



B'NAI DAVID-JUDEA

Shabbat Shorts

Happy Yom Ha'atzmaut to all!

Back to the *b'samim*!

What's the text of the blessing over the *b'samim*? That's an easy one, right? Who has ever heard or recited anything other than "בורא מיני בשמים" (borey miney b'samim) during Havdalah? Not I, certainly!

But as the Mishna Brurah points out in his first comment on the laws of "B'samim at Havdalah", the use of this text for the blessing over the b'samim is actually a *concession* to the reality that most of us aren't schooled in the fine shadings of blessings over fragrances. For as the Shulchan Aruch mentions earlier (apparently somewhat futilely ☺), we ideally express our appreciation of different aroma-producers using *different* blessings. Officially, the proper blessing for fragrances produced by:

- Tree products is בורא עצי בשמים ,
- Grasses and herbs is בורא עשבי בשמים ,
- Fruit, is הנותן ריח טוב בפירות , and
- Only if the fragrance is produced by none of the above ("musk, for example") is the familiar בורא מיני בשמים, whose wording is generic and which refers to any and all kinds of fragrances, recited.

But since it can be hard for most folks to remember these fine distinctions, and the hope was that *everyone* would be saying a blessing over b'samim at Havdalah, the tradition chose the latter, generic form of the blessing for Saturday nights.

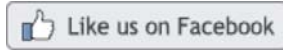
One of the takeaways here is surely that the Halachic tradition has a practical and inclusive impulse to it. Another takeaway is that it's worthwhile to learn the numerous forms of the fragrance blessing, and to take advantage of the opportunities we are blessed with to appreciate the variegated fragrances around us by reciting blessings that hone in on the particular nature of the wondrous smell we are enjoying.

A final note: When one person recites Havdalah for a gathering of others, it sometimes happens that the Havdalah-sayer continues on to the next blessing(s) even as some of the listeners are reciting the b'samim blessing as the b'samim reach their hands. To avoid this overlap, the Havdalah-sayer should give the listeners a moment to bless over the b'samim, and listeners who see that the Havdalah-sayer is continuing, should hold on and recite the b'samim blessing after Havdalah has been completed.

I love feedback!
rabbanitalissa@bnaidavid.com

B'nai David-Judea 8906 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035
director@bnaidavid.com

See what's happening on our social sites



See what's happening on our social sites



B'nai David-Judea, 8906 W. Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by ravyosef@bnaidavid.com in collaboration with

