

CURRENT TALMUD PASSAGE

"A TALMUD TALE" PREMIERED FEBRUARY IN HOUSTON, TX!

The musical was an enormous hit! If you'd like a dvd of the show, please send a [contribution](#) of \$18 for an enjoyable, entertaining and inspiring look at the world of the Talmud!

Posted January 5, 2009, by Rabbi Judy Abrams. Please refer to Maqom's home page for information about previous passages.

BH

SAYING A BLESSING OVER EVERY MITSVAH

© Judith Z. Abrams, 2009

The sages created a system in which every mitzvah is preceded by a blessing. These blessings serve as a R. Haggai and R. Jeremiah went to a grocery store to inspect its scales for accuracy. R. Haggai eagerly recited a blessing over this obligation to examine the scales. He said the blessing,

"Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to sanctify the weights and scales and to establish the measures." R. Jeremiah said to him: You have acted very well. For blessings must be recited for the performance of all the commandments. (Y. Berachot 6:1)

Discussion Questions:

1. The first question that comes to mind is, why did this blessing disappear? Do you like having a blessing to say over giving charity?
2. One commentator says that the blessing Rabbi Haggai said was, "Blessed are You, Lord our God, who has hallowed us with commandments and commanded us to rectify the measures and scales and to adjust the price." Do you like this blessing? Do you have any alternatives?
3. Are there other ³mitzvah activities² that need a blessing (e.g., sex in marriage)? What are they and what might the blessing be?