HONORS BESTOWED AT A BRIS

Honor	Functions and Significance
קְוָואַרְטָערִין מַכְנִיס וּמוֹצִיא Kvatterin (colloquially-Godmother)	Carries baby from mother to *bris* room and, after the *bris,* back to mother. This is the one formal honor bestowed upon a woman at a *bris.* Often, the *Kvatterin* and *Kvatter* are a couple seeking to have a child, as this honor is deemed propitious for this purpose. In some communities baby is passed from woman to woman, each bringing him closer (הַגָּשׁוֹת) to *bris* room.
קְוָואטֶער מַכְנִיס וּמוֹצִיא Kvatter (Godfather)	Carries baby from *Kvatterin* to *bris* area and, after the *bris,* back to her. In some communities the baby is passed from man to man, each bringing the baby closer (הַגָּשׁוֹת) to the *bris* area.
כִּסֵּא שֶׁל אֵלִיָּהוּ Throne of Elijah	Places baby on chair designated as Throne of Elijah. Some place great emphasis on this honor.
מִיַּד הַכִּסֵּא From the Throne	Takes baby from Throne of Elijah and (gives him to father who) places him on *sandak's* lap.
סַנְדָּק Sandak	Holds baby during *bris.* Highest honor at *bris,* the *sandak* is equated with *kohen* burning incense offering in the *Beis HaMikdash.* Many single out the Rabbi or the grandfather for this honor.
מִן הַכִּסֵּא From the Throne	Takes the baby from *sandak* at conclusion of circumcision and gives him to the standing *sandak* (see below).
מְבָרֵךְ—Reader of the Blessings	Recites two blessings said following *bris.* This honor is often bestowed on *mohel* or *sandak.*
סַנְדָּק מְעוּמָד עֲמִידָה עַל הַבְּרָכָה Standing Sandak	Holds baby while abovementioned blessings are recited. *Arizal* considered this an important honor.
קְרִיאַת הַשֵּׁם Giving the Name	Recites Prayer during which baby is given his Hebrew name. Many consider this the second highest honor at *bris* and designate the Rabbi if he did not serve as *sandak.* This honor is often combined with that of reader of the blessings.
עֲמִידָה שְׁנִיָּה Standing Sandak	Holds baby during the giving of the name. This honor is of ten combined with that of standing *sandak.*
מי שברך מְזַמֵּן Leader of Bircas HaMazon	*Recites zimun/*inivitation before *Bircas HaMazon* following festive meal; recites הָרַחֲמָן prayers. In some communities *mohel* is accorded this honor. In others, a different person recites each הָרַחֲמָן prayer.

הרחמן

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