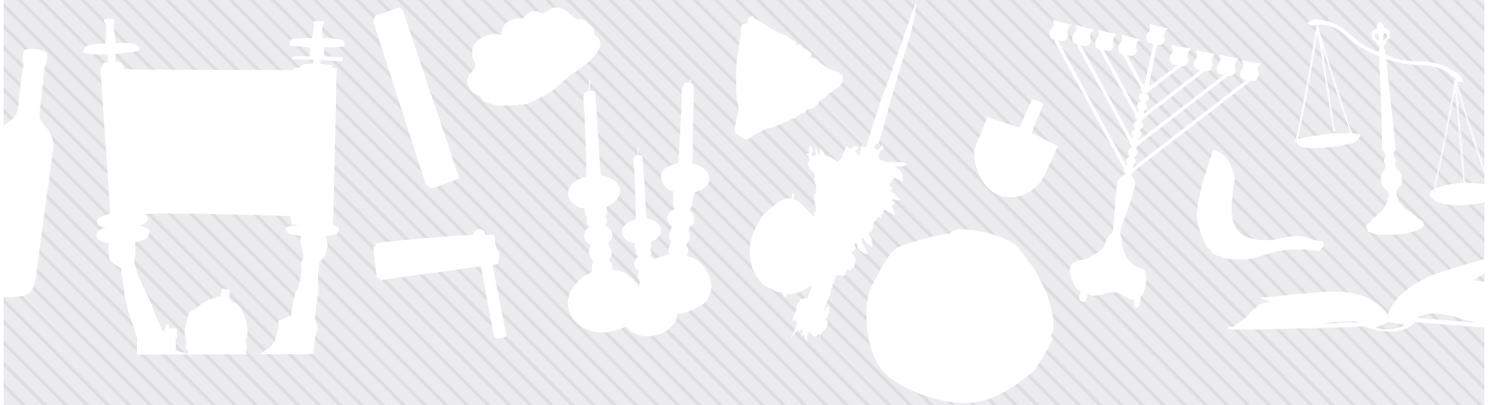


# HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #38



# WHEN FRUITS & VEGETABLES ARE SHEHAKOL

The general *bracha* for food is *Shehakol*. But we say a special *bracha* on specific kinds of foods. For example, vegetables are special since they grow from the ground. Fruits are different because they grow on trees.

But we only make these special *brachos* when we eat these foods the way they are usually eaten. If we eat them in a strange way, they can lose their special *bracha* and become *Shehakol*.

For example, potatoes are a food that most people cook before eating. Raw potatoes don't taste as good. So if someone decides to eat potatoes raw, that is not considered a normal way of eating. The potatoes don't get their special *bracha*, and we make a *Shehakol* on them.

Oranges are another example. They are delicious raw, but when they are cooked, their flavor changes. Most people don't eat them that way. So if we have a cooked orange (like on top of chicken), we don't make a special *bracha* on it. We make just the general *bracha* of *Shehakol*.

*See Seder Birchos Hanehenin Perek Vov*



# WHY ARE SOME FRUITS HO'ADAMAH?

If you ask anyone what *bracha* we make on fruit, they will answer right away — *Ha'eitz!*

But there are some fruits that are NOT *Ha'eitz*, like bananas. And there are some things that don't even grow on trees, like blueberries which grow on bushes, which ARE *Ha'eitz!* And strawberries, which also grow on bushes, are *Ho'adamah*. Why?

The *halacha* is that for something to be counted as a tree to make a *bracha Ha'eitz*, it has to have its branches all year, even in the winter when the fruits aren't growing. That's how trees work — the leaves all fall off, but the tree stays there until the spring, when new leaves and fruits grow.

The banana tree doesn't work that way though! Even though part of the trunk usually stays all year, the banana tree loses all of its branches in the winter, and they grow again in the spring. So according to the Alter Rebbe, the banana tree isn't counted as a tree, and we make the *bracha Ho'adamah*.

Strawberries have the same problem. In the winter, you can hardly see a strawberry plant at all! In the spring, new stalks and leaves grow, until it becomes a big strawberry bush full of fruit.

But blueberry bushes have branches that stay all year, even after all of the leaves fall off. So according to the Alter Rebbe, blueberry bushes are counted as trees, and we make the *bracha Ha'eitz!*



# MORE HO'ADAMAH FRUITS, AND SHEHECHEYANU

Just because something is a fruit doesn't mean that it is *Ha'eitz!* There are some fruits that grow on trees or plants that are not considered fruit trees according to *halacha*. These fruits get the *bracha* of *Ho'adamah!*

Here are some examples:

- Papaya
- Pineapple
- Passion fruit
- Banana

Some of these are unusual fruits that people often buy... to make a *Shehecheyanu* on! But there is good news: The Alter Rebbe holds that you can make a *Shehecheyanu* on a new vegetable, and not only on a new fruit!

*See Seder Birchas Hanehenin Perek Vov and Perek Yud-Alef, Seder Birchos Hanehenin Hamevuar by Rabbi Chaim Pruss*



# BRACHA ON JUST A DROP

The whole world belongs to Hashem. So we really can't eat or drink anything without permission from Hashem! Hashem gives us permission to take it, as long as we say a *bracha*. Otherwise, it's like stealing from Hashem!

Even if you just eat a little bit, you still need to say a *bracha*.



## BRACHA ACHARONA ON GRAPE JUICE

After we eat, we need to thank Hashem that we ate! We only make this *Bracha Acharona* if we ate enough to be counted as eating. How much is that? For food, it's a *kezayis* (about as big as an egg), and for a drink, it has to be at least a *revi'is* (about a half cup).

But you need to be careful with wine or grape juice! There is a *machlokes* about how much you need to drink in order to make a *Bracha Acharona*. There is an opinion that even just drinking a little is enough to count as drinking! So the *halacha* is that *l'chatchila*, we should always try to drink at least a *revi'is* so we can make a *Bracha Acharona* according to all opinions. But *bedieved*, if we didn't drink enough, the *halacha* is like with any other drink, and we don't make a *Bracha Acharona*.

*Seder Birchas Hanehenin, Perek Ches, Halacha Alef*

