Kvar Acharay Chatzot
(Israel)

Kvar Acharay Chatzot (KVAR ah-khah-RAY khah-ZHOHT) is a non-partner dance choreographed by Rivka Sturman. The title may be translated as "Midnight has passed." The dance is also known as "Mechol Hasheket" (mah-KHOL hah-sheh-KET) meaning "Quiet Dance."

Rivka originally set the dance to the music "Erev Ba" which was composed by Arish Lebanon. At the 1965 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp she presented this dance and another dance choreographed by Yoav Ashriel. The second dance is known to many as "Erev Ba II." Both dances used the same music and were printed in "Let's Dance" May 1966. Subsequently, Ms. Sturman choose the music listed here for her dance rather than have two popular dances using the same music. The choreography for Kvar Acharay Chatzot differs slightly from Erev Ba I because of the arrangement of the music but it is easy to see that the two dances have a common origin.

**Record:** El Al Songs of Israel, Vol II Side A/7. 4/4 meter

**Formation:** Open circle of dancers facing diag R of ctr, leader at R end. Dancers joined in a special handhold: With L hand hold the R hand of L neighbor (palm to palm) and then bend elbows so that each L forearm is in front of owner's body with neighbor's R forearm resting on it. L palms are up and R palms are down.

**Measures** 4/4 meter

**PATTERN**

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I. WALK IN LOD; BACKWARD YEMENITE

A 1 With hands joined as described in Formation and moving in LOD, walk R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); hold (ct 4).

2 Dance a Backward Yemenite: Step back onto L, bending knee (ct 1); step on ball of R ft near L (ct 2); step fwd in LOD on L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

II. WALK IN LOD; STEP AND TOUCH RIGHT HEEL

B 1 With joined hands lowered into V-pos, repeat Fig I, meas 1.

2 Facing ctr, step back onto L (cts 1-2); rest R heel fwd on the floor (toes up) while raising joined hands into W-pos (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

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Fig I 8 times (16 meas)
Fig II 4 times (8 meas)
Fig I 4 times (8 meas)
Fig II 3 times (6 meas); with hands in V-pos, step on R to R side and sway to R
(cts 1-2); sway to L side (cts 3-4). (meas 7).
Fig I 8 times (16 meas)
Fig II 4 times (8 meas)
Fig I 4 times (8 meas)
Fig II once (2 meas)

* On the second time through the music there are only 7 meas of music for Fig II. Some
groups dance it as described above. Others dance it as follows:
  Meas 1: Step on R ft in LOD (ct 1); turning to face ctr, step back onto L (ct 2); rest R heel
  on floor while raising joined hands into W-pos (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
  Meas 2-7: Repeat Fig II three times.
Either version can be danced - just follow the leader.

KVAR ACHARAY CHATZOT

Kvar acharay chatzot od lo kibu et hayarayach Midnight has passed.
Ki lifnay kibu’ee orot The moon is still shining.
Orot shel kochavim Before extinguishing the light of the stars,
Notnim od rega ket la’ohavim Another moment is granted to those who love.

(Chorus)
Machar yihiyeh zeh yom chadash Tomorrow is a new day but what can be expected
U’ma efshar miyom chadash kvar litsapot from another day?
Az ten lanu od rega, rak od rega So please grant us another moment, just another
Af al pi she’kvar acharay chatzot moment, although it is past midnight.

Kvar acharay chatzot Midnight has passed.
Od lo hidliku et haboker It is not yet morning.
Ki lifnay she’minakim Before cleaning the street of the day passed,
Et ha’etmol min harchovot another moment is granted to the lovers.
Notmin od rega kat la’ahavot.

Kvar acharay chatzot Midnight has passed.
Od lo hidliku et ha’shemesh The sun is not yet shining.
Ki lifnay she’michalkin Before the delivery of milk
Et ha’iton ve’he’chalav and the morning newspapers,
Notnim lanu od rega she’novah. lovers are granted another momentt.

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