

הַלְכָה of the Week

~ אֲשֶׁר יָצַר (1) ~

(The Blessing, "אֲשֶׁר יָצַר אֶת הָאָדָם בְּחָכְמָה"
"Who has formed man in wisdom.")

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר יָצַר אֶת הָאָדָם בְּחָכְמָה, וַיִּבְרָא בּוֹ נְקֻבִּים וְנָקְבִים, חֲלוּלִים וְחֲלוּלִים, גְּלוּי וְיָדוּעַ לִפְנֵי כִסֵּא כְבוֹדָךְ שָׂאם יִפְתָּח אֶחָד מֵהֶם, אוֹ יִסְתָּם אֶחָד מֵהֶם, אִי אֶפְשָׁר לְהִתְקַיֵּים וּלְעֲמוּד לִפְנֵיךְ: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', רוֹפֵא כָּל בָּשָׂר, וּמַפְלִיא לַעֲשׂוֹת:

Every time one relieves oneself one should wash his hands with water and soap and recite the בְּרָכָה, "אֲשֶׁר יָצַר". He should not recite the בְּרָכָה of נְטִילַת יָדַיִם after washing his hands.

One should wash his hands outside the bathroom. If it is not possible to wash his hands outside he should wash them inside the bathroom and dry them outside.

One should wash his hands after leaving a bathroom, even if he did not make use of it.

פְּרָקִי אָבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָק ב

ב רבן גמליאל בנו של רבי יהודה הנשיא אומר, יפה תלמוד תורה עם דרך ארץ, שיגיעת שניהם משפחת עון. וכל תורה שאין עמה מלאכה, סופה בטלה וגוררת עון. וכל העמלים עם הצפור, יהיו עמלים עמהם לשם שמים, שזכות אבותם מסייעתן וצדקתם עומדת לעד. ואתם, מעלה אני עליכם שכר הרבה באלו עשיתם:

Rabban Gamliel, the son of Rabbi Yehudoh HaNosi, taught:

(a) It is good to **combine Torah study with a job**, for working hard at both of them stops a person from sinning. Even more, any Torah study that is not combined with a job may end up as nothing and may even lead to sin.

(b) When you **work for the community** you should work for **Hashem's sake**, for then **the good deeds of your fathers will help you**, for their good deeds last forever. Also, even though you were helped by their good deeds, **Hashem will still reward you as if you did everything by yourself**.

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