

Most Ideal Time to Count Sefirat Haomer

As we've just begun counting the Omer, I think it is important to make sure all our Minyanim are consistent with our Minhagim and Halacha.

According to Morenu Rabbi Ben Haim, the most **ideal** time to count Sefirat Haomer is **15 minutes after sunset** (which is Tzeit Hakochovim).

However, if a Minyan finished Arvit a bit early, they may count with a beracha **only after Shekia (sunset)**. This only applies to a Minyan, and not to an individual.

Lastly, as per **Morenu Mr. Bassalian**, the Mashadi Minhag is to count the Omer after _Shir Lamaalot and **before** Kaddish Yehe Shelama. However, **Mr. Bassalian** explained that if the Minyan ended **before** the earliest time to count the Omer, the entire Minyan should count the Omer after Alenu. When counting after Alenu, we add another Kaddish Yehe Shelama for any mourners.

Be'ezrat HaShem our entire community can fulfill the beautiful mitzvah in line with our rich tradition.

Submitted by R. Michael Livi