



הַלְכָה of the Week



~ זִמְוֹן ~
 ~ בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן (recited in a group) ~

Three or more men over the age of thirteen who ate a meal together that included bread are obligated to recite בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן as a group. This is called "זִמְוֹן". One of the men recites a passage inviting the others to join him in reciting בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן. The others recite another passage in response.

If ten or more men ate together they add the word אַלְקִיָּה when reciting the passage.

The text of זִמְוֹן is printed in the first סידור before בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן, as well as in small printed copies of בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן.

The leader recites the first בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן aloud while the others recite the בָּרָכַת quietly, word by word. They end the בָּרָכַת before the leader does, and answer אָמֵן to his בָּרָכַת. It is proper that the rest of בָּרָכַת הַמְּזוֹן be recited in the same way.

Among Sephardi Jews everyone ends the בָּרָכַת together.



פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ד ט"ז רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן שְׁמֹעוֹן אָמֵר, יְהִי כְּבָדָת תַּלְמִידָךְ תַּבִּיב עַלְיךָ כְּשַׁלְךָ וּכְבָדָת תַּבְרַךְ כְּמֹרֵא רַבְּךָ, וּמֹרֵא רַבְּךָ כְּמֹרֵא שְׁמִים:

Rabbi Elazar Ben Shamua says:

- let the honour of your student be as dear to you as your own;
- honour your friend as much as you respect your teacher,
- and the respect you have for your teacher should be just as great as your fear of Heaven.
