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

Overview

Siman 229 Seif 1:

One who sees a rainbow recites: ברוך אתה ה' וכו' זוכר הברית נאמן בבריתו וקים במאמרו. One may not gaze at a rainbow for an extended period of time.

- It is not worthwhile to tell a friend about the appearance of a rainbow since it is not proper to share bad news – מוציא דבה. (M.B. 1)
- If one sees another rainbow within thirty days of the first one the beracha is repeated since the first beracha no longer exists. (M.B. 2)
- Rambam and Tur maintain that one should say ונאמן. (M.B. 3)
- The eyesight of one who gazes at a rainbow will become weakened. One should look at it and recite the beracha. (M.B. 5)

Siman 229 Seif 2:

One who sees the sun at the beginning of its cycle, which is every 28 years when the tekufah is at the beginning of the night of the fourth day, on that Wednesday morning one recites ברוך עושה מעשה בראשית. One also recites this beracha when one sees the moon in its purity, the stars in their watches and the constellations in their proper time. This occurs when the moon returns to the constellation of Aries at the beginning of the month and does not lean to the north or south. Similarly, when each of the five remaining stars returns to the beginning of the constellation of Aries without leaning to the north or south and any time one sees Aries arise from the eastern edge.

- This is when the sun returns to the beginning of its cycle. (M.B. 6)
- This refers to the tekufah of Nissan. (M.B. 7)
- L'chatchila the beracha should be recited as early as possible and it is preferable for it to be recited in a large crowd. B'dieved, it may be recited until the third hour of the day but many authorities contend that it could be recited even with Hashem's Name and mention of His Kingdom in a pressing circumstance until midday. Chasam Sofer writes that if one could recognize the shape of the sun one may recite the beracha even though it is covered in clouds. He also writes that one should also recite: הללו את ה' מן השמים before the beracha and after the beracha one recites: אדון על כל המעשים until עלינו followed by וחיות הקדש, השמים מספרים כבוד ק-ל and kaddish. (M.B. 8)
- Nowadays the custom is not to recite this beracha. (M.B. 9)

Halacha Highlight

The *beracha* on a rainbow

Shulchan Aruch Siman 229 Seif 1

הרואה הקשת

One who sees the rainbow

Shulchan Aruch (סע' א') writes that one who sees a rainbow recites the *beracha*: ברוך אתה ה' וכו' זוכר הברית נאמן בבריתו וקים במאמרו. Biur Halacha raises an interesting question that he does not resolve. He wonders whether it is necessary for one to see the full bow of the rainbow in order to recite the *beracha* or whether it is sufficient to see a mere part of the bow. Rav Moshe Sternbuch rules that since the matter is subject to doubt one should not recite the *beracha* unless he sees the entire bow. Shulchan Aruch adds that it is prohibited to gaze at the rainbow for an extended period of time. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ה) citing the Gemara Chagigah (16a) writes that the eyes of one who gazes at a rainbow for an extended period of time will become weak. One should merely see the rainbow and recite the *beracha*. Sefer Mikor Chaim (מבעל החוות יאיר בקיצור ההלכות) writes that one who is informed that there is a rainbow outside is not obligated to go out in order to recite the *beracha* and especially one who is in the middle of learning should not interrupt in order to recite the *beracha*. Bartenurah (אבות פ"ג מ"ז) includes this in the Mishnah's warning against one who is learning as he is walking who interrupts in order to comment about a beautiful aspect of the world (חיי משה).

Poskim write that it is unnecessary for one to stand when he recites the *beracha* although those who are meticulous in their *mitzvah* performance do stand during the recitation of the *beracha*. The *beracha* is recited once per storm. In the event that the clouds dissipated and then new clouds gathered in the sky and created a new rainbow the *beracha* may be repeated even the same day. If one did not recite the *beracha* immediately upon seeing the rainbow the *beracha* may be recited as long as rainbow is still visible (פסקי תשובות אות א').