

HOW CAN I TAKE MY HOSTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

Talmud Berakhot 58a - from Jewish oral tradition this text compiled around 200 CE gets at the idea of different blessings that are appropriate at different moments.

The Gemara relates: Ben Zoma once saw a multitude of people while standing on a stair on the Temple Mount. He immediately recited: Blessed are you Who knows all secrets and Blessed are you Who created all these to serve me.

Explaining his custom (and what he meant by all who serve me), he would say: How much effort did Adam the first man exert before he found bread to eat: He plowed, sowed, reaped, sheaved, threshed, winnowed in the wind, separated the grain from the chaff, ground the grain into flour, sifted, kneaded, and baked and only thereafter he ate.

And I, on the other hand, wake up and find all of these prepared for me. Human society employs a division of labor, and each individual benefits from the service of the entire world.

Similarly, how much effort did Adam the first man exert before he found a garment to wear? He sheared, laundered, combed, spun and wove, and only thereafter he found a garment to wear. And I, on the other hand, wake up and find all of these prepared for me. Members of all nations, merchants and craftsmen, diligently come to the entrance of my home, and I wake up and find all of these before me.