# **TORAH READING**

# **TORAH READING: OFFERING/DECLINING ALIYA**

## **Consecutive Aliyot for Family Members**

Consecutive <u>aliyot</u> (going up to the <u>Torah</u> during <u>Torah</u> reading) should not be given to brothers or to a father and son unless the <u>aliyot</u> are from different <u>Torah</u> scrolls. This is a custom.

### **Declining an Aliya**

You should not decline an *aliya*, if one is offered to you.

# **TORAH READING: THE BIMA**

### **Shortest Route to Bima**

When you go up to the *Torah*, take the shortest route to the *bima*. This is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

## Stand on Bima after Aliya

After getting an *aliya* to the *Torah*, stand on the *bima* until the next *aliya* has ended. This is to show respect for the *Torah* and not appear to be running away.

## **Returning to your Seat after Aliya**

When you go back to your seat after an *aliya* to the *Torah*, take the longer way around the *bima*--even if it is inconvenient or you want to avoid someone who is along the way back to your seat.

# **TORAH READING: SAYING TORAH BLESSINGS**

### When Saying Torah Blessing

When called to the *Torah*, either:

- Say the blessing while looking to the side of the Torah, or
- Roll the *Torah* together before you say the blessing.

### How Loud To Say Torah Blessings

Say the blessings over the Torah loudly enough for everyone to hear and respond "amen."

# **TORAH READING: WHAT TO DO WHILE ON BIMA**

## Torah Reading: What To Do While on Bima

The *oleh* (person who gets the *aliya*) should lightly hold on to the handle of the *Torah*. The *oleh* should read the *Torah* quietly along with the reader (*ba'al koreh*).

# **TORAH READING: ALIYA DONATION**

### **Donation after Aliya**

If you receive an *aliya* to the *Torah* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festival* mornings, it is customary give a donation to the *synagogue*, but you are not required to do so by *halacha* (and you may not give the donation ON *Shabbat*!).

NOTE A <u>synagogue</u> may request a donation on <u>Shabbat</u> or <u>Jewish festivals</u> from someone who has received an <u>aliya</u> on <u>Shabbat</u> and may give that person a card to mail in after <u>Shabbat</u> has ended.

NOTE There is no expectation of giving a donation for *aliyot* on weekdays or at *mincha* on *Shabbat*.

© Copyright 2024 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com