

How to Make Aliyah to the Torah

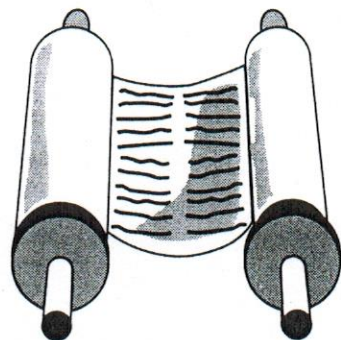
עֲלִיָּה לַתּוֹרָה

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:



בָּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבַרֵּךְ:

Barechu et Adonai hamevorach.

Praise Adonai, to whom our praise is due!

בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבַרֵּךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

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

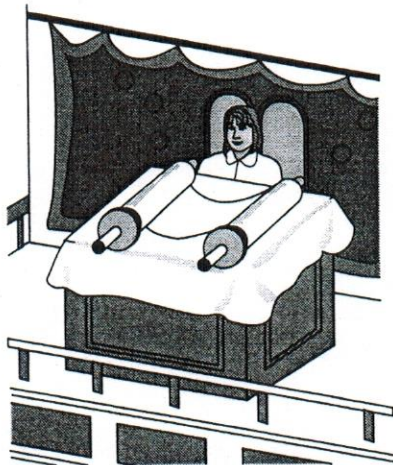
Praised be Adonai, to whom our praise is due, now and forever!

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים
וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ: בָּרוּךְ 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:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר נתן לנו תורת אמת
 וחי עולם נטע בתוכנו: ברוך אתה יי נותן התורה:

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*.

ישר כח
 ברוך תהיה

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:

בן
 בת

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.

ברכת הגומל
 מי שברך

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.

בימה

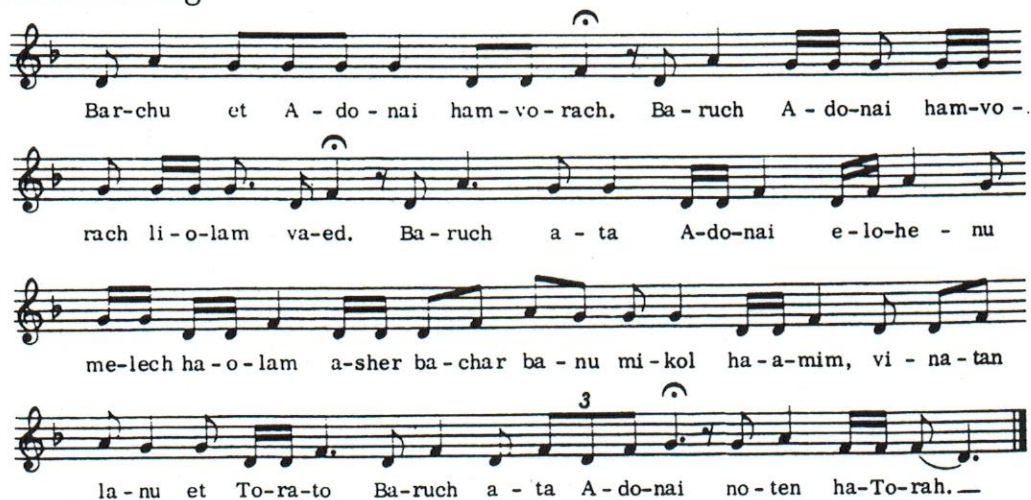
4. Some people descend the *bimah* backwards so as not to turn their back on the Ark—like exiting from an audience with a king.

עץ חיים
 תורתו

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

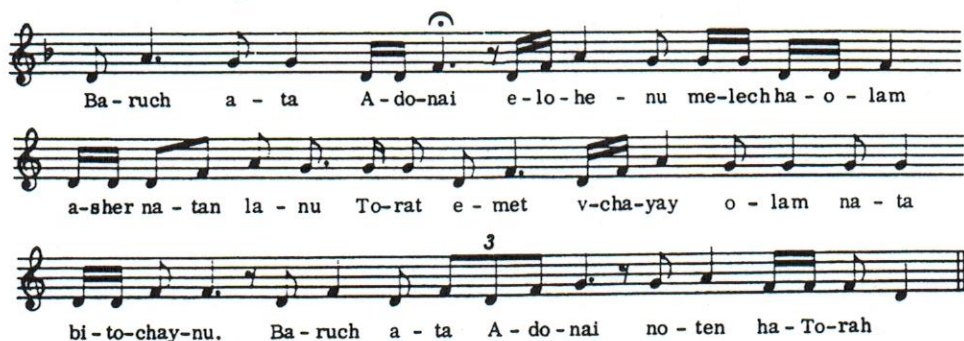
6. Here is the music to help you remember how the blessings for an *aliyah* are to be sung.

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).

reply to "Yasher Koach": *Baruch tikveh* "May it be blessed"
May you be strengthened