

TOPIC MAKING EARLY SHABBOS (PART 1)





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S P O N S O R E D : לזכר נשמת מורי ורבי הרה"ג רב חיים ישראל ב"ר דוב זצ"ל בעלסקי

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S P O N S O R E D : לו״נ מרת רחל בת אליעזר ע״ה

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HALACHICALLY SPEAKING

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MAKING EARLY SHABBOS (PART 1)

There are two aspects of early Shabbos. One is the concept of accepting Shabbos a little early throughout the year. The other applies during the spring and summer months, for the practical reason that the Shabbos *seudah* begins very late. Some *daven* Minchah the same time each Friday, at 7:00 p.m., while for others the time for Minchah fluctuates based on the time for *plag haminchah*.

In this article we will discuss these aspects of early Shabbos. What is the source for making early Shabbos in general all year? What are the issues with making an early Shabbos during the spring and summer months?

Adding to Shabbos All Year

Our first point is to discuss the aspect of early Shabbos all year round – this is known as adding to Shabbos, or *tosefes Shabbos*.¹ The Gemara² maintains that there is an obligation *d'Oraisa* to add to Yom Kippur.³ It then applies this to Shabbos⁴ and Yom Tov as well.⁵ This is how many *poskim*

^{1.} It should be pointed out that obviously this mitzvah applies whether in the summer or winter, although people don't make early Shabbos in the winter for obvious reasons (*Mishneh Halachos* 15:84).

^{2.} Rosh Hashanah 9a, Yoma 81b.

^{3.} Rambam Hilchos Shvisas Oser 1:6, see Maggid Mishnah and Lechem Mishnah there. Shulchan Aruch O.C. 624:2. On Yom Kippur the adding to the day takes place with the recital of *Tefillas Zakah* (see *Nishmas Shabbos* 1:211). In regard to Tishah B'Av see Moadim U'zmanim 7:253.

^{4.} Both when Shabbos comes in and when it leaves (*Mishnah Berurah* 261:19, *Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah* 46:1, see *Shulchan Aruch* 293:1).

^{5.} Ibid, *Mechilta Parshas Yisro* 7, *Bereishis Rabbah* 9:14, see *Rashi Bereishis* 2:2, *Kol Bo* 31.

rule⁶ (most say the obligation is *d'Oraisa*),⁷ although many *poskim* understand that the Rambam was of the opinion that there is no obligation to add to Shabbos.⁸ Logically, there would be no need to add to Shabbos, since Hashem rested on the seventh day and not on Friday. However, since we cannot calculate the exact end of Friday, we must add to Shabbos.⁹

It is important to point out that there is no punishment if one transgresses a Shabbos violation during this additional time, but if one adds to the Shabbos he receives a reward.¹⁰

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The obligation to add to Shabbos and Yom Tov applies to women just as much as men.¹¹

Time to Add

Many earlier *poskim* do not mention how much time should be added to Shabbos.¹² The *Shulchan Aruch*¹³ simply

8. See *Kesef Mishnah Hilchos Shabbos* 5:3, *Beis Yosef* 261. Although some maintain the Rambam holds there is an obligation, but it is Rabbinic. Refer to *Radvaz* 5:113. See *Chut Shani Shabbos* 4:pages 49-50.

9. Midrash Rabbah Bereishis 10:9.

10. Mishnah Berurah 261:19.

11. Pri Megadim M.Z. 608:1, Kaf Hachaim 261:16, Rivevos Ephraim 4:65, 69:4, Mishneh Halachos 6:54, Nishmas Shabbos 1:206. See Yabia Omer O.C. 8:29:6, Seridei Eish 1:26, Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah 46:footnote 7.

12. Refer to *Biur Halachah* 261 "*eizeh*." For a complete list of amounts of time see *Nishmas Shabbos* 1:207. See *Rosh Maseches Yoma* 8:8, *Tosafos Maseches Brachos* 27a "*d'rav*."

13.261:2.

^{6.} Shulchan Aruch O.C. 261:2. See Biur Halachah 261 "yeish omrim."

^{7.} Tosafos Maseches Rosh Hashanah 9a "v'rebi," Ramban Rosh Hashanah 9a, Ran Rosh Hashanah 9a, Yerei'im 274, Smag Mitzvas Asei 32, Levush 261:4, Magen Avraham 261:8, Elyah Rabbah 12, Taz 291:6, Machatzis Hashekel 261:8, Chayei Adam (Shabbos) 2-3:5:1, Mishnah Berurah 261:19, Aruch Hashulchan 261:6, Rivevos Ephraim 4:65, Shevet Halevi 4:27:2. See Biur Halachah 261 "m'plag." Refer to Yabia Omer O.C. 5:21, Nishmas Shabbos 1:205. See Machzik Brachah 261:6, Kaf Hachaim 16.

says "some time."¹⁴ Some maintain that not more than 13.5 minutes need to be added,¹⁵ while some say twenty minutes,¹⁶ and others a half hour.¹⁷

The custom of many in Yerushalayim is to light the candles forty minutes before *shkiah*.¹⁸ However, others question this practice and the Sephardim do not seem to follow this custom.¹⁹

Lighting Eighteen Minutes before Sunset

There is a widespread custom for women to light candles eighteen minutes before *shkiah*.²⁰ The rationale for this custom is based on the opinion of the *Yerei'im*, who holds that *bein hashmashos* starts before sunset.²¹ As we will

16. See Kaf Hachaim 261:23.

17. Shitah Mekubetzes Maseches Beitzah 30a (end).

18. Sefer Eretz page 26, Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah 40:footnote 20, Moadim U'zmanim 6:84, Rivevos Ephraim 7:85:2, Teshuvos V'hanhagos 4:61, Halichos Shlomo Tefillah page 161:footnote 11, Minchas Yitzchak 9:20, Mishnas Yosef 4:33, Piskei Teshuvos 261:6. This does not apply to a man (Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah ibid., Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23, Pnei Shabbos 16:footnote 23. Some say the reason is that since candle lighting was given to women they are extra careful with it and light early. See Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23:footnote 145 in depth.). If someone from Yerushalayim goes to a different area in Eretz Yisrael where they light earlier she should light as her custom in Yerushalayim (Teshuvos V'hanhagos 4:61, Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23:4, Rivevos Ephraim 4:65). It would seem that women who come from America to Eretz Yisrael to live for the year after marriage should also light as the custom is in Yerushalayim. Some suggest the reason for the forty minutes is to hold like the opinion that bein hashmashos is eighteen minutes before shkiah and according to those who hold adding to Shabbos is about twenty minutes (Pnei Shabbos 16:page 288, see Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23:4).

