ROSH CHODESH

INTRODUCTION TO ROSH CHODESH

Introduction to Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the Jewish (lunar) month, is a minor holiday of one or two days, depending on whether the previous month was 29 or 30 days. When the preceding month is 30 days long, the 30th day becomes the first day of *Rosh Chodesh* and the second day of *Rosh Chodesh* is the first day of the succeeding month.

Rosh Chodesh used to be officially declared in Jerusalem each month by the *Sanhedrin*, based on evidence from at least two witnesses who had seen the new moon in the western sky. For the past 1700 years or so, the new moon (and the dates for the entire Jewish calendar) have been determined by a formula prescribed by Hillel HaNasi (then head of the Jewish community in *Eretz Yisrael*).

ROSH CHODESH: MOLAD

Molad

The *molad* (first appearance of the new crescent moon somewhere in the world but using Jerusalem time) is an average *molad* and may be more than 12 hours off the actual time of the moon's first appearance. It varies somewhat from month to month.

ROSH CHODESH: YA'ALEH V'YAVO

Ya'aleh V'Yavo on Rosh Chodesh

If you forgot (or are not sure if you said) *ya'aleh v'yavo* of:

Rosh Chodesh Ma'ariv

Don't repeat the *amida*. This applies to both *ma'arivs* on a two-day *Rosh Chodesh*.

Rosh Chodesh Shacharit* or *Mincha

- If you forgot: Repeat the *amida* of *Rosh Chodesh shacharit* or *mincha*.
- If you are not sure: Repeat the *amida* with the condition that if you had said *ya'aleh v'yavo* the first time, the second time is a voluntary prayer (*tefilat nedava)*.

NOTE If *Rosh Chodesh* falls on *Shabbat* and you are not certain whether you said *ya'aleh v'yavo* at *shacharit* or *mincha*, you must repeat the *amida* without a condition.

ROSH CHODESH: UL'CHAPARAT PASHA

Shabbat-Rosh Chodesh: Adding Ul'Chaparat Pasha

SITUATION It is *Rosh Chodesh* in a Jewish leap year.

WHAT TO DO

Add "*ul'chaparat pasha*" to *musaf*—from *Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan* through and including the second month of *Adar*.

REASON This blessing usually contains 12 requests--corresponding to the 12 months--and so in a leap year, we add *ul'chaparat pasha* for the 13th month.

NOTE Don't say *ul'chaparat pasha* on *Rosh Chodesh Nisan* or after that until the next Jewish leap year.

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