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Mishna Berura
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סימן קצ"ח סעיף א'

Halacha Highlight

Responding to a zimun if one did not eat

Shulchan Aruch Siman 198 Seif 1
ונכנס אחד שלא אכל
And someone entered who did not eat

The topic of this siman is one who hears others reciting zimun when he did not eat with them. Shulchan Aruch rules that his response depends upon when arrived. If he arrives as the leader says: נברך שאכלנו משלו he should respond ברוך ומבורך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד. Many people add the word הוא and the phrase begins ברוך הוא ומבורך (פסקי תשובות הע' 1). If he arrives when the rest of the people in the zimun are responding ברוך שאכלנו משלו he should respond אמן. These responses are appropriate only if the person who appears did not eat or drink anything. If he ate or drank, even water (ערוך השלחן סע' ב'), he may answer ברוך שאכלנו. Mishnah Berurah (סק"א) relates that Pri Megadim was uncertain whether one who only drank may answer a zimun of ten people with Hashem's Name and leaves the matter unresolved. Other Poskim do not qualify this halacha and simply rule that one who ate or drank may respond to the zimun with the standard responses. However, one must eat at least an olive's volume or drink a revi'is to be able to respond with the standard response. If one ate or drank less than the minimum quantity or if one ate more than that quantity but already recited a beracha acharona he should use the response of one who did not eat at all (פסקי תשובות אות א').

Mishnah Berurah (סק"ו) writes that one who is present during the recitation of birkas hamazon at a sheva brachos should answer: ברוך א-לוקינו ומברך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד שהשמחה במעונו. Some authorities question the formulation of this wording and contend that this formulation is inaccurate and the correct reading is: ברוך א-לוקינו שהשמחה במעונו ומברך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד (חיי משה).

Overview

Siman 198 Seif 1:

If three people ate together and are reciting birkas hamazon and someone who did not eat arrives, if when he arrives the one leading the zimun is saying נברך שאכלנו משלו he should respond ברוך ומבורך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד. If he arrives when the others are responding ברוך שאכלנו משלו he should respond אמן. The same is true regarding all berachos that one hears, meaning that one must answer אמן. **If there are ten people he should respond ברוך א-לוקינו ומבורך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד. The same halacha applies if he was present when they finished eating and he did not join them with regards to his response to the leader or those responding to the leader.**

- If one drank he may respond ברוך שאכלנו even though he was not part of their group since drinking is included in eating. However, Pri Megadim is uncertain whether he may include Hashem's Name if there are ten people. (M.B. 1)
- If one hears the leader say ברוך שאכלנו משלו he should answer אמן again. (M.B. 4)
- There is a disagreement whether one should answer אמן if one arrives and the leader already began ברוך שאכלנו. (M.B. 4)
- At sheva berachos one responds: ברוך א-לוקינו ומברך שמו תמיד לעולם ועד שהשמחה במעונו. (M.B. 6)