot count as one of three people of the zimun group. Also, a waiter who ate less than a k'zayis cannot join a zimun group, and neither can a Gentile, an eved, a woman, or a minor count towards the required three people in a zimun group.



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Review



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אתמר - שנים שאכלו כאחד

While it is clear from the Mishnah that there is no obligation for a group of only two people to join in zimun, the Gemara cites a dispute as to whether two people are permitted to join together for Bircas Hazimun if they so wish.

רב יוחנן and רב

חד אמר אם רצו לזמן מזמנין

חד אמר אם רצו לזמן אין מזמנין

The gemora explains that even according to the one that says מזמנין - they only permitted but not obligated, whereas with three there is an obligation. Therefore once there are three we say דקבעו להו חובה that an obligation was established and therefore אין רשאין לחלק one may not leave the group, since the remaining two will only have a leser, voluntary zimon, as opposed to a חיוב for zimon.

The Gemara then goes on to say, regarding a zimun of three, if one of them leaves the room, the remaining two men can perform zimun by calling out to him - as he answers ברוך from afar, wherever he is.











However, regarding a zimun with ten people, if one person leaves the room, that person cannot answer from afar, for since in the case of a מנין, Hashem's name is mentioned, as they say: ברוך "אלוקינו" שאכלנו משלו – the zimun blessing may not be recited unless all ten people are together in the same room!

Regarding a

If one leaves...

...he CANNOT answer from afar

Since they say:

ברוך "אלוקינו" שאכלנו משלו

The Gemara cites a Baraisa that teaches that when only two people eat together, instead of three or more, then each person should recite his own Bircas Hamazon. However, if one of them is an ignorant person who does not know how to recite recite Bircas Hamazon, then he may be yotzei by listening to his friend recite it for him, even though there is no zimun group of three.



Rava teaches that when there is a group of three people eating together, and two of them finish their meal and are ready to bentch, it is proper for the third person to interrupt his meal and answer the zimun blessing, thereby allowing the other two to bentch. However, in the reverse case, where only one person is ready to bentch, the other two people need not interrupt their meal to answer zimun for the third person.

The Gemara then cites an incident in which Rav Pappa and another person interrupted their meal to answer zimun for a third person, and the Gemara explains that they actually were not obligated to do so since two need not interrupt their meal for a third person, but they interrupted their meal anyway, for they conducted themselves Ifnim m'shuras haDin.









The Gemara cites an incident where three Rabbonim of equal stature כרכי ריפתא בהדי - ate together but did not join in zimun, because לא הוה בהו חד דהוה מופלג מחבריה לברוכי להו - they believed that zimun is reserved for cases where there is one person in the group who is markedly greater than the others, so that he can lead the zimun.

Meriemar, however, informed them that they were wrong, for he said that there is always an obligation to perform zimun, even when everyone in the group is of equal stature. Meriemar also told them that since they already recited Bircas HaMazon, they forfeited the mitzvah of zimum, אין היטון למפרע - because zimun can only be recited prior to bentching, but not afterwards.



The Gemara then discusses

say upon hearing a group of three people reciting zimun: The Gemara concludes that if he is present at the beginning of the zimun blessing and he hears the leader say נברך שאכלנו ברך שאכלנו – which means he should say: ברוך ומבורך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד – which means he should say: ברוך ומבורך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד And if he first encountered the zimun group later while they were already answering: אמן אמן ובטובו חיינו he should simply answer to their blessing.









The Gemara then discusses when one should answer Amen after his own berachah.

The Gemara concludes that as a general rule, one should not answer Amen after his own berachah except in the case of the the bracha of בונה ירושלים in Bircas Hamazon. Amen is recited at that point in Bentching to indicate that the Biblical portion of Bircas HaMazon ends with blessing בונה ירושלים, and the next brachah, בונה יחטוב והמטיב is only of Rabbinic orgin.



Our daf concludes with the Gemara relating that Abaya would customarily recite the Amen after שנוה ירושלים out loud - to indicate to the laborers that they were permitted to stop bentching and return to their work at that point (for the Sages did not require laborers to recite the rabbinic blessing of הטוב).

Rav Ashi, on the other hand, was careful to recite the Amen after boneh Yerushalayim quietly precisly because he did not want people to be lax with the recitation of the following berachah of הטוב והמיטב.





