



בסוד שיה
for like

B'sod Siach Admura'im

Baruch Shenatan Mechochmato/ Mr. Shaul Shif
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Four years ago, a doctoral student at Princeton University asked Eretz Hemdah a question regarding the blessings to be recited upon seeing outstanding Torah or Science scholars. His question, together with Eretz Hemdah's response, were published in Vol. 5 of B'mareh Habazak as follows:

I am studying in Princeton University in New Jersey, USA. Our university is famous for having several Nobel Prize Laureates as lecturers, some of whom are Jewish, and some are also Torah-observant. Should I recite the blessing, "*Shechalak Machomato*" (*Who has imparted of His Wisdom to those who fear Him*) or "*Shenatan Machochmato*" (*who has bestowed of His wisdom on flesh and blood*)? Does it matter if the person is Jewish or Torah-observant...?

Response:

- A. One who sees Jewish scholars generally recites, "*Baruch Shachalak Machachmato Lirai'av*" (*Blessed is He Who has imparted of His Wisdom to those who fear Him*), without mentioning G-d's name. Upon seeing a well accepted, leading Torah scholar, outstanding in Torah-knowledge and fear of Heaven, one recites a full blessing including G-d's name. When seeing many scholars together, even if they are not uniquely outstanding, one may also recite the blessing using G-d's name.
- B. One who sees world famous non-Jewish scholars, such as Nobel Prize laureates, recites, "*Blessed is He Who has bestowed of His Wisdom on flesh and blood*", without mentioning G-d's name.
- C. Similarly, one who sees an outstanding Jewish scientist recites, "...*Who has bestowed of His Wisdom on flesh and blood.*"

Recently a visitor of the Eretz Hemdah office asked to purchase two sets of the B'mareh Habazak Responsa, Volumes 1-5. One set was for himself, and the other was for the newly awarded Nobel Prize laureate in Science, Prof. Aharon Chechanover, the first Israeli to receive such an honor. Eretz Hemdah is both happy and proud that this responsa has now become relevant in Israel, as well.
