

THE TALMUD

Tractate Berakhot, Chaps. I and II (Text: the Soncino Hebrew-English edition)

- Lecture #1 INTRODUCTION. The Oral Law. Mishnah and Gemara. Compendium and Code. Commentaries. Some basic talmudic concepts. Tractate Berakhot
- Lecture #2 THE TIME OF THE READING OF THE SHEMA. The Mishnah. Talmudic explication of the text. The Shema and the Prayer Service.
- Lecture #3 AGGADIC DIGRESSION, I. Illustration of the interweaving of Halakhah and Aggadah in the talmudic colloquy on the Shema.
- Lecture #4 AGGADIC DIGRESSION, II. Further illustrations of the same.
- Lecture #5 THE BLESSINGS SURROUNDING THE SHEMA. Their number and formulation. The morning Shema and the evening Shema. Ancient practice and Christian heretics.
- Lecture #6 THE PROBLEM OF INTENTION. The requirement of kavvanah in the recital of Shema and the performance of other sacred deeds.
- Lecture #7 THE THREE SECTIONS OF THE SHEMA. Their positions and relative importance. Philosophic significance.
- Lecture #8 THE NEED FOR ARTICULATION. The Law's requirement of pronunciation of the Shema. The Megillah Reading. The Grace.
- Lecture #9 WORKERS AND BRIDEGROOMS. Special Cases in the Reading of the Shema. Practical vs. religious demands. Priority of observance.
- Lecture #10 CONCLUSION OF CHAPTER II. Mourning laws. Personal petitions of Amora'im. Aggadic gems.



(RABBI LAMM'S COURSE IN TALMUD)

This course will not be about Talmud, but in Talmud. It is hoped that a general knowledge of the spirit of the Talmud, its subject matter, and its basic principles will arise naturally from a study of selected texts taken in the sequence in which they appear in the first Tractate. The Aramaic text will be read, then the English translation, and the discussions will be based on the English. Thus, while it is preferable that the student have a reading knowledge of Hebrew, it will be possible for one with no Hebrew training to follow. It is advisable, however, that the student have some elementary knowledge of Jewish life and lore.