The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן רכ"ג סעיף ב'-ג'

Overview

Siman 223 Seif 2:

When one's father dies one recites דין האמת. If there is money that one will inherit and he is an only child he recites שהחינו. If he has other brothers he recites הטוב והמטיב since one does not recite הטוב והמטיב unless he has partners in those good things.

- The same is true if an אדם כשר passes away that causes a person distress. The common custom, however, is not to recite the beracha but this custom is not proper. At the very least when a Torah scholar passes away or when relatives die one should recite the beracha with Hashem's Name and mention of His Kingdom. (M.B. 8)
- The beracha is not recited for the joy one feels; rather it is recited for the tangible benefit that one receives even if it is accompanied by distress. (M.B. 9)
- If one is informed that his wife died and she left him money he should recite דין האמת and שהחינו. (M.B. 10)

Siman 223 Seif 3:

If one built a new house or purchased new utensils, even if he already owned similar ones or if he purchased items numerous times, he recites שהחינו each time. This is true not only if they are new; rather even if they are used but are new to him he recites the beracha and "new" is mentioned only as opposed to one who repurchases an item that he sold to someone else.

- The same is true if one purchases a new home. If one purchased a home with a partner each one recites הטוב והמטיב, therefore, when a tzibbur constructs or purchases a Bais HaKnesses a representative should recite הטוב והמטיב on behalf of the tzibbur. (M.B. 11)
- If one tore down a home and reconstructed it there is a dispute whether he recites a beracha but if he added even one row all opinions agree that he recites a beracha. (M.B. 12)
- It doesn't matter whether it is new clothing or other articles that brings one joy. There is a disagreement whether one recites a beracha upon the purchase of a new sefer. Chaye Adam concludes that if one was looking for that sefer and is happy about the purchase one should recite the beracha and one need not protest one who follows his ruling. (M.B.13)

Halacha Highlight

Building or purchasing a new home

Shulchan Aruch Siman 223 Seif 2
בנה בית חדש
When one builds a new house

Shulchan Aruch (סע' ג') rules that one who builds a new house recites the beracha of שהחינו. Similarly, one who purchases a house recites the beracha of שהחינו (מ"ב ס"ק י"א). Mishnah Berurah (שם) notes that שהחינו is recited only if one does not own the house with a partnerת but if it is owned in conjunction with someone else one recites הטוב והמטיב. In seif 4 Shulchan Aruch writes that the beracha should be recited at the time of the acquisition even if one has not yet used the item. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ז) adds that the beracha is recited at the time of acquisition only if the item is ready for use at that time. In the event that the garment requires tailoring or the house is not yet inhabitable one does not recite the beracha until it is ready for use. Sha'ar HaTziyun (ס"ק כ"א) cites Rav Akiva Eiger who suggests that when purchasing a home one should not recite the beracha at the time of the acquisition since one may not live in a home that doesn't have mezuzos. Accordingly, there are those who have the practice to recite שהחינו or הטוב והמטיב at the time that they are ready to affix the mezuzos (פסקי תשובות אות ג').

There are many who have the custom to not recite שהחינו when they move into a new home. Some justify the practice on Rema's comment above (סע' א') that the recitation of שהחינו is optional rather than obligatory. Others suggest that the reason a beracha is not recited is that most people take out a mortgage when purchasing a home. The rationale to recite שהחינו is for the joy that one feels when purchasing such an important item and having such a large outstanding loan diminishes that sense of joy and thus they do not recite the beracha. Other authorities reject this reasoning and maintain that the beracha should be recited (חיי משה).

- One should recite the beracha soon after the purchase so that he does not lose the joy he feels regarding the purchase. (M.B. 15)
- He does not recite the beracha even if the item was never used. (M.B. 16)