

Berachot Rosh Chodesh -

Blessings for the new Month

עָשָׂה יְרַח לְמוֹעֲדִים

He made the moon to mark the seasons

Psalm 104:19

Birkat HaChodesh (Sanctification of the Month)

The Birkat HaChodesh is typically said during Shabbat Mevarchim (i.e., the last Sabbath of the month before Rosh Chodesh) to petition the LORD for a good month. It is recited at the synagogue at the end of the Shabbat Torah reading service:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שֶׁתַּחֲדֹשׁ עָלֵינוּ אֶת הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לְטוֹבָה וְלִבְרָכָה.
וְתֵתֵן לָנוּ חַיִּים אָרוּכִים, חַיִּים שְׁלֵמִים,
חַיִּים שֶׁל טוֹבָה, חַיִּים שְׁלֵמִים בְּרָכָה, חַיִּים שֶׁל פְּרִנָּה,
חַיִּים שֶׁל חִלּוּץ עֲצָמוֹת, חַיִּים שֶׁיִּשׁ בָּהֶם יִרְאֵת שָׁמַיִם
וְיִרְאֵת חֹטֵא, חַיִּים שֶׁאֵין בָּהֶם בּוֹשָׁה וּכְלָמָה,
חַיִּים שֶׁל עֲשָׂה וְכַבוֹד, חַיִּים שֶׁתִּהְיֶה בָּנוּ אֶהְבֵּת תּוֹרָה
וְיִרְאֵת שָׁמַיִם, חַיִּים שֶׁיִּמְלֵא יְהוָה מִשְׁאָלוֹת לִבֵּנוּ לְטוֹבָה.
אָמֵן, סֵלָה.

May it be Thy will, LORD, our God and God of our fathers, that You begin for us this month for good and for blessing. May You give to us long life, a life of peace, a life of goodness, a life of blessing, a life of sustenance, a life of physical health, a life in which there is fear of heaven and fear of sin, a life in which there is no shame or humiliation; a life of wealth and honor, a life in which we love Torah and fear God; a life in which the LORD fulfills the requests of our hearts for good. Amen. Selah.

*Yehi ratzon milefanekha, Adonai Eloheinu veilohei avoteinu,
shetechadesh aleinu et ha-chodesh hazeh le-tovah ve-livrakhah.
Vetiten lanu chayim arukhim chayim shel shalom,
chayim shel tovah, chayim shel berakhah, chayim shel parnasah,
chayim shel chillutz atzamos, chayim sheyeish bahem yirat shamayim
veyirat cheit, chayim she'ein bahem boshah ukhlimah,
chayim she oseh vekhavod, chayim shetehei vanu ahavat Torah
veyirat shamayim, chayim sheyemalei Adonai mishalot libeinu letovah.
Amen. Selah.*

The Molad (time announcement)

After the invocation for the month's blessing from the LORD, it is customary for the time at which the new moon will appear in Jerusalem to be announced. First the congregation recites *mi she'asah nissim*, "the One who performed miracles":

מִי שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, וְנָאֵל אוֹתָם מֵעֲבָדוֹת
לְחֵירוֹת, הוּא יְנַאֵל אוֹתָנוּ בְּקֶרֶב, וְיִקְבֹּץ נִדְחֵינוּ
מֵאַרְבַּע כְּנָפּוֹת הָאָרֶץ, חֲבֵרִים כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל.
וְנֹמֵר: אָמֵן.

*The One who performed miracles for our forefathers and
redeemed them from slavery to freedom, may He redeem us
soon and gather in our exiles from the four corners of the
earth; then all Israel shall be friends. Let us say: Amen.*

The chazzan (cantor) then announces the precise time of Rosh Chodesh in Jerusalem:

רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ (month) יְהִי בְּיוֹם (day of the week)
הַבָּא עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה.

*Rosh Chodesh (Hebrew month) will be on the day (Hebrew
day of the week) that comes to us and to all Israel for good.*

Kiddush Levanah (Sanctification of the Moon)

The moon is sometimes called *levanah* in Hebrew (from *lavan*, white). *Kiddush Levanah* (sanctification of the moon) is a ceremony that takes place outdoors on a clear night soon after Rosh Chodesh (often on the first Shabbat night that *follows* Rosh Chodesh). The blessing is normally written in oversized letters in the prayerbook (called *otiot shel kiddush levanah*) since it is intended to be read outdoors by moonlight.

A Rosh Chodesh Blessing

Often Psalms are recited or sung, and then, while looking at the new moon, the following blessing may be recited:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁתַּחֲדֹשׁ עֲלֵינוּ חֹדֶשׁ טוֹב
בְּאֲדֹנֵינוּ יֵשׁוּעַ הַמָּשִׁיחַ, אָמֵן

ye·hi ra·tzon mil·fa·**ney**·kha Adonai E·lo·**hey**·nu
ve·lo·hey a·vo·**tey**·nu she·te·cha·desh a·**ley**·nu **cho**·desh tov,
ba'A·do·**ney**·nu Ye·**shu**·ah ha·ma·**shi**·ach, A·men

“May it be Your will, LORD our God
and God of our fathers, that you renew for us a good month
in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. Amen.”

Chodesh Tov!