

## Intermediate Talmud

Tractate Berachot: Chapter 7, folio 46b

Lesson Nine

With Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

**R. Nachman b. Yitzchak said:** You may know that 'who is good and does good' is not Scriptural from the fact that it is omitted in the house of a mourner, as it has been taught: What blessing is said in the house of a mourner? 'Blessed is He that is good and does good'. R. Akiva says: 'Blessed be the true Judge'. And does one [according to the first authority] say. 'Blessed be He that is good and does good', and not 'Blessed be the true Judge'? — Read: He says also, 'Blessed be He that is good and does good'. Mar Zutra visited R. Ashi when the latter had suffered a bereavement, and in the grace after meals he began and uttered the benediction: 'Who is good and does good, G-d of truth, true Judge, who judges in righteousness and takes away in righteousness, who is Sovereign in His universe to do as pleaseth Him in it, for all His ways are judgment; for all is His, and we are His people and His servants, — and for everything it is incumbent upon us to give thanks to Him and to bless Him. He who closes up the breaches of Israel will close up this breach in Israel, granting life'.

**Where does he commence again?** — R. Zevid says in the name of Abaye: At the beginning; the Rabbis say, at the place where he left off. The law is, at the place where he left off.

**Said the Exilarch to R. Sheshet:** Although you are venerable Rabbis, yet the Persians are better versed than you in the etiquette of a meal. When there are two couches [in the set], the senior guest takes his place first and then the junior one above him. When there are three couches, the senior occupies the middle one, the next to him in rank takes the place above him, and the third one below him. R. Sheshet said to him: So when he wants to talk to him, he has to stretch himself and sit upright to do so! He replied: This does not matter to the Persians, because they speak with gesticulation.