

The Counting of the Omer ספירת העומר

Seventh Week: God's Presence — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Malkhut refers to the sense of God as presence—a presence that suffuses the world. Never was the presence of God felt as deeply as it was at Sinai. As we approach the celebration of that revelation, we might ask: What mitzvah might call to me with a mysterious force? What special teaching of Torah do I want to concentrate on, this year? How do I hear the calling of my soul—the calling of the Divine?

שַׁמַּי אֹמֵר: עֲשֵׂה תוֹרַתְךָ קָבֵעַ, אֲמֹר מְעַט וְעֲשֵׂה הַרְבֵּה, וְהוּי מְקַבֵּל אֶת־כָּל־הָאָדָם בְּסֶכֶר פָּנִים יְפוֹת.

Shammai taught: Set a fixed time for the study of Torah, speak little but do much, and welcome everyone with good cheer.

—Pirkei Avot 1:15

בֶּן־בַּג בַּג אֹמֵר: הִפֵּךְ בָּהּ וְהִפֵּךְ בָּהּ, דְּבָלָא בָּהּ. Ben Bag Bag taught: Turn it this way, turn it that way, for everything is to be found in it.

—Pirkei Avot 5:24

From the second night of Pesah until the night before Shavuot, we count the omer. We rise.

I am about to fulfill the mitzvah of counting the *omer*, as it is written in the Torah:

“You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesah, when an *omer* of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of your counting will make fifty days.” Leviticus 23:15–16

Barukh atah ADONAI, our God, sovereign of time and space, who has provided us with a path to holiness through the observance of mitzvot and has instructed us to count the *omer*.

Barukh atah adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al s'firat ha-omer.

רַבִּי חֲנַנְיָא בְּן־תֶּרְדִּיּוֹן אֹמֵר: שְׁנַיִם שְׂיֹשְׁבֵין וְיֵשׁ בֵּינֵיהֶן דְּבָרֵי תוֹרָה, שְׂכִינָה שְׂרוּיָה בֵּינֵיהֶם . . .

Rabbi Hananiah ben Teradion taught: When two people sit and discuss Torah, the Shekhinah hovers between them . . .

—Pirkei Avot 3:3

כָּל־מָה שֶׁבְּרָא הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּעוֹלָמוֹ, לֹא בְּרָאוּ אֶלָּא לְכַבוֹדוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: כָּל הַנִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁמִי, וְלְכַבוֹדִי בְּרָאתִיו יִצְרָתִיו אֲף־עָשִׂיתִיו (ישעיה מג:ו).
וְאֹמֵר: יְהוָה יִמְלֹךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד (שמות טו:יח).

Everything that the blessed Holy One created in God's world, God created solely for the divine glory, as it is written, “Everything that is called by My name, I created it, I formed it, I made it, for My glory” (Isaiah 43:7). It is further written, “Adonai shall reign forever and ever” (Exodus 15:18).

—Pirkei Avot 6:11

הַנְּבִי מוֹכֵן\מוֹכְנָה וּמְזוּמָן\וּמְזוּמְנָת לְקַיֵּם מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה שֶׁל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בַּתּוֹרָה:

וּסְפִרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת מִיּוֹם הַבִּיאָכֶם אֶת־עֹמֶר הַתְּנוּפָה, שֶׁבַע שַׁבָּתוֹת תְּמִימַת תְּהִינָה. עַד מַמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת הַשְּׂבִיעִת תִּסְפְּרוּ חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם.
ויקרא כג:טו-טז

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מְלֹךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר.

On IYAR 28 (YOM YERUSHALAYIM):

הַיּוֹם שְׁלֹשָׁה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְיוֹם אֶחָד לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 43 days—six weeks and one day—of the *omer*.
Hayom sh'loshah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot v'yom ehad la-omer.

On IYAR 29:

הַיּוֹם אַרְבָּעָה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וּשְׁנַיִם יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 44 days—six weeks and two days—of the *omer*.
Hayom arba'ah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot u-shnei yamim la-omer.

On SIVAN 1 (ROSH HODESH SIVAN):

הַיּוֹם חֲמִשָּׁה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וּשְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 45 days—six weeks and three days—of the *omer*.
Hayom hamishah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot u-shloshah yamim la-omer.

On SIVAN 2:

הַיּוֹם שִׁשָּׁה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְאַרְבָּעָה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 46 days—six weeks and four days—of the *omer*.
Hayom shishah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot v'arba-ah yamim la-omer.

On SIVAN 3:

הַיּוֹם שִׁבְעָה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וַחֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 47 days—six weeks and five days—of the *omer*.
Hayom shivah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot va-hamishah yamim la-omer.

On SIVAN 4:

הַיּוֹם שְׁמוֹנָה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְשִׁשָּׁה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 48 days—six weeks and six days—of the *omer*.
Hayom sh'monah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shishah shavuot v'shishah yamim la-omer.

On SIVAN 5 (the night before SHAVUOT):

הַיּוֹם תִּשְׁעָה וְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, שְׁהֵם שִׁבְעָה שָׁבוּעוֹת לְעֹמֶר.
Today is 49 days—seven weeks—of the *omer*.
Hayom tishah v'arba-im yom, she-hem shivah shavuot la-omer.