

Introduction To The Siddur Of Rav Sa'Adia Gaon

Rav Sa'Adia Gaon was head of the Yeshiva in Sura, Babylonia, in the 10th Century. He was chosen to be Gaon despite the fact that he had resided in Egypt and had not actively participated in the Yeshiva in Sura. The Siddur that Rav Sa'Adia Gaon compiled is of special significance because it differs greatly from Seder Rav Amrom Gaon. Many of the differences reflect the fact that in Egypt, where Rav Sa'Adia Gaon lived for forty-five years before being appointed head of the Yeshiva in Sura, two types of synagogues co-existed side by side; those that followed the Babylonian customs in prayer and those that followed the customs of Eretz Yisroel. The differences in custom between Babylonia and Eretz Yisroel in the area of Jewish prayer are a major theme in the early history of the Siddur.

The excerpt from the Siddur Of Rav Sa'Adia Gaon included herein represents the First Bracha Of Kriyas Shema. In the opinion of Rav Saadia Gaon, an individual, praying without a quorum of ten men (Minyan), is prohibited from reciting the references to Kedushah found in some Siddurim of his era and in the current versions of the Siddur. The First Bracha of Kriyas Shema that Rav Sa'Adia Gaon presents in his Siddur for an individual to recite when he was praying without a quorum of ten men is significant because it provides evidence as to the original form of the First Bracha Of Kriyas Shema, before Kedushah was added to it.

This exhibit consists of two pages:

1. *Introduction to the Siddur Of Rav Sa'Adia Gaon*
2. *A Copy Of The First Bracha Of Kriyas Shema To Be Recited When Praying Without A Quorum Of Ten Men.*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם יוצר אור ובורא חושך עושה
שלום ובורא את הכל המאיר לארץ ולדרין עליה ברחמים רבים
וטובו מחדש בכל יום תמיד מעשה בראשית ב א יי יוצר המאורות .