

בית הוראה דיעטראיט
BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher · Rav Yissachar Wolf · Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN * SHABBOS * YOM TOV * BRACHOS * AVEILUS * TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA * EVERYDAY SHAILOS

ISSUE #10 – ROSH CHODESH FAQs

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

- **Is there a minhag for women to refrain from certain types of work on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - Yes. There is a minhag for women to refrain from laundry and sewing on Rosh Chodesh. Unless there is a different minhag established in one's family for generations, this minhag should be kept.
- **What is the reason for this minhag?**
 - Several reasons are offered. The most well-known is that Rosh Chodesh was given to women as a quasi-Yom Tov because they did not contribute their jewelry to the Eigel Hazahav (Golden Calf) when Klal Yisrael was in the desert.
- **Are men included in this minhag?**
 - No. In a case of need, a woman may ask a man to turn on a washing machine or to spray stain-remover.
- **Can a woman iron, hang clothes to dry, or put them in the dryer on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - Yes. Only washing clothes is included in the minhag.
- **Does the minhag apply on both days of a two-day Rosh Chodesh?**
 - Yes.
- **Is there an obligation to eat bread or have a seudah on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - There is no obligation to eat bread or have a seudah on Rosh Chodesh. However, it is forbidden to fast (e.g. for a yahrtzeit, or a chasan and kallah on their wedding day). Furthermore, it is proper to have something extra to eat in honor of Rosh Chodesh. Some are stringent to eat bread during the day on Rosh Chodesh.
- **Is there an obligation to wear Shabbos clothing on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - There is not an obligation; however, some do have the custom to wear a special garment in honor of Rosh Chodesh.
- **Is it permitted to cut nails, shave or get a haircut on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - There is a well-known minhag not to cut one's nails, shave or get a haircut on Rosh Chodesh. For mitzvah purposes it is permitted. In a case of great need, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **Does this minhag apply if Rosh Chodesh falls on Friday?**
 - Yes. If Rosh Chodesh falls on Friday, one should plan ahead by cutting nails, shaving or getting a haircut on Thursday. However, if Thursday is also Rosh Chodesh, there is room to be lenient on Friday l'kavod Shabbos.
- **If one forgot to say Ya'aleh V'yavo in bentching, what should be done?**
 - If he remembers before saying the bracha of Boneh Yerushalayim, he should go back to Ya'aleh V'yavo.
 - If one already said the bracha of Boneh Yerushalayim but has not yet started the next bracha, there is a special bracha (printed in many siddurim) which should be inserted before beginning the next bracha.
 - If one already started Hatov Umeitiv (the 4th bracha) he should continue on, and not repeat birchas hamazon. Birchas hamazon is only repeated on days such as Yom Tov, when there is an obligation to have a meal.
- **If one forgot Ya'aleh V'yavo in bentching on Shabbos Rosh Chodesh, what should be done?**
 - The above guidelines should be followed. Birchas hamazon is not repeated because the meal obligation on Shabbos is not related to Rosh Chodesh.
- **If one started his meal before Rosh Chodesh, but by the time he begins bentching it is already Rosh Chodesh, is Ya'aleh V'yavo recited?**
 - If some bread was eaten once it was already Rosh Chodesh, Ya'aleh V'yavo is said.

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- **If one started eating on Rosh Chodesh but is bentching when it is no longer Rosh Chodesh, is Ya'aleh V'yavo said?**
 - Unless he has already davened ma'ariv, Ya'aleh V'yavo should be said.
- **If Rosh Chodesh falls on Motzaei Shabbos, should Ya'aleh V'yavo be said in shalosh seudos bentching if it is already past tzeis hakoachavim?**
 - Ideally, in this case, a person should stop eating bread thirty minutes after sunset. However, even if one did eat bread during this time, the common custom is to only say Retzei (for Shabbos) and not Ya'aleh V'yavo.
- **If one realized during shemoneh esrei that he forgot Ya'aleh V'yavo, what should be done?**
 - If he remembers before saying the name of Hashem in the bracha of "hamachazir Shechinaso l'Tziyon," he should go back to Ya'aleh V'yavo, even during ma'ariv. In all other cases, one does not go back during ma'ariv.
 - If he did not remember until after saying Baruch Atah Hashem, he should end the bracha with "lamdeini chukecha," insert Ya'aleh V'yavo, and then continue.
 - If one remembered after beginning Modim, he should return to the bracha of Retzai.
 - If one has already said the second y'hiyu l'ratzon at the conclusion of shemoneh esrei, he must begin shemoneh esrei again. If he has not yet taken three steps back, new steps are not required, and "Hashem sefasai" need not be repeated.
- **Immediately after finishing shemoneh esrei, I realized that I may not have said Ya'aleh V'yavo. Should I repeat my shemoneh esrei?**
 - Yes, except at ma'ariv.
- **What if it was several minutes after finishing shemoneh esrei that I realized I may not have said Ya'aleh V'yavo. Do I need to repeat shemoneh esrei?**
 - If you recall knowing that it was Rosh Chodesh immediately before starting shemoneh esrei, you would not have to repeat in such an instance.
- **If a woman says Hallel on Rosh Chodesh, does she make a bracha?**
 - Yes. The minhag is that a woman says a bracha on Hallel even if she is davening alone.
- **Is Hallel said in the house of an avel?**
 - The common custom is for the avel to leave the room while Hallel is said. If the meis was niftar in that room, Hallel is not said. The mispalelim at such a minyan do not say Hallel even once they return home. In all cases, the avel does not say Hallel.
- **Can an avel daven for the amud on Rosh Chodesh?**
 - During shiva, an avel can daven shacharis for the amud until Hallel. During the rest of aveilus, however, he should not daven shacharis for the amud. He may daven mincha and ma'ariv for the amud on Rosh Chodesh; however, it should be noted that some kehilos do not allow an avel to daven any Rosh Chodesh tefillos for the amud.
- **If one did not say Hallel in the morning, may he say it later in the day?**
 - One who has not yet said Hallel may do so until sunset.

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