

{ TOPIC }Reciting a Brachahon a Borrowed Tallis





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Reciting a Brachah on a Borrowed Tallis

People frequently find themselves in shul without a *tallis*. If one borrows a *tallis* from his friend, does he recite a *brachah* on it? Is there a difference if the *tallis* belongs to the shul? What is the halachah if he takes a *tallis* for an *aliyah* or to *daven* for the *amud*?

Source

A *brachah* is only recited on one's personal garment.¹ There is a discussion whether a borrowed *tallis* (which has strings attached to it) requires a *brachah*.² The Rosh³ is of the opinion that one recites a *brachah*, as it is considered a present. Some suggest acquiring the *tallis* as a gift to be returned, although this is not required.⁴

Consensus

The poskim rule like the opinion of the Rosh.⁵ There are

 Some say a brachah is only required after one borrows it for more than thirty days (see Tur 14).

3. Maseches Chullin 8:26.

- 4. Mishnah Berurah 11. See Halachah Berurah 1:33.
- 5. Tur 14, Shulchan Aruch 14:3.

^{1.} See Rosh Maseches Chullin 8:26, Beis Yosef 14, Shulchan Aruch Harav 3, Mishnah Berurah 11.

those who maintain that one should not recite a *brachah*,⁶ but this is not the custom.

Shul Tallis

The question arises regarding a *shul tallis*, as it does not have a clear owner. A dues-paying member of the shul may be considered a part owner of the *tallis*, and may recite a *brachah* on the *tallis*.⁷ Some suggest that if he will not be covering his head with the *tallis* then no *brachah* is recited,⁸ while others find this difference weak.⁹

Some have issues with the concept to recite a *brachah* on a *shul tallis* since many of them are donated by individuals who never really relinquish their ownership. In addition, all the items of the shul might be considered the property of the specific *rav* who owns the shul.¹⁰

Aliyah

Ln

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Some say that even those who rule that one would recite a *brachah* on a *shul tallis* would agree that he would not recite a *brachah* when borrowing the *tallis* just to get an *aliyah, hagbah*,¹¹ etc. This is done out of honor for the *tzibbur* and is not considered wearing the *tallis*.¹² Others require a *brachah* even in this situation since the *tallis* is available for anyone who needs it for any purpose.¹³ In any case, the

- 8. Refer to Biur Halachah ibid.
- 9. Refer to Biur Halachah ibid. See Teshuvos V'hanhagos 1:33.

10. Teshuvos V'hanhagos 1:33. See Halachos HaGra U'minhagav page 30. It is unclear what the status of a tallis from a yeshivah has (ibid). It seems that the custom is not to recite a brachah (ibid).

11. See Aruch Hashulchan 91:2 which says a jacket or tallis would suffice.

12. Refer to Taz 4, Sha'arei Ephraim 3:18, Biur Halachah 14 "she'eilah." The same is true for a sandek at a bris (Yalkut Yosef – Sova Smachos page 57:3).

13. Ben Ish Chai Lech Lecha 1:5, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 9:11, Mishnah Berurah 11, Aruch

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^{6.} Refer to Taz 4, Mor U'ketziah 14.

^{7.} Refer to Ben Ish Chai Lech Lecha 1:5, Biur Halachah 14 "she'eilah," Aruch Hashulchan 10.

overwhelming custom is that no *brachah* is recited in this situation.¹⁴

Some maintain that a *brachah* would be recited on a *tallis* which is borrowed from an individual even for an *aliyah*, etc.¹⁵ Some suggest to have in mind not to acquire the *tallis*, thus avoiding any need for a *brachah*.¹⁶ In any case, the custom is not to recite a *brachah* in this situation.¹⁷

According to the strict view above, a *brachah* would be recited when borrowing a *tallis* from a shul to *daven* for the *amud*.¹⁸

A bar mitzvah boy who is getting an *aliyah* should take the *tallis* from his father and not from the shul, since there is a question regarding the *brachah*.¹⁹ The custom is not to recite a *brachah* on the father's *tallis* either.

