

Quick Guide to Counting the Omer

A **bracha**, before the counting and something said - a (short) prayer, after the counting, as follows:

Before, **The blessing:**

"Baruch Ata Adon-y, Elo-hynu Melech Ha-Olam,"

"Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the Universe,"

"asher kiddeshanu b'mitzvosav,"

"Who sanctified us with His commandments,"

"v'tzivanu al Sefiras HaOmer."

"And Commanded us regarding the Counting of the Omer."

Then the Count

Afterwards, **the prayer:**

"HaRachaman hu Yachazir Lanu"

"O Compassionate One! May He return for us"

"Avodas Bays HaMikdash Li'mekomo"

"the Service of the Temple to its Place"

"bimhayra be'yameinu. Amen; Selah."

"speedily and in our time. Amen; Selah.

In the above prayer, we give expression to our desire for the Return of the Temple Service, which will be a hallmark of the Time of the Mashiach.

Various customs exist which include additional prayers before and after the counting.

What if one forgets to count?

If one forgets to count at night, he or she repeats the count the following **day** without a "bracha," and then resumes counting **with a blessing** that night. If one forgets to count in the daytime as well, it's "wait till next year" time as far as counting with a "bracha" is concerned. But one should continue to count on subsequent nights without a "bracha."

If one is **unsure** whether one counted, the nightly count should be continued, **with a bracha**.

How does one ask for a reminder of the Count?

Better, how does one reply to such a question? The problem is that if the response is, say, "No problem! Tonight we count forty-eight," the person who responded in that fashion has already counted(!) and may not count again (this night or day) with a "bracha."

The proper response to the above question would be "Last night we counted 'forty-seven.' By doing so, one has **not** counted "by accident" tonight.

What if the "bracha" were recited by an individual without knowledge of the Count, but with the intention of counting in accordance with what one hears from the rest of the congregation?

It is best to count with knowledge of the correct Count in mind, but if the counting is performed in the manner described above, **the obligation has been fulfilled.**

If the "bracha" was recited with the wrong number in mind, but the counter heard the correct information from the congregation, and counted correctly, has the obligation of Counting been fulfilled?

Yes.