

# How to Make Aliyah to the Torah

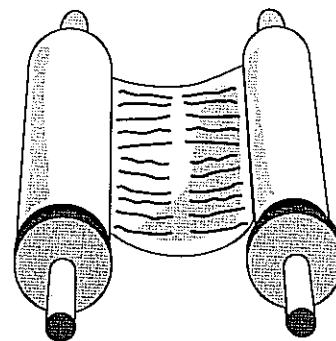
## עֲלִיָּה לַתּוֹרָה

### The source:

Code of Jewish Law (*Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chayim* 139-141); Babylonian Talmud, Megillah 31b-32a.

### What you need to know:

1. After your name has been called, go up to the Torah, to the left side of the reader. After the *baal koreh* (Torah reader) has shown you the place about to be read, touch it with the *tzitzit* (fringes) of your *tallit* (or with the spine of your *siddur*). The scroll will next be rolled together. Stand behind the Torah scroll and say the following blessing:



בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ:

*Barechu et Adonai hamevorach.*

Praise Adonai, to whom our praise is due!

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

*Baruch Adonai ha'mevorach le-olam va'ed.*

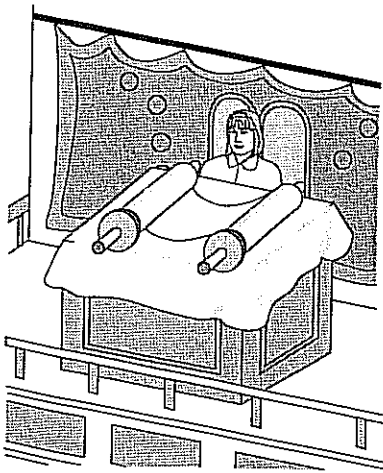
Praised be Adonai, to whom our praise is due, now and forever!

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים  
וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ: בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam asher  
bachar banu mikol ha'amim ve'natan lanu et torahto  
Baruch atah Adonai notayn ha-Torah.*

Praised is Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has chosen us from all peoples by giving us Torah. Praised is Adonai, Giver of the Torah.

Then move to the right of the *baal koreh* so the Torah can be read.



2. After the reading, recite the following:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת  
וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam asher natan lanu torat emet ve'chayai olam nata bitochaynu. Baruch atah Adonai notayn ha-Torah.*

Praised is Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. Praised is Adonai, Giver of the Torah.

3. Then stay on the left side of the reader during the next *aliyah*.

יָשֵׁר כָּח  
בָּרוּךְ תִּהְיֶה

4. Following the next *aliyah*, you may go back to your seat. People will say to you *yasher koach* "May you be strengthened." You should respond *baruch tihyeh*, "May it be blessed."

#### Things to remember:

בֶּן  
בַּת 1. In order to be called to the Torah, the rabbi will want to know your Hebrew name (\_\_\_ son/daughter of \_\_\_ and \_\_\_).

2. In many synagogues, people are called in order of their priestly legacy (Cohen, Levi, and Israelite). In their quest for equality, Reform synagogues, Reconstructionist and some Conservative ones have generally discontinued this distinction.

בְּרַכַּת הַגּוֹמֵל  
מִי שֶׁבֵרַךְ 3. Following your *aliyah*, one says *Birkat Ha-gomel* if appropriate (see below, p. 45). Blessings for health, recovery and the like (*mi sheberach*) are said at this time also.

בֵּימָה 4. Some people descend the *bimah* backwards so as not to turn their back on the Ark—like exiting from an audience with a king.

עֵץ חַיִּים  
תּוֹרָתוֹ 5. Some people hold the *etz chaim* while reciting the blessing and actually raise the scroll slightly on the word *Torahto*.

6. Here is the music to help you remember how the blessings for an *aliyah* are to be sung.

### First Blessing.

Bar-chu et A - do - nai ham - vo - rach. Ba - ruch A - do - nai ham - vo -  
 rach li - o - lam va - ed. Ba - ruch a - ta A - do - nai e - lo - he - nu  
 me - lech ha - o - lam a - sher ba - char ba - nu mi - kol ha - a - mim, vi - na - tan  
 la - nu et To - ra - to Ba - ruch a - ta A - do - nai no - ten ha - To - rah. —

### Second Blessing.

Ba - ruch a - ta A - do - nai e - lo - he - nu me - lech ha - o - lam  
 a - sher na - tan la - nu To - rat e - met v - cha - yay o - lam na - ta  
 bi - to - chay - nu. Ba - ruch a - ta A - do - nai no - ten ha - To - rah

### Key words and phrases:

*Aliyah* עלייה. Going up to the Torah, a Torah honor (also means emigrating to Israel).

*Baal koreh* בעל קורא. Torah reader.

*Etz chaim* עץ חיים. Torah roller.

*Gabbai* גבאי. The person in a synagogue who makes things run smoothly during the services by assigning *aliyot* (plural of *aliyah*) and corrects the mistakes of the person reading the Torah.

### If you want to know more:

*Encyclopaedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, 1971) 15:1253-1254.

Hayim Donin, *To Pray as a Jew* (New York, 1980).

Rose Goldstein, *A Time to Pray* (Bridgeport, Conn., 1972).

Isaac Klein, *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice* (New York, 1979).