19. Yabia Omer O.C. 5:21. See Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23:4 quoting the opinion of the Shevet Halevi.

20. See Igros Moshe O.C. 1:96, 2:6 which says twenty minutes.

21. Biur Halachah 261 "m'techilas."

^{14.} Most say it can be a minute amount (*Yabia Omer O.C.* 5:21). See *Rosh Maseches Yoma* 8:8. Harav Moshe Feinstein *zt*"*l* mentions one should add two minutes (*Igros Moshe O.C.* 1:96, see *Eretz Tzvi* 1:60, *Shevet Halevi* 8:154:2).

^{15.} Biur Halachah 261 "eizeh." See Mishnah Berurah 261:22.

explain later, most of the calculations are based on threequarters of a *mil*. The *Yerei'im* holds that *bein hashmashos* starts three-quarters of a *mil* before sunset. The most extreme opinion for a *mil* is twenty-four minutes, and threequarters of twenty-four is eighteen. Therefore, the custom is to refrain from work eighteen minutes before *shkiah* by lighting the candles.²²

It is important to point out that men should make sure to refrain from work before *shkiah* and preferably at the candle lighting time.²³

Be Careful about Doing Melachah Close to Sunset

The *Aruch Hashulchan*²⁴ says that one should be careful to accept Shabbos early in order to avoid the grave punishment for *chillul Shabbos*.

What Needs to Be Done

There is a discussion in the *poskim* as to how exactly one adds to Shabbos.²⁵ Some say that one can just have in mind that he is adding to Shabbos,²⁶ while others maintain that he must say, "I am adding to Shabbos."²⁷ Others say this can be accomplished by saying *Barchu* at Ma'ariv (see below).²⁸ The custom today is that when one says *Mizmor Shir* it is

- 23. Refer to Mishnah Berurah 261:23.
- 24. 267:4. See Aruch Hashulchan 256:3.
- 25. Refer to Ohr Yisrael 23:pages 72-76.
- 26. See Shevet Halevi 10:50.

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27. Mishnah Berurah 261:21, Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah 46:2. See Shevet Halevi 4:27:1, Moadim U'zmanim 7:253, 223 in footnote, Teshuvos V'hanhagos 3:83.

28. Chayei Adam (Shabbos) 2-3:5:2, Mishnah Berurah ibid, 28. See Shulchan Aruch 261:4, Magen Avraham 13, Levush 3, Elyah Rabbah 10.

^{22.} Teshuvos V'hanhagos 4:61, Igros Moshe O.C. 2:6, Mishnas Yosef 4:33, Mahari Shteiff 2, Pnei Shabbos 16:pages 287-288. Refer to Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23. See Aruch Hashulchan 261:6 which says this opinion was not accepted.

accepting Shabbos as well.²⁹ Others say this is accomplished by saying *bo'i kallah* at the end of *Lecha Dodi*.³⁰ This takes effect even if one recites it when it is still day outside (as long as it is after *plag haminchah*; see below).³¹ Some say that Shabbos comes upon a person even without saying anything,³² while others say the cessation from work prior to *bein hashmashos* suffices.³³

There is an opinion in the *poskim* that one should not say "Good Shabbos" before Minchah, as this may be an acceptance of Shabbos and then he could not *daven* Minchah afterwards.³⁴ However, the custom is to permit this, since the intention is not to accept Shabbos, but is simply a nice gesture to family or friends.³⁵

What Is Happening When We Add to Shabbos

Hashem can work until the last moment on Friday and then rest for Shabbos, but we cannot be so exact so we stop early. This gives us a great opportunity to actually add holiness to an otherwise mundane day.

Understanding the Different Times

The opinion of many *poskim* is that *shkiah* is when the sun sets, followed immediately by *bein hashmashos*.³⁶ The

- 30. See Mishnah Berurah 31, Aruch Hashulchan 16.
- 31. Mishnah Berurah 29.
- 32. Chayei Adam (Shabbos) 2-3:5:2. See Nefesh Harav page 155. Refer to Teshuvos V'hanhagos 3:83.
- 33. Shulchan Aruch Harav 261:5, Aruch Hashulchan 261:2.
- 34. Opinion of Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach *zt"l* quoted in *Teshuvos V'hanhagos* 4:59, *Halichos Shlomo Tefillah* 2:footnote 44, *Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:23:3:16.
- 35. Teshuvos V'hanhagos 4:59.
- 36. Aruch Hashulchan 261:5.

^{29.} Chayei Adam (Shabbos) 2-3:5:2, Mishnah Berurah 261:31, Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah 46:3. See Shulchan Aruch 261:4, Shulchan Aruch Harav 261:7.

Gemara³⁷ says that *bein hashmashos* lasts for three-quarters of a *mil*, which we calculate at 13.5 minutes.³⁸ (Although there are different *shiurim* for a *mil*, we work with the basic opinion that it is eighteen minutes per *mil*.)³⁹ Another Gemara⁴⁰ says that *tzeis hakochavim* is four *mil* after *shkiah*, which we calculate at seventy-two minutes. These two statements are contradictory. There are two ways to resolve this contradiction, and these are the sources of today's opinions.

Many *poskim*, including the *Shulchan Aruch*,⁴¹ answer the contradiction as follows.⁴² There are two different *shkios*. The first *shkiah* is when the sun sets, but for the next three-quarters of a *mil* (58.5 minutes) it is considered day. After this point it is considered *bein hashmashos* for 13.5 minutes, and when this time passes it is night. This is commonly known as the opinion of Rabbeinu Tam.

