

# ASK THE RABBI

**Question:** What do I do if I'm in the middle of my Shemoneh Esrie and the chazzan starts kedusha?

**Answer:** This case is the basis for an argument between a grandfather and his grandson. Rashi, the grandfather, held that in this case, one should stop his Shemoneh Esrie and listen to the Chazzan's kedusha. He should simply stop and listen, and not say anything.

According to Rashi, through the mechanism of shomeah k'oneh, the person can both participate in kedushah and not interrupt his Shemoneh Esrie. Tosofot, some of whom were Rashi's grandsons, held that listening and stopping one's shemoneh esrie in order to participate in kedushah is by definition an interruption, and therefore forbidden to do.

It has become the practice to hold like Rashi. Therefore, if one is in the middle of their Shemoneh Esrie and the chazzan starts kedusha, they should stop saying Shemoneh Esrie and listen to the Chazzan say kedusha. They should have in mind to fulfill the mitzvah of kedusha while listening.