

*Sanhedrin 42*

## Why Do We Stand When We Recite Birkas Halevanah?

**O**ur *Gemara* teaches about the blessing we are to recite each month thanking Hashem for renewing and increasing the light of the moon. The *Tanna* from the *yeshivah* of *Rabbi Yishmael* taught that it would be sufficient for the Jews if they would only merit to greet their Father in Heaven once a month, with the recital of *Birkas Halevanah*. This means, if the only *mitzvah* the Jews would perform in a month would be the recitation of *Birkas Halevanah* and they would perform no other *mitzvos* that month, it would still be adequate for them to be considered more deserving than the nations of the world. *Abaye* added, “Therefore it must be recited while standing.” Why is the fact that *Birkas Halevanah* is recited once a month a reason why it is to be recited while standing?

The *Gaon* of Tshebin explained that there are different types of blessings and we need to assess how to classify the blessing on the new moon. Consider a blessing on a commandment, and a blessing on pleasure—*Birkas Hamitzvah* and *Birkas Hanehenin*. What is the nature of the blessing on the renewing moon? Is it a *Birkas Hanehenin*? Are we expressing gratitude to *Hashem* for blessing us with the