

ותן טל ומטר - A REQUEST FOR RAIN

By Horav Yosef Yeshaya Braun, member of the Badatz of Crown Heights

Sunday night, the eve of 11th of Kislev, marks sixty days since the onset of the Tishrei *tekufah* (autumn season). Therefore, those who live outside *Eretz Yisroel* start to say the winter prayer of *v'sein tal umatar liverachah* in the *Amidah* blessing of *Bareich aleinu*, replacing *v'sein brachah*, which is recited throughout the summer months. The winter phrase will continue to be recited on all weekdays until (and inclusive of) the Minchah service of *erev Pesach*.

The *gabbai* should **not** announce to say *tal umatar* between the blessing of *Hashkiveinu* and the start of the *Amidah*.

Several laws apply in case *v'sein tal umatar* (or even just the word *u'matar*) was not said, as laid out below:

What did I do?	When did I remember?	Now I should...
ותן טל ומטר ¹ forgot	before saying Hashem's name at the end of מברך השנים	interrupt and go back to ותן טל ומטר לברכה
	before starting חקע בשופר	say ותן טל ומטר לברכה before חקע בשופר starting
	before saying Hashem's name at the end of שמע קולנו ²	say ותן טל ומטר לברכה before כי אתה שומע תפילה
	before starting רצה	ותן טל ומטר לברכה before starting רצה
	before the second יהיו לרצון	interrupt and go back ³ to ברך עלינו ⁴
	after the second יהיו לרצון ⁵	start the <i>Amidah</i> again ^{6 7}

Notes

1. even if you said ותן טל (omitting the word ומטר).

If you are unsure if you recited the correct version, you must assume that the incorrect version was said out of habit. However, after thirty days have elapsed—this year, beginning with Maariv on the eve of 11 Teves (Jan. 4)—it can be assumed that ותן טל ומטר was indeed recited.

2. If you made a mistake and went back to ברך עלינו, stop and return to where you were holding. Say ותן טל ומטר שמע קולנו in ומטר.

3. If you remembered after reciting Hashem's name at the end of the brachah of הטוב שמך המחזיר שכינתו, המברך את עמו ישראל בשלום or שמע קולנו, say למדני חוקיך and go back to ברך עלינו.

4. If you went back to שמע קולנו and mentioned it there, you are *yotzeh*. If you went back to ברך עלינו

and forgot ותן טל ומטר again, say it in שמע קולנו.

5. and you have also made the decision not to lengthen the *tefillah* with extra requests and supplications.

6. You must first wait *K'dei hiluch daled amos* (the time it takes to walk six feet) before restarting the *Amidah*.

7. On *motzoei Shabbos*: repeat אתה חוננתנו. On Rosh Chodesh: repeat יעלה ויבא. On Chanukah and Purim: need not be repeated.

If you remembered after the time has come to daven the next *tefillah*, you must repeat the *Amidah* twice. However, if you made the error on any Friday afternoon or *erev Pesach*, you **do not** make it up by reciting the Shabbos or Yom Tov *Amidah* an additional time.