Many other *poskim*⁴³ maintain that when the sun sets it is considered *shkiah*. The next 13.5 minutes are the *bein hashmashos* period after sunset, followed by night.⁴⁴ This is commonly known as the opinion of the Gra⁴⁵ (although this opinion pre-dates the Gra). The Gra uses the famous words

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40. Pesachim 94a.

41. 261:2. See Beis Yosef 261.

42. See Tosafos Maseches Shabbos 35a "trei," Maseches Pesachim 94a "Rebbi Yehudah," Tosafos Maseches Zevachim 56a "minayin," Tosafos Menachos 20b "nifsal." Refer to Mishnah Berurah 261:2, 14, Aruch Hashulchan 261:5. See Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:167, Moadim U'zmanim 2:155.

43. Rambam Hilchos Tefillah 5:4, see Beis Yosef O.C. 261, Mishnah Berurah 20, 23, 331:14, Aruch Hashulchan 5, 8.

44. Refer to *Biur Halachah* 261 "*m*'*techilas*." Some question this since in many places there are no stars in the sky 13.5 minutes after sunset (*Moadim U'zmanim* 6:84).

45. O.C. 261, 262. See Lehoros Nosson 2:14.

^{37.} Shabbos 34b.

^{38.} See Sha'ar Hatzion 261:6. See Mishnah Berurah 23 which says it is fifteen minutes.

^{39.} Mishnah Berurah 459:15, Biur Halachah "havei." See Moadim U'zmanim 2:155.

of "*chush meid*," that one's intellect can tell that the sky is already dark before seventy-two minutes.⁴⁶ The Gemara that refers to seventy-two minutes was not saying it as a matter of *halachah l'ma'aseh*. In addition, it could be that all the stars are visible after seventy-two minutes,⁴⁷ but only three stars need to be seen in order for it to be night.⁴⁸ The custom in Eretz Yisrael in most places is to follow the opinion of the Gra.⁴⁹

It could be that Rabbeinu Tam holds that nightfall is defined by three stars in the western sky, hence his opinion that it does not have a status of night until later on.

However, these calculations apply to Eretz Yisrael and Bavel⁵⁰ during the spring and autumn. The sun will set at different times during the winter and summer.⁵¹ In addition, the location also has a big impact on these calculations.⁵² For example, in New York it would make sense that *bein hashmashos* will last longer since we are further away from the equator. Many have the practice to keep Shabbos until forty-two minutes after *shkiah*; there is no source for this custom. Some maintain that the Gra's opinion in New York would be about twenty-five minutes after *shkiah*, although in practice this is not followed. However, there are *poskim* who say that the time according to Rabbeinu Tam in New York would actually be earlier – fifty minutes after *shkiah*, since the sky is full of stars and does not get any darker. (Even

- 47. Moadim U'zmanim 8:155:page 38.
- 48. Gra O.C. 261. See Aruch Hashulchan 261:8.
- 49. Moadim U'zmanim 8:155, Minchas Yitzchak 9:20. See Birchei Yosef 261:1, Mishnah Berurah 331:14.
- 50. Biur Halachah 261 "shehu."
- 51. Biur Halachah 261 "shehu," Aruch Hashulchan 8. For a discussion on this see Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:167, Moadim U'zmanim 2:155.
- 52. Mishnah Berurah 261:23.

^{46.} *O.C.* 261.

according to this opinion one should wait until seventytwo minutes even in New York if there is no pressing need, although it is not required.)⁵³

It used to be the practice of chassidim to do *melachah* on Friday until 58.5 minutes after sunset.⁵⁴ Harav Aharon Kotler *zt"l* met with the Satmar Rebbe *zt"l* and expressed his concern that the sight of openly *frum* men doing *melachah* after sunset would cause a severe laxity in Shabbos observance in America. The outcome was that everyone started Shabbos at sunset, and the *yeshivish* world would accept Rabbeinu Tam on Motza'ei Shabbos and wait seventy-two minutes for Shabbos to be over.⁵⁵ The custom is to hold like the opinion of Rabbeinu Tam in areas where it is a

53. Opinion of Harav Moshe Feinstein *zt*"l quoted in *Igros Moshe O.C.* 1:24, 4:62, *Y.D.* 4:17:26. Refer to *Yagel Yaakov O.C.* 38, *Teshuvos V'hanhagos* 1:268, 273, 2:167, 3:83, *Beis Avi* 3:117, *Mahari Shteiff* 2, *Yabia Omer O.C.* 2:21, *Daas Chazzon Ish* 3:15 (who brings that the Chazzon Ish *zt*"l held 45 minutes after sunset on Motz'aei Shabbos, also see ibid pages 101-102). See *Igros Moshe Y.D.* 4:48:4, *Divrei Shalom* 3:75, *Piskei Teshuvos* 293:4, *Moadim U'zmanim* 2:155, 6:84, *Pnei Shabbos* 16:pages 286-287, *Vaya'an Yosef O.C.* 105. Refer to *Biur Halachah* 261 "*shehu*," all *Biur Halachah* to 293. In regard to a fast one can wait until forty-one minutes after *shkiah*; if he is not really hungry he should wait until fifty minutes. *Megillah* reading on Ta'anis Esther should start fifty minutes after *shkiah* (*Igros Moshe O.C.* 4:62). See *Shevet Halevi* 6:72. In Eretz Yisrael they are lenient in this regard relating to Motza'ei Shabbos (see *Kaf Hachaim* 261:1, *Rav Poalim* 2:19, *Orchos Rabbeinu* 1:page 163:235, *Birur Halachah* 293:2).

54. See *Chasam Sofer O.C.* 80, *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* 75:1, *Keren L'Dovid* 79, *Mishneh Halachos* 10:54. Refer to *Yabia Omer O.C.* 2:21. See *Yagel Yaakov O.C.* 38 which quotes this as the custom in Oberland. For more on this see *Magen Avraham* 331:2, *Vaya'an Yosef* 103-105, *Pri Yitzchak* 1:7, *Be'er Moshe* 2:61.

