



Berachot Rosh Chodesh -

Blessings for the new Month

עָשָׂה יְרַח לְמוֹעֲדִים

He made the moon to mark the seasons

Psalm 104:19



Birkat HaChodesh (Sanctification of the Month)

The Birkat HaChodesh is said during Shabbat Mevarchim (*Sanhedrin 42a*) and asks the LORD for a good month. It is recited at the synagogue at the end of the Shabbat Torah reading service:



יהי רצון מלפניך, יהוה אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו,
 שתחדש עלינו את החודש הזה לטובה ולברכה.
 ותתן לנו חיים ארוכים, חיים של שלום,
 חיים של טובה, חיים של ברכה, חיים של פרנסה,
 חיים של חלוק עצמות, חיים שיש בהם יראת שמים
 ויראת חטא, חיים שאין בהם בושה וכלמה,
 חיים של עשה וכבוד, חיים שתהא בנו אהבת תורה
 ויראת שמים, חיים שימלא יהוה משאלות לבנו לטובה.
 אמן, סלה.

May it be Thy will, LORD, our God and God of our fathers, that You begin for us this month for good and for blessing. May You give to us long life, a life of peace, a life of goodness, a life of blessing, a life of sustenance, a life of physical health, a life in which there is fear of heaven and fear of sin, a life in which there is no shame or humiliation; a life of wealth and honor, a life in which we love Torah and fear God; a life in which the LORD fulfills the requests of our hearts for good. Amen. Selah.



*Yehi ratson milefanekha, Adonai eloheinu veilohei avoteinu,
shetechadesh aleinu et hachodesh hazeh letovah velivrakhah.
Vetiten lanu chayim arukhim chayim shel shalom,
chayim shel tovah, chayim shel berakhah, chayim she parnasah,
chayim she chillutz atzamot, chayim sheyeish bahem yirat shamayim
veyirat cheit, chayim she'ein bahem boshah ukhlimah,
chayim she oseh vekhavod, chayim shetehei vanu ahavat Torah
veyirat shamayim, chayim sheyemalei Adonai mishalot libeinu letovah.
Amen. Selah.*

Kiddush Levanah (Sanctification of the Moon)

The moon is sometimes called *levanah* in Hebrew (from *lavan*, white). *Kiddush Levanah* (sanctification of the moon) is a ceremony that takes place outdoors on a clear night soon after Rosh Chodesh (often on the first Shabbat night that follows Rosh Chodesh). The blessing is normally written in oversized letters in the prayerbook (called *otiot shel kiddush levanah*) since it is intended to be read outdoors by moonlight.



The Molad (time announcement)

After the invocation for the month's blessing from the LORD, it is customary for the time at which the new moon will appear in Jerusalem to be announced. First the congregation recites *mi she'asah nissim*, "the One who performed miracles":

מִי שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, וַיְגַאֵל אוֹתָם מֵעֲבָדוֹת
לְחֵירוֹת, הוּא יְגַאֵל אוֹתָנוּ בְּקֶרֶב, וַיִּקְבֹּץ נִדְחֵינוּ
מֵאַרְבַּע כְּנָפוֹת הָאָרֶץ, חֲבֵרִים כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל.
וְנֹמֵר: אָמֵן.

The One who performed miracles for our forefathers and redeemed them from slavery to freedom, may He redeem us soon and gather in our exiles from the four corners of the earth; then all Israel shall be friends. Let us say: Amen.



The chazzan (cantor) then announces the precise time of Rosh Chodesh in Jerusalem:

(day of the week) יְהִיָּה בְּיוֹם (month) רֵאשִׁית חֹדֶשׁ
הַבָּא עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה.

Rosh Chodesh (Hebrew month) will be on the day (Hebrew day of the week) that comes to us and to all Israel for good.