

## Intermediate Talmud

Tractate Berachot: Chapter 7, folio 46a

Lesson Seven

With Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

**R. Zera once was ill.** R. Abbahu went to visit him, and made a vow, saying, If the little one with scorched legs recovers, I will make a feast for the Rabbis. He did recover, and he made a feast for all the Rabbis. When the time came to begin the meal, he said to R. Zeira: Will your honor please commence for us. He said to him: Does not your honor accept the dictum of R. Yochanan that the host should break bread? So he [R. Abbahu] broke the bread for them. When the time came for saying grace he said to him [R. Zeira], Will your honor please say grace for us, He replied: Does your honor not accept the ruling of R. Huna from Babylon, who said that the one who breaks bread says grace? Whose view then did R. Abbahu accept? — That expressed by R. Yochanan in the name of R. Shimon b. Yochai: The host breaks bread and the guest says grace. The host breaks bread so that he should do so generously, and the guest says grace so that he should bless the host. How does he bless him? 'May it be God's will that our host should never be ashamed in this world nor disgraced in the next world'. Rabbi added some further items: 'May he be very prosperous with all his estates, and may his possessions and ours be prosperous and near a town, and may the Accuser have no influence either over the works of his hands or of ours, and may neither our host nor we be confronted with any evil thought or sin or transgression or iniquity from now and for all time'.