

הַלְכָה of the Week

~ זִימּוֹן ~

~ (בְּרַכַּת 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 בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן as a group. This is called "זִימּוֹן". One of the men recites a passage inviting the others to join him in reciting בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן. The others recite another passage in response.

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

The text of זִימּוֹן is printed in the סִידוּר before בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן, as well as in small printed copies of בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן.

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

Among Sephardi Jews everyone ends the בְּרָכָה together.

פְּרָקִי אָבוֹת of the Week

פְּרָק ד

ט"ו רבי אלעזר בן שמוע אומר, יהי כבוד תלמידך חביב עליך כשאלך, וכבוד חברך כמורא רבך, ומורא רבך כמורא שמים:

Rabbi Elazar Ben Shamua says:

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