Shul vs. Individual

The *poskim* maintain that it is preferable to borrow a *tallis* from an individual than from the shul.²⁰ When saying *Selichos* at night it is advisable to borrow a *tallis* from someone else, since it is questionable if one can recite a *brachah* on his own *tallis* during the night.²¹

- 16. Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 9:11.
- 17. Mishnah Berurah 11, Yalkut Yosef 14:4, Halachah Berurah 1:33.
- 18. Mishnah Berurah 11. See Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 3:12. In regards to davening for the amud with a tallis see Ketzos Hashulchan 7:badei 28.
- 19. Nitei Gavriel on Bar Mitzvah 6:21.
- 20. Refer to Biur Halachah 14 "she'eilah." See Leket Hakemach Hachadash 14:19.

21. Mekadesh Yisrael Yamim Nora'im 43.

Hashulchan 10. See Halachah Berurah 1:33, Yalkut Yosef 14:5.

^{14.} Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 3:12, Mishneh Halachos 9:234, 15:23, Rivevos Ephraim 1:21, see 4:15:3, 7:page 18. Refer to Ohr L'tzion 2:44:15.

^{15.} Elyah Rabbah 14, Mishnah Berurah 11. See Magen Avraham 6. Refer to Teshuvos V'hanhagos 1:33.

Using for Davening

It would seem that it is proper that one who borrows a *tallis* from the shul to *daven* should recite a *brachah*.²²

Damaged

It goes without saying that one is required to treat the borrowed *tallis* with respect. If he damages the *tallis* he has not performed a mitzvah with it.²³

Unmarried

One who is not married does not have to borrow a *tallis* when getting an *aliyah* at Shacharis since he is wearing tefillin.²⁴

It would make sense to wear a *tallis* when getting an *aliyah* at Minchah on Shabbos, but it is not done since those in the congregation are not wearing a *tallis* either. However, a single boy should wear a *tallis* when getting an *aliyah* on Shabbos morning.²⁵

Brachah When Lending a Tallis

After lending his *tallis* to someone for an *aliyah*, one does not recite a *brachah* when it is returned.²⁶

Checking Strings

When borrowing a *tallis* from the shul or an individual, there is no need to check the *tzitzis* beforehand to see if they are kosher.²⁷

- 22. Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 3:12.
- 23. Mishnah Berurah 12.
- 24. Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 12:20
- 25. Halichos Shlomo Tefillah 12:footnote 29.
- 26. Teshuvos V'hanhagos 2:12.
- 27. Shevet Hakehasi 3:10:2.

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Covering One's Head with the Tallis

A public *tallis* is often unclean, and some people may be uncomfortable with placing it over their head. What does halachah say about covering one's head with a *tallis* during *davening*?

The opinion of some *poskim* is that one should cover his head with the *tallis* for enough time to walk four *amos* when he recites the *brachah*, but there is no need to keep his head covered during *davening*.²⁸ However, there are those who maintain that it is proper to cover the head for the entire *davening*, as this engenders humility.²⁹ If this interferes with his ability to concentrate properly, then one does not have to do so.³⁰ Some maintain that the obligation is only from *Barchu* and on.³¹

Some take strong issue with those who do not cover their heads and only place the *tallis* on their shoulders. The main reason for this is that it is not proper to stand without a head covering in front of an important person.³² Nevertheless, many people are lenient in this regard.³³

- 31. B'mareh Habezek 6:pages 82-83.
- 32. Be'er Moshe 5:2.
- 33. See Nefesh Harav page 104.

^{28.} Taz 8:11, Chayei Adam 1:12:3, Mishnah Berurah 8:4, Yalkut Yosef 8:28.

^{29.} Bach 8, Elyah Rabbah 8:4, Mishnah Berurah 4, Kaf Hachaim 10, see Yechaveh Da'as 5:1.

^{30.} Yalkut Yosef 8:29.



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