

Tearing Garments in Mourning

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Evel, Chapters 8–9*

| | Parents | Other relatives | Explanation |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|
| Rend while standing | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Garment torn in front and at the top | ✓ | ✓ | Except <i>Kohen Gadol</i> who tears from the bottom |
| Upper Garment torn | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Length of tear | Extend to heart | 1 tefach (less than for parents) | |
| Use of instrument | ✗ | ✓ | |
| Border has to be torn | ✓ | ✗ | |
| Done in public | ✓ | ✗ | |
| Tear outer garment | ✓ | ✗ | |
| Uncovers shoulder | ✓ | ✗ | Not done these days |
| Childs garment torn | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Tearing for father in law or mother in law | ✓ | | |
| Period for tearing | Within 30 days | Within 7 days | |
| Tearing garments of a dangerously ill person | ✗ | ✗ | It may be dangerous for his life |
| Extending tear with multiple deaths | Start new tear | Extend tear | |

TEARING GARMENTS FOR COMMUNAL FIGURES

Whenever a person tears his garment for the loss of a relative, he may sew the tear in a temporary fashion after **7 days**, and in a permanent fashion after **30 days**. For a parent he may only sew after **30 days** but he may never mend it.

A woman should tear, and then sew immediately, due to modesty (even for a parent)

Garments also have to be torn for the following

- His Torah teacher. Mourning is for 1 day. Tear to reveal heart.
- A *Nasi*. Can mend a tear in a temporary manner. Tear to reveal heart, and uncovers both shoulders.

Reminder:

Pack on *Nasi*



- The *Av Bet Din*. Tear to reveal heart, and uncovers left shoulder.
- When majority of a community is slain. Tear to reveal heart.
- Hears cursing of G-d's name. Tear to reveal heart.
- Sees burning of *Sefer Torah* i.e. when it was burnt on purpose. Tear to reveal heart.
- Sees destruction of cities of Judah, Jerusalem or *Bet Hamikdash*. Tear to reveal heart.
- Present when anyone's soul expires. Tears **1 tefach**.
- A virtuous person. Tears **1 tefach**
- A Sage. Can mend tear after funeral. Mourning is only for 1 day. If one hears that a Sage died, tear takes place only at time of eulogising. Tear to reveal heart.

For teacher, *Nasi* etc, one should tear and then only mend temporarily (never permanently)
Mourning here is usually only for **1 day**.

| | Parents | Other relatives | Teacher | <i>Nasi</i> | <i>Av Bet Din</i> | Sage | Miscellaneous | Majority of community die |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Repair of tear | Can sew after 30 days but can never mend | Sew after 7 days and mend after 30 | May be sewn irregularly but never mended | Sewn irregularly but never mended | Sewn irregularly but never mended | May mend on following day | Woman tears and repairs immediately | |
| Extent of tear | Reveals heart i.e. greater than 1 tefach | Only 1 tefach | Reveals heart | Reveals heart and uncovers both arms | Reveals heart and uncovers left arm | | Present by any person when soul expires – tears 1 tefach . Similarly for destruction of Torah scroll, seeing destruction of <i>Yerushalayim</i> etc. | Reveals heart |
| Length of mourning | | | 1 day | | | 1 day | | |