55. Yalkut Yosef 261:5. See Yabia Omer O.C. 2:21, Mahari Shteiff 2, Divrei Yatziv O.C. 134:3, Teshuvos V'hanhagos 3:83, Piskei Teshuvos 261:5. See Ketzos Hashulchan 93:Badei 2. Even if one holds seventy-two minutes after Shabbos he needs to add at least two minutes to fulfill adding to Motza'ei Shabbos as well (*The Aura of Shabbos* pages 195-197:footnotes 14-16). However, one does not have to say he is accepting additions to Shabbos as some say one is required to do so on Erev Shabbos (*Teshuvos V'hanhagos* 3:83, see Moadim U'zmanim 7:253 in footnote, see B'tzel Hachachmah 5:53).

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stringency unless one has a custom to follow the Gra, such as his students.⁵⁶

On Erev Shabbos one should not do work after sunset, following the opinion of the Gra.⁵⁷

In addition, throughout the centuries Shabbos was over 13.5 minutes after sunset, in accordance with the Gra's opinion.⁵⁸ However, as mentioned before, this is not the customary practice today.⁵⁹

Different Times

As mentioned above, there are two different opinions in regard to *shkiah*.

According to the Gra's opinion that *shkiah* is sunset, one should be careful and stop doing work even a half hour before sunset,⁶⁰ since that is the time for the mitzvah of adding to Shabbos.⁶¹ According to Rabbeinu Tam it is day for fifty-eight minutes after sunset, and that entire time is available for adding to Shabbos.

Practically speaking, we *daven* Ma'ariv after sunset, and usually *Mizmor Shir* and *Lecha Dodi* as well. Therefore, it is

^{56.} Igros Moshe Y.D. 3:129:3, Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23.

^{57.} Mishnah Berurah 261:23, Biur Halachah "yeish," "kodem," Igros Moshe Y.D. 4:48:4, Mahari Shteiff 2, Yalkut Yosef 261:5, Yabia Omer O.C. 2:21, Shevet Halevi 1:49, Tzitz Eliezer 18:14:62. See Mishnah Berurah 261:20, 23, Biur Halachah 261 "b'techilas." In regard to the question if a baby boy is born twenty minutes after shkiah on Erev Shabbos is the bris on Friday or Shabbos: Does twenty minutes after shkiah mean it is the next day according to the Gra or as the Rabbeinu Tam holds, is it day at that point? (See Beis Yitzchak Y.D. 95, Igros Moshe O.C. 1:24, Yabia Omer O.C. 7:41, Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah 46:footnote 45 in depth, Minchas Elazar 1:23, Orchos Rabbeinu 1:pages 162-163, Shevet Halevi 1:49.) In regard to a hefsek taharah for a woman, see Igros Moshe O.C. 4:62, 4:17:26 (until nine minutes after shkiah).

^{58.} Especially in Galicia and Hungary. See *Pnei Shabbos* 1:page 124. Refer to *Igros Moshe Y.D.* 4:17, *Tzitz Eliezer* 18:14:6.

^{59.} Pnei Shabbos 1:page 124.

^{60.} Mishnah Berurah 261:23.

^{61.} Kaf Hachaim 261:18.

preferable to accept Shabbos right after Minchah. How this plays out in regard to making early Shabbos we will discuss below.

However, it is common to finish Minchah after sunset. According to the Gra, when should one accept Shabbos?⁶² It is possible that if one knows he will finish Minchah after sunset he should add to Shabbos in his heart (or even by saying it with his mouth)⁶³ before Minchah. This is permitted even though he will now *daven* a weekday *tefillah* – Minchah.⁶⁴

Introduction to Making Shabbos Early

In order to understand making early Shabbos we have to explain *plag haminchah*.

Plag Haminchah According to Different Opinions

One cannot accept early Shabbos until after *plag haminchah*.⁶⁵ Many opinions calculate *plag haminchah* as an hour and a half before nightfall.⁶⁶ According to these views, it is impossible make an early Shabbos in the summer, since *plag* is a few minutes before sunset.⁶⁷ However, some maintain that *plag haminchah* is an hour and fifteen minutes

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64. *Pnei Shabbos* 1:15, *Eretz Tzvi* 1:60, *Teshuvos V'hanhagos* 3:83, *Minchas Yitzchak* 9:20. If one knows the *minyan* will end after *shkiah* then he should *daven* by himself rather than with the *minyan* (*Mishnah Berurah* 233:14, *Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasah* 46:5).

65. *Rama* 261:2, *Levush* 4, *Mishnah Berurah* 25, 233:10, 267:4, 235:14. See *Nishmas Shabbos* 1:209. See *Nishmas Shabbos* ibid if this makes a difference if one generally goes with the opinion that one should always *daven* Minchah until night. Refer to *Terumas Hadeshen* 1 which quotes the practice to bring early Shabbos on 3-4 hours before *tzeis hakochavim*.

66. Refer to Rosh 4:5, Tosafos Maseches Brachos 27a "d'rav," Shulchan Aruch 233:1, 263:4, Rama 233:1, Chayei Adam 21:23, 27. See Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:12.

67. Refer to Piskei Teshuvos 261:7.

^{62.} Mishneh Halachos 10:54.

^{63.} Mishmeres Shalom 26:3.

before *shkiah*.⁶⁸ This is calculated as follows: there are two different times for Minchah, six and a half hours into the day and nine and a half hours into the day. The second time is two and a half hours before *shkiah*. Half of that time (*plag*) is one and a quarter hours before *shkiah*.⁶⁹

Earlier, we discussed the obligation to accept Shabbos a few minutes early, or in some cases a half hour early. In the spring and summer months many people make early Shabbos. Since we cannot make early Shabbos before *plag haminchah*, one should make sure that his wife does not light candles before *plag*.⁷⁰ Regarding the opinion that *plag haminchah* is one hour and a half from *tzeis hakochavim*, even eighteen minutes before sunset is too early.⁷¹ Some say that we rely on those who say *plag haminchah* is before sunset, not *tzeis hakochavim*.⁷²

Making Early Shabbos

The Gemara⁷³ says that Rav *davened* Ma'ariv early on Erev Shabbos, which indicates that one may *daven* Ma'ariv early on Friday. The *Shulchan Aruch*⁷⁴ rules that one may *daven* Ma'ariv from *plag haminchah* on Friday.⁷⁵

70. Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:69.

