SATURDAY EVENING BEFORE HAVDALA

EATING BEFORE HAVDALA

Eating/Drinking before Havdala

You should not eat or drink from sunset (or from the time you finish *se'uda shlishit*) until after *havdala*, but drinking water during that time period is not forbidden by *halacha*.

Birkat HaMazon Additions for Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh Saturday Night

SITUATION *Rosh Chodesh* begins on Saturday night. You started *se'uda shlishit* and continued to eat--including eating at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread after dark. It is time for *birkat ha'mazon*.

WHAT TO DO Say *birkat ha'mazon* additions for *Shabbat* (*shir ha'ma'alot*, *retzei*, *migdol yeshuot*) AND any others for the next day (such as *ya'aleh v'yavo* for *Rosh Chodesh)*.

NOTE If you did not eat at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread after dark, only say the *birkat ha'mazon* additions for *Shabbat*.

Forgetting Ata Chonantanu

If you forgot to say *ata chonantanu* after *Shabbat (*or *Jewish festivals*), you do not need to repeat the *amida*. But, if you then ate food before saying *havdala*, you must repeat the *amida* including *ata chonantanu*.

WHEN SHABBAT ENDS/MOTZA'EI SHABBAT

Shabbat Ends at Dark

You may not end *Shabbat* before dark (appearance of three medium-size stars--*tzeit ha'kochavim*).

When Is Dark

Shabbat (and *Jewish festivals*) ends at “dark”: when three medium-sized stars are visible overhead.

NOTE To find medium-sized stars, look for stars to appear in the west—those will be large stars. When large stars appear in the west, medium-sized stars should be visible overhead.

If you are in a place where the sun sets but the sky will not get dark any time that evening, ask a *rabbi* what to do.

How Long between Sunset and Dark

Some communities end *Shabbat* 42 minutes after sunset, which is when some *rabbis* in New York observed that it gets dark. At other latitudes, the interval may vary considerably, from shorter toward the equator or much longer toward the poles.

NOTE In New York, dark is at 45 minutes after sunset in the winter and 50 minutes in the summer, according to Rav Moshe Feinstein. Some people wait 72 minutes after sunset before doing any *melacha*.

SAYING BARUCH HAMAVDIL

Baruch HaMavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol To Do Melacha

After it is dark, say *Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol* (just those words--not God's name or any of the standard words used in blessings!) if you want to end *Shabbat* and do weekday activities (*melachot*) before saying *ma'ariv's amida* or *havdala*.

REASON This fulfills the commandment of “*zachor*” for *Shabbat* and allows you to do *melacha*.

NOTE But it does not allow you to eat or drink, once you have finished *se'uda shlishit*, until you hear

or say *havdala*.

Baruch HaMavdil... and Birkat HaMazon at Third Meal

SITUATION You washed your hands, said *ha'motzi*, were eating your meal (this could be se'uda shlishit or even a fourth meal) and it is now dark. You want to do *melacha*.

WHAT TO DO If you have not yet finished *se'uda shlishit*, saying Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol after dark on Saturday night does not affect the *Shabbat* additions you will then say in birkat ha'mazon. So, you may say Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol and do *melacha*, and then continue to eat your meal or say birkat ha'mazon INCLUDING the two *Shabbat* additions of retzei and ha'rachaman hu yanchileinu yom she'kulo *Shabbat* u'menucha l'chayei ha'olamim.

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