

PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

Not a Thing

It's a once-a-year b'racha, to be said in Nisan, when one sees a fruit tree in blossom (before its fruits start to develop). [See the link for BIRKAT HA-ILANOT on philotorah.co](#)

The b'racha is to be said with enthusiasm in recognition and appreciation of the beauties of the world that HaShem created for us. Specifically, it is the realization that fruit trees, whose existence is 'justified' by the fruits it offers - yet, HaShem added an extra touch for our pleasure - namely, beautiful and fragrant flowers for us to enjoy even before the tree bears its fruit.

You'll find details and more on philotorah, but here, I want to make another point, for your consideration.

Look at the text of the b'racha.

The first six words are very familiar to us - they begin many, many of our b'rachot. But don't rush through them; say them carefully and with the realization that we acknowledge and appreciate that HKBH is the source of all blessing; that we can speak directly to Him, even as we proclaim Him as G-d, our G-d; that we are aware that He is the King of the Universe.

For BIRKAT HA-ILANOT, we then recognize and thank Him for not leaving anything out of His world, and creating creating in it GOOD CREATIONS and GOOD TREES for the benefit and pleasure of human beings.

It isn't just "cherry pink and apple blossom white" that captures our attention and engenders our appreciation - it is all the wonders and beauties of the world. We take so many of them for granted. This b'racha and others are meant to save us from just that: taking this world for granted.

A once-a-year b'racha is exciting. But think about the apple you next eat. Some old same old BOREI P'RI HA-EITZ. Don't let it be same old same old. Let every b'racha you recite be filled with KAVANA and the realization and appreciation to HKBH for everything.

And not just apples and other fruits and vegetables. Not just food. People in your life should also not be taken for granted. Ever.

Remember, this b'racha states that NOT A THING is missing from this world. We just need to open our eyes wider, open our minds and our hearts...

And while we are talking about this, let us pray to HKBH that He should help us end this war successfully in all respects... NOW. Let the blossoms be a metaphor for all good things. **PTDT**