71. Pnei Shabbos 18.

73. Brachos 27b.

74. O.C. 267:2.

See Magen Avraham 233:3, 267:1, 459:3, Levush 267, Gra 459, Mishnah Berurah
261:25, Biur Halachah 261 "l'hakdim," Aruch Hashulchan 261:10, Shraga Hameir
5:20:2. See Magen Avraham 261:10. Refer to Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:12.

^{69.} Refer to Rambam Hilchos Tefillah 3:4, Shulchan Aruch O.C. 233:1, Chayei Adam (Shabbos) 2-3:5:1.

^{72.} Pnei Shabbos 18:page 295. For more on this refer to Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:23:3, Minchas Yitzchak 9:20.

^{75.} Rambam Hilchos Tefillah 3:7.

Time for Minchah and Ma'ariv

First we must understand the end time for Minchah and the beginning time for Ma'ariv, and then move on to the discussion of early Minchah and Ma'ariv.

The Mishnah⁷⁶ records a dispute between the *chachamim* and Rebbi Yehudah.⁷⁷ The *chachamim* say that one can *daven* Minchah until night⁷⁸ (see below, but for our purpose let us say it means sunset,⁷⁹ although many say this is even afterwards).⁸⁰ However, Rebbi Yehudah holds one may

76. Brachos 26a.

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77. See *Aruch Hashulchan* 233:6 on why we don't say that the *chachamim* who are the majority should win over Rebbi Yehudah, who is an individual.

78. See Rashi on mishnah "ad," Shiltei Giborim on Mordechai to Maseches Brachos 27a, Shibolei Haleket 45, Shulchan Aruch 233:1, Rama 1. See Mishnah Berurah 233:14 which says Minchah should be davened before shkiah. See, however, Shulchan Aruch 233:1, Rama. Also see Yabia Omer O.C. 8:23:29, Yechaveh Da'as 5:22, Beis Avi 1:18, Ohr L'tzion 1:20, Yisrael V'hazmanim 13, Minhag Yisrael Torah 233:1, Mishneh Halachos 7:32 (the custom in most of Europe was to daven Minchah until tzeis hakochavim). Some say the reason for this is in order to daven Ma'ariv and say Krias Shema when it is after the correct time (Nemukei Orach Chaim 131, see Mishneh Halachos 7:32).

79. This is the custom of those living in Eretz Yisrael and non-chassidim (see *Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:13:8). Refer to *Rambam Hilchos Tefillah* 3:4, 9, *Gra* 261, *Mishnah Berurah* 233:8, 14, *Sha'ar Hatzion* 10, 18, 235:20, *Biur Halachah "d'heinu," Aruch Hashulchan* 9. Refer to *Maseches Menachos* 20a-b, *Zevachim* 56a. In a pressing situation one can *daven* later as well (*Mishnah Berurah* 233:14). See *Rav Poalim* 2:19. However, refer to *Maseches Brachos* 39b which denounces those who *daven* Minchah close to sunset (see *Aruch Hashulchan* 233:8). We do this since we are busy with our work but it is better to *daven* Minchah before *plag haminchah* if possible (*Aruch Hashulchan* 233:8). One who usually *davens* Minchah before sunset and finds himself at a *minyan* which is very much after sunset should rather *daven* by himself than with that *minyan* (see *Mishnah Berurah* 233:14, *Shevet Halevi* 9:48). Others are not convinced that this be so (see *She'arim Metzuyanim B'halachah* 69:1, opinion of *Be'er Moshe* quoted in *Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:page 207, *Yechaveh Da'as* 5:22, *Beis Avi* 1:18, *Mishneh Halachos* 7:32, see *Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:13:4:page 192, page 206.

80. This is the custom of chassidim (*Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:13:8). See *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* 69:2, *Nemukei Orach Chaim* 131, *Be'er Moshe* 2:61, *Yabia Omer O.C.* 8:23:29, *Yechaveh Da'as* 5:22, *Beis Avi* 1:18. Some say since Minchah and Ma'ariv are *davened* next to each other and people *daven* Minchah later than sunset so *Krias Shema* can be recited in its proper time (*Nemukei Orach Chaim* 131). See *Emes L'Yaakov* 233:footnote 244 (half hour after *shkiah*).

daven Minchah only until *plag haminchah*⁸¹ (see below). According to Rebbi Yehudah one may *daven* Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah*⁸² but not Minchah, and according to the *chachamim* one may only *daven* Ma'ariv after night and Minchah until night.⁸³ Each opinion has a stringency and leniency.⁸⁴ Some *poskim* hold like the *chachamim*⁸⁵ and some say like Rebbi Yehudah.⁸⁶

The Gemara concludes that one can do as he wishes.⁸⁷ However, this is a little vague and we will discuss this below.

During the week, most people do not *daven* both Minchah and Ma'ariv between *plag haminchah* and sunset. However, this is an issue on Erev Shabbos.

Many *poskim* say that one should not *daven* both Minchah and Ma'ariv between *plag haminchah* and sunset.⁸⁸ One should choose to follow either Rebbi Yehudah or the *chachamim* and not contradict himself.⁸⁹ Furthermore, one should pick one opinion and act in accordance with it

- 82. In regard to Ma'ariv before *plag haminchah* see *Levush* 233:1, *Shevus Yaakov* 2:6, *Shulchan Hatohar* 233:3.
- 83. For a detailed discussion on this see *Yisrael V'hazmanim* 1:15:1. Refer to *Mishneh Halachos* 15:84.
- 84. Mishnah Berurah 233:5.
- 85. See Tur 293, Shulchan Aruch 233:1.
- 86. *Rama* 233:1. For a nice discussion on this see *Minhag Avoseinu B'yadeinu (Shonos)*, pages 58-79.
- 87. 27a. See Aruch Hashulchan 233:5-6.
- 88. Tosafos Maseches Brachos 2a "m'eimasai," Rosh Maseches Brachos 1:1, 4:3, Meiri Maseches Brachos 26b.

