The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תכ"ו סעיף ב'

Halacha Highlight

Customs related to the recitation of *kiddush levanah*

Rema Siman 426 Seif 2 (b)
ורוקד שלש פעמים
And dances three times

Rema records many practices and *pesukim* that are customarily recited after the *beracha* on the new moon. One practice he mentions is to dance three times when reciting the phrase כשם שאני רוקד וכו'. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ד) in the name of later authorities writes that it is very important that one not bend his knees to dance so that it should not appear as though he is bowing to the moon. Instead he should raise his body from his toes. Along these lines Biur Halacha (ד"ה ומברך מעמד) relates that he heard that the reason we recite עלינו after *kiddush levanah* is to make sure that no one gets the false impression that the reason we go out and rejoice in front of the moon is to give honor to the moon. To dispel such a notion we recite עלינו and pledge our allegiance to Hashem. Interestingly, he seems to indicate that it is sufficient to recite the first paragraph of עלינו (אשי ישראל תשובה של"ט שבסוף הספר).

Rema also mentions saying to a friend שלום עליך three times. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק ט"ז) explains that once we said תפל עליהם אימתה וכו' one may think that he is directing his words to the people around him so we say afterwards שלום עליך so that his words should not be misconstrued. Although Rema's wording implies that it is recited three times to one person, Mateh Moshe (סי' תק"מ) writes that it should be recited to three different people.

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (הליכות שלמה ראש חדש פ"א ארחות הלכה הע' 124) relates that he heard an explanation from Rav Yitzchok Yerucham Diskin for the practice some people have to look at their *tzitzis* and shake them following the recitation of *kiddush levanah*. It is a reminder of the fact that in the future the moon will shine as brightly as the sun and at that time the *mitzvah* of *tzitzis* will apply at night as well.

Overview

Siman 426 Seif 2 (b):

We do not recite the *beracha* on *motzai* Shabbos that occurs on Yom Tov. **One should focus his eyes on the moon, straighten his legs and recite the *beracha*** (while standing)**. He then recites three times ברוך יוצרך וכו' and סימן טוב תהיה לכל ישראל**. He dances three times and recites כשם שאני רוקד וכו' and then תפל עליהם וגו' and then backwards כאבן ידמו כו' three times. One should say to a friend three times שלום עליך and responding is comparable to greeting. We are also accustomed to recite דוד מלך ישראל חי וקים since his kingdom is comparable to the moon and in the future will also be renewed and at that time the Jewish Nation will cleave to its husband, HKB"H, similar to the moon that will be renewed with the sun as the *pasuk* states שמש ומגן ה'. For this reason we celebrate and dance at the renewal of the moon as one does at a wedding.

- We certainly do not recite the *beracha* on Shabbos. However, if the time for the *beracha* will pass it may be recited on Shabbos or Yom Tov even by one's self. (M.B. 12)
- Some maintain that one should focus on the moon for the entire set of prayers whereas others limit it to the recitation of the *beracha*. Magen Avrohom in the name of Shelah writes that one should look at it before the *beracha* and afterwards not to gaze at it. (M.B. 13)
- Authorities write that one should not bend his knees when he dances so as not to give the impression that he is bowing to the moon, rather he should rise on his toes. (M.B. 14)
- Since we say תפל we counter that by saying שלום עליך. (M.B. 16)