

הלכות תפילה (סימן קטו: טעם ברכת אתה חונן)

קטו:א

Outline

1. Today's Topics
 - a. The First Request of אתה חונן
2. (קטו:א) טעם ברכת אתה חונן
 - a. Since man is greater than animal with respect to his intellect and his understanding, therefore, חז"ל established "אתה חונן" as the first of the middle ברכות for if there is no intellect, then there cannot be (שו"ע) תפילה
 - i. Q: What are alternative explanations for the ordering of the ברכות (א) במשנ"ב (א) (סדר היום מובא במשנ"ב א)
 1. אתה חונן is first because wisdom because it is most essential for man in order to reject the bad and choose the good (משנ"ב שם) or because it is prohibited to have mercy on someone who lacks דעת (ברכ"י הע' 1) דעת (ברכ"י הע' 1)
 - a. If one forgets his learning, he should elongate this ברכה (הע' 2) (רש"י ע"ז ח. הע' 2)
 2. השיבנו is second because with wisdom one reflects on his sins, and the purpose of the ברכה is to ask Hashem to humble the arrogance of his desire
 3. סלח לנו is third, and one should contemplate his sins
 - a. During this ברכה, we strike our chests at "חטאנו" and "פשענו" (מק"ח הע' 3) (גרשז"א שם) (פשענו" 3) (גרשז"א שם). Moreover, if one recalls a sin that he violated, he should accept upon himself during this ברכה to address it (חפץ חיים בתורת הבית הע' 4)
 4. גאולה is fourth
 5. רפאנו is fifth because as long as one is in distress he will not heal, and the main intent of the ברכה is to ask Hashem for health so that we can be strong to do מצות and learn תורה
 6. פרנסה is sixth because when a person is sick, he doesn't ask for sustenance but when he is healthy, he seeks sustenance to maintain his health. One should have the intent that Hashem should provide for him pleasantly and without prohibition.
 - ii. Q: Why do we say הבדלה during אתה חונן?
 1. To distinguish requires wisdom (משנ"ב שם)
 2. הבינה alludes to הבדלה because it stands for הבדלה (משנ"ב שם) (משנ"ב שם) (משנ"ב שם), יין, נר, הבדלה because it stands for הבדלה (משנ"ב שם)
 - iii. Q: Why is the word "אבינו" used only during השיבנו and סלח לנו?
 1. A father is obligated to learn with his child, and a father has mercy on his child (טור מובא שם)
 - iv. Q: What is the proper pronunciation of "חננו"? (משנ"ב שם)
 1. "חננו" because it is the beginning of the request
 2. "וחננו"