OMER: COUNTING

Halacha and Custom in Counting Omer

The only *halacha* of "counting the *omer*" is to say the blessing and then count the *omer*. Anything else is custom.

"Counting the Omer" Blessing

The blessing over counting the *omer* is "*al sefirat ha'omer*."

How To Count Omer before Dark

The ideal time and way to count the *omer* is to wait until dark, stand up, say the blessing, and then count the *omer* for that day.

SITUATION You want to count the *omer* before dark (as is often done in *synagogues* at the end of *ma'ariv*).

STATUS Since the correct practice is to count the *omer* after dark, you should:

- Count again with a blessing sometime after dark, or else
- Count during the following day (but before sunset) without a blessing.

WHAT TO DO Do the counting without saying the blessing and make a condition (mentally or verbally, either is OK) that if you remember to count the *omer* again after dark, the first time you counted, does not count (!) Then, if you do remember after dark, say the blessing and count the *omer* for that day a second time.

If You Forget To Count Omer at Night

SITUATION You forgot to count *omer* at night.

WHAT TO DO

- Count the next morning/daytime without a blessing. Then,
- Resume saying the blessing the subsequent night.

If You Do Not Count Omer before Next Day Sunset

SITUATION You forgot to count *omer* at night and didn't count the following day before dark.

WHAT TO DO Do not say the *omer* blessing any more that year, but do continue to count the *omer* without the blessing.

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