^{81.} The *Meiri Maseches Brachos* 26a says even according to Rebbi Yehudah one can *daven* Minchah until sunset but it's not the opportune time.

^{89.} Rosh Maseches Brachos 1:1, Rabbeinu Yonah Maseches Brachos page 18b, Tur 233, Shulchan Aruch 233:1, Magen Avraham 233:5, Pri Megadim Eishel Avraham 5, Mishnah Berurah 6, Aruch Hashulchan 10, 235:10, Taz 236:4. Refer to Kaf Hachaim 233:10 which says women can be lenient.

all his life.⁹⁰ Since we have the practice to *daven* Minchah after *plag haminchah*, most people follow the opinion of the *chachamim*.⁹¹ Nonetheless, one who did *daven* Minchah after *plag haminchah* was *yotzei*.⁹² If we follow the *chachamim*, we should not *daven* Ma'ariv before nightfall unless it is a pressing need.⁹³ Others say there is only a possible concern if one does so in the same day.⁹⁴ However, if one wishes to *daven* Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah* one day like Rebbi Yehudah and then *daven* Ma'ariv after sunset a different day like the *chachamim* there is no issue of contradicting himself.⁹⁵ Some maintain the custom is not to be concerned even if Minchah and Ma'ariv are *davened* the same day after *plag haminchah*.⁹⁶

The *Aruch Hashulchan*⁹⁷ explains that on Erev Shabbos we *daven* Ma'ariv early for the following reason: Ma'ariv corresponds to the *korbanos* that were burned on the *Mizbe'ach* during the night. Since the *korban* of Erev Shabbos could only be burned on Friday afternoon, we can also *daven* Ma'ariv early on Friday.

Davening Ma'ariv after plag haminchah is only permitted

92. Beis Yosef 267, Shulchan Aruch 233:1.

93. Shulchan Aruch 233:1. See Aruch Hashulchan 235:1.

94. See Mishneh Halachos 6:49. Refer to Machatzis Hashekel 233:5.

95. *Meiri Maseches Brachos* 27a. Refer to *Mishneh Halachos* 6:49. See *Rosh Maseches Brachos* 1:1. Refer to *Machatzis Hashekel* 233 which says even in separate days it should not be done. See *Mishnah Berurah* 233:6, 12.

96. Mishneh Halachos 6:49.

97. 235:3-4.

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^{90.} Shulchan Aruch 233:1. See Mishnah Berurah 233:6. Refer to Ritz Gei'os Hilchos Havdalah page 25, Tur 293.

^{91.} Hagaos Maimonios Hilchos Tefillah 3:4, Tur 267, Shulchan Aruch 233:1, Magen Avraham 233:7, Biur Halachah 261 "miyad." It was the practice of many to daven Ma'ariv early after *plag haminchah* like the opinion of Rebbi Yehudah (Aruch Hashulchan 233:3).

in a normal situation if one *davened* Minchah before *plag*.⁹⁸ Even though we typically *daven* Minchah after *plag*, we can be lenient on Erev Shabbos and *daven* Ma'ariv after *plag*.⁹⁹

Most shuls *daven* Minchah before sunset and Ma'ariv a few minutes afterwards. This is permitted since Minchah and Ma'ariv are not *davened* in the same time.¹⁰⁰

Lenient Opinions

When it is difficult to form a *minyan* twice, there are some opinions that permit *davening* both Minchah and Ma'ariv between *plag haminchah* and sunset.¹⁰¹ The same logic would apply to making early Shabbos to avoid eating too late at night.¹⁰² However, the *Mishnah Berurah*¹⁰³ says that one should still *daven* Ma'ariv during *bein hashmashos*.¹⁰⁴ Elsewhere, however, the *Mishnah Berurah*¹⁰⁵ rules like the lenient opinion. Nonetheless, this is a weak leniency.¹⁰⁶

Many say that the concern to *daven* both Minchah and Ma'ariv between *plag haminchah* and sunset is not an issue since the Gemara does not come out with a clear halachah.¹⁰⁷

Some maintain that since one adds onto Shabbos then it is permitted to *daven* Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah*.¹⁰⁸

102. See Mishneh Halachos 6:56.

103. 267:3.

104. See Biur Halachah 267 "v'plag." Refer to Mishnah Berurah 235:14.

105. 233:11, 13.

^{98.} Mishnah Berurah 233:11, 235:14, Sha'ar Hatzion 235:16.

^{99.} Kesef Mishnah Hilchos Tefillah 3:7, Beis Yosef 267, Shulchan Aruch 267:2. See Magen Avraham 1, Shulchan Aruch Harav 267:2.

^{100.} Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:69. See Minhag Yisrael Torah 233:2.

^{101.} Magen Avraham 233:7, Mishnah Berurah 233:11, 13, 235:10, Aruch Hashulchan 10. See Aruch Hashulchan 235:1.

^{106.} Biur Halachah 267 "v'plag."

^{107.} Mordechai Maseches Brachos 27a-89.

^{108.} Aruch Hashulchan 233:3.

However, Minchah should be *davened* before *plag haminchah*.¹⁰⁹

The 7:00 p.m. Minchah on Erev Shabbos

During the spring and summer months, many shuls make early Shabbos and arbitrarily set Minchah to be at 7:00 p.m.¹¹⁰ Some explain the reason for this time since *plag haminchah* is usually not until after 7:00 p.m. Therefore, we *daven* then to ensure that the women will not light before *plag haminchah*.

Many communities are careful to *daven* Minchah before *plag haminchah* and Ma'ariv afterwards. This follows those *poskim* who maintain that one should not *daven* both Minchah and Ma'ariv between *plag haminchah* and sunset. Although one should not pick one day like one opinion and another day like a different person (according to many *poskim*), it is permitted on Erev Shabbos.

