

סוכה לט

When saying יהא שמייה רבה there should be no pause between יהא and מברך. If a person walks into davening and hears the צבור saying יהא שמייה רבה, yet did not hear the ש"ץ say ואמרו אמן, nonetheless, he can still answer יהא שמייה רבה.

ברכות are made on מצות before their performance, for example, the ברכות are made before lighting the מנורה on חנוכה, and the ברכה on תפילין is made before tightening the תפילין. Two notable exceptions are washing hands and lighting שבת candles.

Regarding the washing hands, there is a concern that perhaps the hands are not yet clean (this relates to washing hands for bread; before washing hands upon waking up, the hands are certainly not clean). Furthermore, תוספות brings down that drying hands is part of the מצוה and the ברכה is made before drying.

Regarding lighting candles, once the woman makes the ברכה she has already accepted שבת, making it אסור for her to light candles. Therefore she lights the candles, makes the ברכה, and covers her eyes, and after she uncovers them, it is like she is first seeing the candles after the ברכה. In a case where there is no woman present (either she is away, or there is no woman of the house), then a man must light, and should first make the ברכה, and then light the candles, as men do not accept שבת upon making the ברכה.

During a year of שמיטה, one may buy a לולב (as it is considered an עץ בעלמא, and has no קדושת שביעית), but the אתרוג is given as

a מתנה. One must be careful with an אתרוג of שביעת, as it has קדושת שביעית, and may not be eaten, or thrown out. There is a מחלוקת whether such אתרוגים can be taken to חוץ לארץ.

One must be careful during שביעית not to give דמי שביעית to an עם הארץ (as he will not treat the money with the proper קדושה).

Money may be paid for שביעית from הפקר (for the trouble that was gone to in obtaining the food), but food from a guarded field may not be purchased during שמיטה, as we are concerned that since the field is locked, he has not allowed people to come to the הפקר field, which מן התורה he is חייב to do so.