BLESSINGS: SCENTS

Blessings: Scents: When To Say

Say the blessing if you intend to smell something fragrant; you may, but do not need to, say a blessing if you smell a scent in passing. If you are outdoors and a pleasant scent of flowers comes to you, even if you did not intend to smell the flowers, as long as you enjoy the scent, you may still say the appropriate blessing.

Blessings: Scents: The Four Blessings

Choose the correct smell blessing (Note that these blessings are not said on synthetic scents!):

- *Borei minei vesamim* Generic; this is the default blessing if you are not certain which category applies; also say this when smelling a mixture of scents;
- *Borei isvei vesamim* Plants which do not have stiff stems;
- *Borei atzei vesamim* Trees and stiff-stemmed plants (such as roses); and
- *Ha'notein rei'ach tov ba'peirot* Fragrant fruits, such as lemons and some *etrogs.*

Blessings: Scents: Minimum Scent

The minimum intensity of scent required to be permitted to say a scent blessing is anything you can smell and that you find pleasant.

Blessings: Scents: Sniffing First

SITUATION You see a flower but do not know whether it has a scent.

WHAT TO DO You may sniff the flower and, if it does have a nice scent, you may then say *borei minei* (or *atzei* or *isvei* as appropriate) *vesamim* and then take a big whiff.

Blessings: Scents: All Scents in that Category

SITUATION You are visiting a botanical garden or an outdoor area at which you will see many flowers and blossoms.

WHAT TO DO You may say the appropriate blessings on pleasant smells once for each category and intend for the blessing to apply to all flowers and blossoms you will smell during that day.

Blessings: Scents: Hesech Da'at

If you say *borei isvei vesamim* or *borei atzei vesamim*, you should say the blessing again once you have had a lapse of thought (*hesech da'at*); that is, once you have stopped thinking about smelling fragrances at that time.

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