The issue which arises is the 7:00 p.m. Minchah. This is done for convenience so there is no need to change the time of Minchah each Friday, although it is not such an issue with today's mass communications. Most times Minchah is after *plag haminchah* and Ma'ariv is in the same time frame. Even if one is lenient and *davens* Ma'ariv after *plag*, one should make sure to *daven* Minchah before *plag haminchah*.¹¹¹

One may be able to rely on those who say there is no

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111. Sha'ar Hatzion 236:10, Mishnah Berurah 267:3.

^{109.} Mishnah Berurah 267:3.

^{110.} There are many places in Europe where it does not get dark until much later at night, sometimes 11:00 p.m., and making Shabbos at 7:00 p.m. would be much too early (*Shoalim V'dorshin* 1:16:page 163). It is interesting that during the winter people are accustomed to make Shabbos whatever time it says on the calendar and in the Summer they make a set time at 7:00pm even though *plag haminchah* most of the time is before 7:00pm. There are some communities which print on their calendar the time for candle lighting as well as the time of *plag haminchah* to make sure Minchah is *davened* before *plag haminchah*.

concern for *davening* Minchah and Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah*, although most do not hold like this.

The *Aruch Hashulchan*¹¹² says that this is a unique leniency for Erev Shabbos.

Some maintain that since Ma'ariv was not instituted as an obligation, there is no set time for it.¹¹³

In one place the *Mishnah Berurah*¹¹⁴ says that one should not *daven* Minchah and Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah* on the same day, even if a need arises, while elsewhere he is lenient.¹¹⁵

If one cannot *daven* Minchah before *plag haminchah* it may be preferable to *daven* without a *minyan* before *plag* than with a *minyan* after *plag*.¹¹⁶

Some maintain that the time for Ma'ariv begins at whichever point one *davens* Minchah after *plag.*¹¹⁷

A Good Rationale for Leniency for Early Minchah and Ma'ariv

As mentioned, there are no real good leniencies to allow Minchah and Ma'ariv after *plag haminchah* before sunset. However, the *Shraga Hameir*¹¹⁸ offers the following:

When one *davens* Minchah after *plag haminchah* it is day, and then one accepts Shabbos. At this point, it is considered the next day, and it is not a contradiction from one day to the next, although for other *halachos* we do not hold like this.

Another possible explanation is that many times a man lights candles for Shabbos (he is not married or is not home

114.267:3.

115. 233:11, 13.

116. Opinion of Harav Shachter shlit"a. Refer to Mishnah Berurah 267:3.

117. Pri Yitzchak 1:7.

118. 5:21, see Apraksisa D'anya 8.

^{112.267:3.}

^{113.} Rosh Maseches Brachos 1:1. See Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:69.

for Shabbos). If we would require him to *daven* Minchah before *plag haminchah*, he would have to go home and light candles afterwards. Since this would be a bother for him, we allow him to *daven* both Minchah and Ma'ariv after *plag*.¹¹⁹ Others maintain that this practice is not followed.¹²⁰

Against Early Shabbos

Some have the practice to always *daven* Ma'ariv at the correct time and not early.¹²¹ Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach $zt''l^{122}$ was of the opinion not to make early Shabbos.¹²³

Meal

According to some *poskim*, one who makes early Shabbos should make sure to extend his meal into the night.¹²⁴ The requirement to eat three meals is derived from the *pasuk*, "*ichluhu hayom*," to eat it on Shabbos day.¹²⁵ This implies that it needs to be on Shabbos proper.¹²⁶ Others say that this is not required since by adding to Shabbos it is now considered night according to halachah.¹²⁷ The *Aruch Hashulchan*¹²⁸

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122. Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 14:footnote 10.

123. See Ashrei Ha'ish 2:pages 38-39:23.

124. Sefer Chassidim 269. See Taz 291:6. Refer to Mishneh Halachos 11:203.

125. Shemos 16:25.

126. Mishnah Berurah 267:5.

127. Magen Avraham 267:1, Taz 291:6, Elyah Rabbah 2, Mishnah Berurah 5. Refer to Be'er Moshe 1:15:8.

128. 267:5.

^{119.} Shraga Hameir 5:21.

^{120.} Shraga Hameir 5:21:2.

^{121.} Massei Rav 65, 115, Orchos Rabbeinu 1:page 108:37, Teshuvos V'hanhagos 1:273. For a nice discussion on the different reasons why people did not make early Shabbos, see *Techumin* 10:pages 391-401. Some do not like the early Shabbos *minyan*, because most times the *rav* does not *daven* at that *minyan* and they miss his speech that he often delivers between *Kabbalas Shabbos* and Ma'ariv (*Shoalim V'dorshin* 1:16:12:page 149).

holds that this is a pious act, but is not required according to the strict law.

It is proper to be stringent and eat a *kezayis* of bread when it gets dark.¹²⁹

Some offer the option to *daven Kabbalas Shabbos*, eat the meal, and then *daven* Ma'ariv at the later *minyan*. This is permitted as long as the meal does not start a half hour before *shkiah*.¹³⁰ However, Harav Moshe Feinstein *zt*"*l* was against this, since this is an odd practice.¹³¹

Kiddush

One can make Kiddush on Friday after accepting early Shabbos even if it is broad daylight,¹³² since it is considered Shabbos.¹³³

Krias Shema

The time for reciting *Krias Shema* is when one lays down to sleep at night.¹³⁴ (Some maintain this is as early as eighteen minutes after *shkiah*,¹³⁵ but the custom is around forty-five minutes after *shkiah*.)¹³⁶ Some say that *Krias Shema* of early Shabbos is considered the correct time, and there is

133. Mishnah Berurah 267:6.

134. Maseches Brachos 2a, Rambam Hilchos Krias Shema 1:9, Shulchan Aruch 235:1, Mishnah Berurah 1.

135. *Halichos Shlomo Pesach* 11:footnote 2. Refer to *Nemukei Orach Chaim* 235 which says it is seventy-two minutes after *shkiah*.

