WHEN TO PAUSE OR JOIN MINYAN

When To Pause or Join Minyan: Regular Shacharit

Shema

When the *minyan* reaches the *shema* in *shacharit*:

- If you are between bar'chu and end of amida, simply:
 - Cover your eyes like everyone else, but don't say the *shema* line.
- If you are anywhere else:
 - Pause and, with everyone else, say the first two lines of the *shema* (*Shema*, *Yisrael*... and *Baruch shem*...), and then
 - Resume where you were.

REASON You may not interrupt your prayer between bar'chu and end of amida.

Amida

SITUATION You are saying your *amida* in a *minyan* and it is close to the end of the fourth hour of the day.

WHAT TO DO Do not pause, even if the leader says *kaddish* or *kedusha*, if doing so will delay you past the fourth hour.

When To Pause or Join Minyan: Shabbat/Jewish Festival Shacharit

If the leader gets to kedusha on Shabbat or Jewish festival morning and you are saying the amida, you must:

- Pause until the leader has finished the blessing after <u>kedusha</u> (ha'el—or ha'melech—ha'kadosh), and then
- Resume your amida.

During birkat cohanim, you must:

• Pause in your amida until the end of birkat cohanim.

EXCEPTION Do not pause, even if the leader says <u>kaddish</u> or <u>kedusha</u>, if doing so will delay you past the fourth hour.

When To Pause or Join Minyan: Mincha

During *mincha*, don't pause at all (such as for *kedusha* or *kaddish*) if, by pausing, you will not finish saying your *amida* before sunset.

When To Pause or Join Minyan: Ma'ariv

If the *ma'ariv minyan* says *shema*, you must join them for the first two sentences ("*Shema, Yisrael*..." and " *Baruch shem*..."), unless you are saying the *amida*.

When To Pause or Join Minyan: General Prayer Services

Here is when to pause or join the *minyan* during general prayer services:

• Ashrei

You do not need to interrupt your prayers to join the *minyan* for ashrei.

• Torah Reading

If you are saying the *amida*, pause only during the actual *Torah* reading, not during the blessings.

• Kaddish

During <u>kaddish</u>, you must pause in your <u>amida</u> until the prayer leader finishes the line of <u>da'amiran b'alma</u>....

• Alenu

If the *minyan* says *alenu* and you are at a part of the prayer service at which you are permitted to interrupt, you may join them.

NOTE It is a proper practice to say <u>alenu</u> with the congregation, even if you have already finished that prayer service.

REASON If you don't, it seems as if you are not accepting *ol malchut shamayim*.

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