

Q&A from the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

A Fruitless Blessing

July 13, 2023

Q When reciting a *bracha acharonah* on cookies and grapes, I forgot to insert *al ha'eitz* for the grapes. Must I make another *bracha*?

A When reciting the *bracha mei'ein shalosh*, all applicable phrases must be inserted: "*al hamichyah*" for certain grain foods, "*al hagefen*" for wine or grape juice, and "*al ha'eitz*" for *shivas haminim* fruits (O.C.



208:12). They are inserted in three places: in the *psichah* (opening), the *chasimah* (closing), and *samuch lachasimah* (just before the closing). If one of the phrases was omitted, a new *bracha* must be recited, including only the forgotten phrase(s). You must therefore now make an *al ha'eitz*.

What if "*al ha'eitz*" was inserted in only one or two of the three places? The Piskei Teshuvos (ibid.) rules that if it was said even once, the *bracha* is valid *bedieved* (see footnote 155 for his source).

But this ruling only applies to errors of omission. In the case of an incorrect insertion, like saying "*al hamichyah*" after eating only grapes, the Shulchan Aruch says the *bracha* is only valid if both the *psichah* and the *chasimah* were said correctly; otherwise, the *bracha* needs to be repeated. The Gra (cited by Biur Halacha ibid.) argues, saying a correct *chasimah* suffices. One should follow the Gra's view, because *safek brachos lehakeil* (Sheivet Halevi 3:18).

If your omission was in the *psichah*, if you realize it prior to "*Baruch atah*" of the *chasimah*, go back to where the insertion was omitted in the *psichah* (but not all the way to "*Baruch atah*" of the *psichah*) and continue from there (Piskei Teshuvos ibid.).

If you finished the *bracha* but recognized the mistake *toch kedai dibur* (within 2-3 seconds), correct the *chasimah*.