136. Igros Moshe E.H. 4:84:5.

^{129.} Mishnah Berurah 267:5, Halichos Shlomo Pesach 11: footnote 2.

^{130.} *Mishnah Berurah* 271:11. See *Ashrei Ha'ish* 2:pages 38-39:24, quoting the opinion of Harav Elyashiv *zt"l*.

^{131.} *Mesores Moshe* pages 61-62. Refer to *Rivevos Ephraim* 7:7:86:1, 7:293. This is the opinion of Harav Yisroel Belsky *zt*^{*r*}*l* as well.

^{132.} Maseches Brachos 27b, Rambam Hilchos Shabbos 29:11, Shulchan Aruch 267:2, Aruch Hashulchan 5. See Mishneh Halachos 11:204. Refer to Teshuvos V'hanhagos 5:73.



no need to repeat it later on.¹³⁷ However, the practice is to repeat *Krias Shema*¹³⁸ (preferably all three *parshiyos*)¹³⁹ after nightfall.¹⁴⁰ Although it is preferable to recite *Krias Shema* next to *Shemoneh Esrei*, since one is adding to Shabbos we lift this concern.¹⁴¹

One may not eat a meal within a half hour¹⁴² of the proper time of reciting *Krias Shema*,¹⁴³ since he may be engrossed in his meal and forget to say *Krias Shema*.¹⁴⁴ The question is how this impacts those who make early Shabbos, make Kiddush, and eat before reciting *Krias Shema* in its proper time. It is possible that since *Krias Shema* was in fact recited at Ma'ariv, albeit early, there is no issue.¹⁴⁵ Others suggest that we rely on *Krias Shema al Hamittah*.¹⁴⁶ Alternatively, one who makes early Shabbos usually begins his meal more than a half hour before the correct time to recite *Krias Shema* (at

138. This is not just a chumrah (Mishnah Berurah 235:6).

139. Mishnah Berurah 235:11, Aruch Hashulchan 8.

140. Rosh Maseches Brachos 1:1, 4:6, Rabbeinu Yonah Maseches Brachos page 50, Rambam Hilchos Tefillah 3:7, Shulchan Aruch 235:1, Mishnah Berurah 233:5, 267:3, Aruch Hashulchan 6-8. See Mishnah Berurah 235:12. The Gra held it is better to daven Ma'ariv by oneself at the right time if one can't gather ten people to say Krias Shema (see Biur Halachah 235 "v'eim"). In earlier times it was hard for people to come to shul at night due to the lack of electricity. Therefore, they would daven Ma'ariv early and repeat Krias Shema. Today, being that we have lights, davening Ma'ariv early is not as necessary so perhaps davening later is preferred to be able to say Krias Shema in its right time (Yisrael V'hazmanim 1:15:2).

141. Rosh Maseches Brachos 4:6, Rabbeinu Yonah Maseches Brachos page 50, Ma'aseh Rav 65, 115.

142. Shulchan Aruch 235:2, Mishnah Berurah 18.

143. Shulchan Aruch 235:2, Magen Avraham 267:2. Refer to Siach Yitzchak 137.

144. Mishnah Berurah 235:16.

145. Magen Avraham 267:2, Elyah Rabbah 2. See Mishnah Berurah 235:19, Sha'ar Hatzion 25, Mishnah Berurah 267:6.

146. Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:69.

^{137.} Tosafos Maseches Brachos 2a "m'eimasai," Rashba 2a, Meiri 2a, 26b, see Rosh Maseches Brachos 1:1. Refer to Ohr Zarua Hilchos Krias Shema 1.

night), so there is no issue.¹⁴⁷ One who delayed the start of the meal until a half hour before the correct time for *Krias Shema* (twenty minutes after *shkiah*) should say *Krias Shema* before eating his Shabbos meal.¹⁴⁸ There is no need to interrupt the meal to recite *Krias Shema*,¹⁴⁹ although some have the custom to recite it during the meal.¹⁵⁰

In any case, one should make sure not to miss out on the recital of *Krias Shema* as it is *d'Oraisa*.¹⁵¹ Therefore, the *gabbai* should remind everybody after Ma'ariv.¹⁵²

148. Ibid, *Mishnah Berurah* 6, *Aruch Hashulchan* 6. Refer to *Shulchan Halevi* (Hebrew) 1:page 66.

149. Mishnah Berurah 235:21, Aruch Hashulchan 12.

150. Rivevos Ephraim 8:477:1. See Rivevos Ephraim 5:191.

151. Mishnah Berurah 267:6.

152. Halichos Shlomo Pesach 11:footnote 2, Shoalim V'dorshin 1:16:1, Techumin 10:page 396, Yalkut Yosef 267:7.

^{147.} Magen Avraham 267:2.

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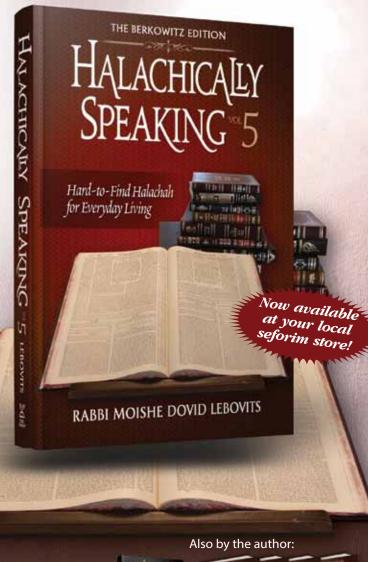
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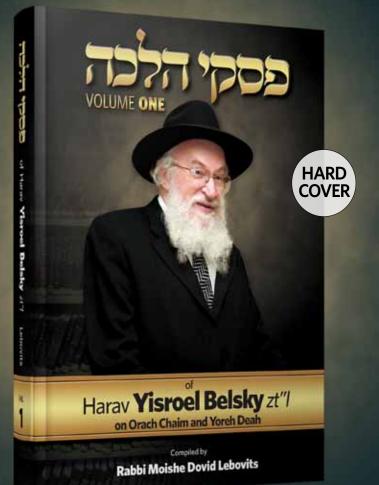








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