

# BRCHAT HAILANOT



# ברכת האילנות

The following bracha is said only once a year, during the month of Nissan, on fruit trees in blossom. It is not said on flowering trees that do not bear fruit. Say the bracha ONLY if you are sure that the trees are fruit-bearing.

It is not said on fruit trees that already have fruit; only on fruit trees when they display the flower blossoms that precede their fruit. It is preferable to say the bracha on at least two trees. The bracha should be said with a sense of awe, appreciation, admiration, and joy of HaShem and the world He created for us.

We specifically acknowledge Him in the presence of fruit trees which delight our senses with their floral displays, even before they provide us with their tasty fruit. We realize that this is an extra-special gift from G-d to us.



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁלֹא חִסֵּר בְּעוֹלָמוֹ דָּבָר, וּבָרָא בּוֹ בְרִיּוֹת  
טוֹבוֹת וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבִים לְהַנּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם:

Some versions have כְּלוּם instead of דָּבָר

## Some add these T'hilim (122 and 128)

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת לְדָוִד, שֶׁמִּחֲתִי בְּאִמְרִים לִי, בֵּית ה' גִּלְגָּל. עַמְדוֹת הָיוּ רִגְלֵינוּ, בְּשַׁעֲרֵיךָ  
יְרוּשָׁלָּיִם. יְרוּשָׁלָּיִם הַבְּנוּיָה, כְּעִיר שֶׁחִבְּרָה לָהּ יַחְדָּו. שֵׁשׁ עָלוּ שְׁבָטִים שְׁבָטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
עַדוֹת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, לְהַדוֹת לְשֵׁם ה'. כִּי שָׁמָּה יָשְׁבוּ כְּסָאוֹת לְמִשְׁפָּט, כְּסָאוֹת לְבֵית דָּוִד.  
שָׂאוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלָּיִם, יִשְׁלִי אֱהָבֶיךָ. יְהִי שְׁלוֹם בְּחֵילֶךָ, שְׁלוֹה בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֶיךָ. לְמַעַן  
אֲחֵי וְרַעֲי, אֲדַבְּרָה נָא שְׁלוֹם בְּךָ. לְמַעַן בֵּית ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲבַקֶּשֶׁה טוֹב לְךָ.

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת, אֲשֶׁרֵי כָּל יָרָא ה', הַהֲלֵךְ בְּדַרְכָּיו. יִגִּיעַ כַּפֵּיךָ כִּי תֹאכַל, אֲשֶׁרֵיךָ וְטוֹב  
לְךָ. אֲשֶׁתֶּךָ כְּגִפְנֵי פְרִיָה בִּירְכֵתִי בִּיתְךָ, בְּגִיף כְּשֶׁתְּלִי זֵיתִים, סָבִיב לְשֶׁלְחָנְךָ. הִנֵּה כִּי כֹן  
יְבָרֶךְ גִּבּוֹר, יָרָא ה'. יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' מִצִּיּוֹן, וְרָאָה בְּטוֹב יְרוּשָׁלָּיִם, כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ. וְרָאָה בְּנִים  
לְבָנֶיךָ, שְׁלוֹם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

We already know that trees are special - we had TU BISHVAT, the Rosh HaShana for Trees. Think of it this way: Trees provide us with nourishing and delicious fruit. DAYENU! That would be enough to thank HaShem for. And we do, every time we eat a fruit and say BOREI P'RI HA'EITZ. And when the fruit is the first of the season, we are so excited that we say an additional bracha: SHEHECHEYANU. Many fruits also have a pleasant fragrance. That's a bonus. An extra gift from G-d for our enjoyment. And we have a bracha for that too: HANOTEIN REI'ACH TOV BAPEIROT. There is also a b'racha for seeing a magnificent forest: SHEKACHA LO B'OLAMO. And that HaShem provided us with a beautiful fragrant display of flowers BEFORE the tree yields its fruit - this is an extra bonus, which we acknowledge once a year with Birkat Ha-Ilanot.

**ILAN, ILAN from Taanit 5b-6a:** ...To what may this be compared? To a man who was journeying in the desert; he was hungry, weary and thirsty and he lighted upon a tree the fruits of which were sweet, its shade pleasant, and a stream of water flowing beneath it; he ate of its fruits, drank of the water, and rested under its shade.

When he was about to continue his journey, he said: Tree, O Tree, with what shall I bless you? Shall I say to you, 'May your fruits be sweet'? They are sweet already; that your shade be pleasant? It is already pleasant; that a stream of water may flow beneath you? Lo, a stream of water flows already beneath you; therefore [I say], 'May it be [God's] will that all the shoots taken from you be like you.'

So also with you. With what shall I bless you? With [the knowledge of the Torah?] You already possess [knowledge of the Torah]. With riches? You have riches already. With children? You have children already. Hence [I say], 'May it be [God's] will that your offspring be like you.'

## Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks to God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

