

The RYS Daily 11/8/06 Rosh HaShanah Davening

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The second day of Rosh Hashanah fell on a Friday one year. Members of the local community sought his advice. As is known, in such an event, it is customary to recite less piyyutim in the service so as to allow the housewives sufficient time to prepare for Shabbat. The people wanted to know what piyyutim they might omit. He replied that they could omit all — even Unetaneh Tokef — normally regarded as an indispensable feature of the service — if only to reduce the strain imposed upon the women on the holy day. However, on no account were they to omit the long introductions to the Malchuyot, Zichronot and Shofarot sections (which congregations today invariably omit). Recited silently, these afford the chazzanim, fatigued by the lengthy Musaf service, the opportunity to rest for a short while."

Alert to the strain on the women, he did not overlook the fatigue of the chazzanim, and considered it essential to prolong the services somewhat for their benefit.

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