

Hilchos Tefila 110 (page 277)
מסימן קי סעיף ד עד סעיף ז

Today's TOPICS

Tefillas Haderech - The Wayfarer's Prayer
Multiple-Stage Journeys
Precautions On the Road



***Tefillas haderech* - the wayfarer's prayer**

An intercity traveler should recite a special prayer called *tefillas haderech*-the wayfarer's prayer. Women are also obligated to recite this prayer. According to many contemporary *poskim*, a person who for some reason must travel on Shabbos should recite this prayer. According to some contemporary *poskim*, it is preferable for every

traveler to recite the prayer individually. The halacha follows the opinion that that one can fulfill his obligation by hearing it from another traveler. The *poskim* discuss whether it is permissible for an individual to insert specific requests into the *tefilla* (e.g. protect me from car accidents), or whether all possibilities are already included in the phrase "and from all disasters."

כיון שהנוסח הקיים כולל את כל סוגי הפגעים שבדרך.
(סעיף ד; ביאורים ומוספים דרשן, 10, 13 ו-15)



Multiple-stage journeys

Tefillas haderech is recited only once a day (i.e. from *alos* to *alos*). According to the Mechaber, resting is not considered an interruption of the trip and a new *tefilla* is not required upon its resumption. (There is some indication that not all Acharonim agree with this.) As in the case with resting, a cab driver who goes who goes not need to repeat the *beracha* upon resuming his work.

Sleeping overnight at an inn or in a settled area along the way (*sheinas keva*) is considered an interruption, and the *beracha* must be repeated when setting out again, even before *alos*. Changing the mode of transportation is not considered an interruption.

(סעיף ה' וס"ק כה-כו; ביאור הלכה ד"ה צריך וביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 20-22)



Precautions on the road

According to an ancient custom, any time a person leaves his home he should place his hand on the *mezuzah* and say "May Hashem protect me when I leave and when I return, now and always." The Gemara teaches that people travelling to fulfill a *mitzva* receive special protection from Heaven-*shluchei mitzva einan nezokin*.

Some *poskim* advise travelers to take coins to give to *tzedaka* at their destinations in order to turn their trips into *mitzva* missions. The *poskim* recommend that travelers take *tallis* and *tefillin* with them, even if they expect to return home on the same day. Travelers should not eat until they are full, since travelling with a full belly can be harmful. The Gemara warns about the dangers of traveling at night. Since streets are paved and lit nowadays, it is customary to be lenient.

(ס"ק כ ורכה; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 28-29)

Yesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- Someone in a situation where he cannot *daven* properly can *daven* an abridged *Shemoneh Esrei* known as *Havineinu*. This special *tefilla* is comprised of the standard first and last three *berachos* as well as a middle *beracha* that contains the essential words of each of the other thirteen *berachos*.
- Havineinu* cannot be recited during the winter months when *v'sein tal umatar* must be included, or on *motzai* Shabbos when *atah chonantanu* (the paragraph of *havdalah* recited in *Shemoneh Esrei*) is added.
- Nowadays, *Havineinu* should not be recited in situations where people are too distracted to *daven* the standard *Shemoneh Esrei*; since most people today don't have proper *kavanah* and we are distracted so often, we would end up never *davening* the full *Shemoneh Esrei*.

Tomorrow's TOPICS

- When to recite *tefillas haderech*
- Tefillas haderech* on roads that run alongside cities
- Tefillas haderech* when travelling within the city

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Important Note: The halachic summaries are to assist you with your learning.
Before implementing halacha in practice, please refer directly to the Mishna Brura and Mussaf Dirshu.

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