WHAT TO PRAY: SET PRAYERS: AMIDA: READER'S REPETITION

AMIDA: READER'S REPETITION: BEGINNING

Standing for Reader's Repetition of Amida

Ashkenazim commonly stand for the entire reader's repetition of the *amida*, but it is not the universal custom.

Adonai Sifatai by Prayer Leader

The prayer leader should say *Adonai sifatai*… quietly before saying the reader's repetition of the *amida* out loud.

Ki Shem by Prayer Leader

The prayer leader should not say *ki shem*... at all since some people have the custom of not ever saying *ki shem*... .

AMIDA: READER'S REPETITION: REPLYING

Replying during Your Private Amida

If you have finished the *amida*'s *yihiyu l'ratzon*(but have not yet finished the segment from *Elohai netzur* through *u'chshanim kadmoniyot*), you may reply to:

- *Bar'chu*,
- *Kedusha*,
- *Amen* to *ha'el ha'kadosh*,
- *Amen* to *shomei'a tefila*,
- *Modim anachnu lach* (just those 3 words),
- *Birkat cohanim*, and
- *Kaddish*.

However, you may not say anything else (such as other *amens*) until you have completed the entire *amida* (including the last word, *kadmoniot*).

AMIDA: READER'S REPETITION: KEDUSHA

Say Minyan's Version of Kedusha

At a *minyan* with a custom different from yours, say their version of *kedusha*.

Bowing for Kara Zeh El Zeh

Some people bow from side to side for *kara zeh el zeh* ... but it is not required.

AMIDA: READER'S REPETITION: PRIESTLY BLESSING (BIRKAT COHANIM)

Birkat Cohanim: Pausing in Private Amida

When the priests/*cohanim* begin the Priestly Blessing (*birkat cohanim)*, you must pause when saying your private *amida* and wait until they finish before continuing your praying.

Birkat Cohanim: Seeing Each Other

A *cohen*/priest does not need to see the congregants and they do not need to see him during birkat *cohanim*. Birkat *cohanim* is effective even if you are outside the *synagogue* when you hear it. But if you are at the front of the *synagogue* such that you would be behind the *cohanim* when they turn to face the congregation and say the blessing, you should move far enough so the *cohanim* will be facing you during the blessing.

Birkat Cohanim: Looking at Priests'/Cohanim's Hands

No one should look at the priests'/*cohanim's* hands while the *cohanim* say the Priestly Blessing (*birkat cohanim*).

Birkat Cohanim: Talit over Child's Head

It is a custom for fathers to cover their sons' heads with their *talit* while the priests/*cohanim* bless the congregation.

REASON So the boys do not to look at the Divine Presence (*shechina)* present at the priests'/*cohanim*'s fingertips at that time.

NOTE The priests'/*cohanim's* hands should be covered by a *talit* anyway.

NOTE This custom applies to ANYTIME the priests/*cohanim* say *birkat cohanim*, whether on:

- *Jewish festivals* (the only time the priests/*cohanim* say this blessing outside of *Eretz Yisrael*), or
- Daily (as is done in *Eretz Yisrael)*.

Birkat Cohanim: Priest/Cohen in the Room

If a priest/*cohen* is in the room during the Priestly Blessing (*birkat cohanim)*, he must bless the non-*cohanim*. If he will not say the blessing, he must leave the room immediately after *modim*.

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