

Moonrise

Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Dayan Yehoshua Grunwald
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https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SHE82_003_Bo_Over_the_Moon-Kiddush_Levana_on_Shabbos.mp3

This month shall be for you the beginning of the months, it is the first for you of the months of the year.

Shmos 12:1

The mitzvah of kiddush hachodesh (sanctifying the month) does not apply today, but we do have the mitzvah of kiddush *levanah* (sanctifying the moon). One interesting question that occasionally arises is whether one may recite kiddush *levanah* on Friday night.

The Maharil writes that if Shavuot falls on *motza'ei* Shabbos, one should not recite kiddush *levanah*, because just as the restriction of *techum* Shabbos prohibits a person from walking 2000 *amos* on the ground, so does it forbid him from elevating himself 2000 *amos* into the sky. (The same logic would forbid kiddush *levanah* on Shabbos.) The Bach explains that since saying kiddush *levanah* is like greeting the Shechinah (Sanhedrin 43a), it is considered as if one has ascended to the heavens and traversed the *techum*. Although some *Rishonim*, such as the Maharash and Rashba, question this ruling, the Rama (O.C. 426) accepts it as authoritative.

A number of *Acharonim* also question the Maharil and Rama on the grounds that a *reshus hayachid* (private domain) halachically extends up to the sky, so one who recites kiddush *levanah* in his yard should not violate the *techum*. Perhaps for this and other reasons, the Mishnah Brurah mentions only that there are kabbalah-based reasons for the ruling. In the Sha'ar Hatziyun, though, he offers an additional halachic reason: Since one should rejoice during kiddush *levanah*, there is a concern that he will dance on Shabbos, which is generally forbidden, even for a mitzvah (see O.C. 339 and Mishnah Brurah).

If Friday night is the deadline for kiddush *levanah*, the Mishnah Brurah says one may rely upon the lenient view.