



ברכת האילנות



BRACHAT HA'ILANOT

- The following bracha is said only once a year, during the month of Nissan, on fruit trees in blossom.
- It is not said on flowering trees that do not bear fruit.
- Say the bracha ONLY if you are sure that the trees are fruit-bearing.
- It is not said on fruit trees that already have fruit; only on fruit trees when they display the flower blossoms that precede their fruit.
- It is preferable to say the bracha on at least two trees.
- The bracha should be said with a sense of awe, appreciation, admiration, and joy of HaShem and the world He created for us.
- We specifically acknowledge Him in the presence of fruit trees which delight our senses with their floral displays, even before they provide us with their tasty fruit. We realize that this is an extra-special gift from G-d to us.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
 שֶׁלֹא חָסַר בְּעוֹלָמוֹ דָּבָר, וּבָרָא בּוֹ בְרִיּוֹת
 טוֹבוֹת וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבִים לְהַנּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם:

Some versions have כלום instead of דָּבָר

Some add these T'hilim (122 and 128)

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת לְדָוִד, שֶׁמִּחֲתִי בְּאִמְרִים לִי, בֵּית ה' גִּלְגָּד. עֲמֻדוֹת הָיוּ רַגְלֵינוּ,
 בְּשַׁעְרֵיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם. יְרוּשָׁלַיִם הַבְּנוּיָה, כְּעִיר שֶׁחִבְּרָה לָהּ יַחֲדָו. שֶׁשָּׁם עָלוּ
 שְׂבָטִים שְׂבָטֵי יְהוָה עֵדוֹת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, לְהַדּוֹת לְשֵׁם ה'. כִּי שָׁמָּה יָשְׁבוּ כְּסָאוֹת
 לְמִשְׁפָּט, כְּסָאוֹת לְבֵית דָּוִד. שֶׁאֵלוֹ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, וְשָׁלוֹ אֶהְבִּיךָ. יְהִי שְׁלוֹם
 בְּחֵילֶךָ, שְׁלוֹהַּ בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֶיךָ. לְמַעַן אַחֲזִי וְרַעֲי, אֲדַבְּרָה נָא שְׁלוֹם בְּךָ. לְמַעַן בֵּית
 ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲבַקֶּשׁה טוֹב לְךָ.

שיר המעלות, אשרי כל ירא ה', ההלך בדרךיו. יגיע כפיו כי תאכל, אשריך וטוב לך. אשתך כגפן פריה בירפתי ביתך, בנך כשתלי זיתים, סביב לשלחנה. הנה כי כן יברך גבר, ירא ה'. יברכה ה' מציון, וראה בטוב ירושלים, כל ימי חייה. וראה בנים לבניה, שלום על ישראל.

We already know that trees are special - we had TU BISHVAT, the Rosh HaShana for Trees. Think of it this way: Trees provide us with nourishing and delicious fruit. DAYENU! That would be enough to thank HaShem for. And we do, every time we eat a fruit and say BOREI P'RI HA'EITZ. And when the fruit is the first of the season, we are so excited that we say an additional bracha: SHEHECHEYANU. Many fruits also have a pleasant fragrance. That's a bonus. An extra gift from G-d for our enjoyment. And we have a bracha for that too: HANOTEIN REI'ACH TOV BAPEIROT (which is said if you are only smelling the fruit - if you are eating it, the pleasant smell is considered incidental and does not get its own bracha). There is also a b'racha for seeing a magnificent forest: SHEKACHA LO B'OLAMO. And that HaShem provided us with a beautiful fragrant display of flowers BEFORE the tree yields its fruit - this is an extra bonus, which we acknowledge once a year with BIRKAT HA-ILANOT.



The gemara in Taanit (5b-6a) tells of a visit by Rav Nachman to the home of Rabi Yitzchak, where they discussed several halachic issues.

When they were taking leave of one another, Rav Nachman said to Rabbi Yitzchak: Master, give me a blessing. Rabbi Yitzchak said to him: I will tell you a parable.



To what is this matter comparable? It is comparable to one who was walking through a desert and who was hungry, tired, and thirsty. And he found a tree whose fruits were sweet and whose shade was pleasant, and a stream of water flowed beneath it. He ate from the fruits of the tree, drank from the water in the stream, and sat in the shade of the tree.

And when he wished to leave, he said: Tree, tree, with what shall I bless you? If I say to you that your fruits should be sweet, your fruits are already sweet; if I say that your shade should be pleasant, your shade is already pleasant; if I say that a stream of water should flow beneath you, a stream of water already flows beneath you. Rather, I will bless you as follows: May it be God's will that all saplings which they plant from you be like you. So it is with you. With what shall I bless you? If I bless you with Torah, you already have Torah; if I bless you with wealth, you already have wealth; if I bless you with children, you already have children. Rather, may it be God's will that your offspring shall be like you.

Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks to God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

