
Tefillah for Torah

ברכות דף כ"ח : ושלחן ערוך סימן ק"י סעיף ח' [עפ"י פסקי מ"ב]

Is there an obligation on every individual to say the תפלות of ר' נחוני' בן הקנה?

The רמב"ם, in פירוש המשניות, writes that there is a חובה on every person to say them. He continues that they are not really תפלות, and, as such, there is no need to turn one's face to the east or west, to bow or fall on the face; rather, they may be recited in whatever position he wishes, both sitting and standing.

What exactly should one say?

For one who enters the בית המדרש, we have the text found in the משנה. [If he learns with a חבורה, he should daven that neither he, nor they, should blunder and cause the other to laugh at him. According to the מהר"י אבוהב, one prays, ויאשמח מהם; namely, that I should enjoy my learning.] The מגן אברהם would say it every morning and would add a couple of פסוקים, as found in the מגן אברהם.

The ט"ז writes that even if a person learns on his own, outside of the בית המדרש, he must still daven that he not err in his לימוד; especially if he paskens הלכה. The ט"ז provides an abridged תפלה, which incorporates the various applicable בקשות.

The מגן אברהם concludes that, when one finishes his learning for the day, even if he learns ביחידות, he should say the הודי that ר' נחוני' would recite.