

SOCKS AND SHOES

by Rabbi Daniel Travis

Later on we say the two blessings of "Who clothes the naked" and "Who takes care of all of my needs." Chazal tell us that the blessing of taking care of our needs refers to shoes. If we already thanked Hashem for clothing, why do we need an additional blessing for shoes?

Walking around barefoot outside is painful and impractical. Shoes allow us to travel from place to place and attend to our daily pursuits. Therefore, in addition to thanking Hashem for clothing, we also express our gratitude for our shoes, which enable us to function in the world (Levush).

Two others of morning blessings refer also to clothing. "Who girds us with strength" thanks Hashem for belts, which separate the top and bottom halves of the body. "Who crowns us with glory" thanks Hashem for giving us tefillin and other head coverings. All of these garments have special significance for prayer and modesty, and help us elevate ourselves before speaking to Hashem (Mishna Berura 46,9).

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