

Cape of Good Hope

Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Dayan Yehoshua Grunwald

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https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/BAM82_004_Shelach_Slip_Away_When_a-Tallis_Falls_off_During_Davening-1.mp3

Speak to the B'nei Yisrael and say to them that they shall make themselves tzitzis on the corners of their garments throughout their generations...

Bemidbar 15:38

If one removes his tallis for a short time to go to the bathroom, does he recite another *bracha* when he puts it back on?

The Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 8:14) rules that every time one removes a tallis and puts it back on, he must recite a new *bracha*, because while it was off there was a *hesach hada'as* (a lack of focus on the mitzvah), so the *bracha* is no longer valid. The Rama says some hold that since he intended to put the tallis back on shortly after removing it, there is no *hesach hada'as*. The Rama cites a third view that if he removed the tallis without specific intent about whether he would put it back on, then as long as he was still wearing his tallis *katan*, there is no *hesach hada'as*.

As is usually the case, the halacha for Ashkenazim follows the Rama, that one need not recite a new *bracha*. [2] Sefardim should theoretically recite a new *bracha*, in accordance with the Shulchan Aruch. Indeed, R' Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (cited in Ma'adanei Shlomo) initially maintained that an Ashkenazi should not ask to borrow a Sefardi's tallis, because the Sefardi cannot make a *bracha* when he puts it back on. But he later retracted and said that the accepted custom among the Sefardim also follows the Rama, and R' Ovadia Yosef writes similarly in Yabia Omer. [3]

[1] This is how the Mishnah Brurah (38) and many *Acharonim* understand this view. The case of a lack of clear intent when removing the tallis is uncommon.

[2] Some *Acharonim*, like the Shulchan Aruch HaRav, hold that one need not recite a *bracha* up to two or three hours later.

[3] Where the tallis fell off, see Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 8:15), Mishnah Brurah (39), and R' Akiva Eiger (Hagahos to Shulchan Aruch).