

# מסכת תענית דף לא

## DAF YOMI<sup>4</sup> KIDS

### Inside the Daf

When you think of **יום כפור**, you probably don't think of a day when unmarried men go to look for a wife. But this used to be the case: On **יום כפור** and on the 15th of **אב** unmarried Jewish girls used to go out and dance in the vineyards. Whoever did not have a wife would go there to find one.

Each of the girls would borrow white clothes to wear for the occasion. It didn't matter how wealthy the girl was; she would still have to borrow clothes from another.

The king's daughter would borrow white clothes from the **גדול כהן**'s (High Priest) daughter since the **גדול כהן** ranked just under the king in importance. The **גדול כהן**'s daughter would borrow from the daughter of the deputy **גדול כהן** who would borrow from the daughter of the **גדול כהן** anointed for battle who, in turn would borrow from the daughter of an ordinary **כהן**.

What was the reason for this? So that poor girls who did not have beautiful clothes would not be embarrassed that they were forced to borrow clothes from another.

Each of the girls would give reasons why they would make the best spouses. Some girls would promote their beauty, others their family lineage. Some would simply ask to be married "for the sake of Heaven!"



On the 15th of **אב** unmarried Jewish girls used to go out and dance in the vineyards



# The 15th of אב

One of the lesser known festive days for the Jewish people is the 15th of אב. What is so special about this day? The גמרא gives a number of important events:

## On the 15th of אב...



הושע בן אלה, last king of the northern kingdom of Israel, removed from the roadways the guards who prevented Jews from going up to the בית המקדש (Holy Temple) for the festivals.



This was the day of the year that they stopped chopping wood for the Temple Altar. Since the sun's strength gets weaker after this date, wood does not dry properly after this date. The moist wood would become infested with worms and such wood may not be used



On this day, the slain Jews of ביתר (Bethar) were allowed to be buried. Although their bodies were left in the open for a long time, miraculously, they had not decayed.

## A מדות Moment

Bayla was very excited. Her best friend was getting married and she was going all out for the occasion. She gathered her priciest jewellery and wore every item she had.

Before she left the house, her father stopped her.

"Bayla," he said, "I know you are excited about the wedding. But it is important not to flaunt your jewellery in a way that will make other girls jealous or even embarrassed that they cannot afford what you have. Today in *daf yomi* I learned that even the richest girls would borrow white clothes on the 15th of אב so the poorer ones wouldn't be embarrassed that they had to borrow. We can learn an important lesson from this: Do not flaunt clothes in a way that will embarrass those who aren't as privileged."

תִּדְרֹךְ עַלְךָ מִסֵּכֶת תַּעֲנִיית



## Did You Know...

In the future, Hashem will make a circle of all the righteous people. He will sit in the middle of the circle in the Garden of Eden and all the righteous people will point their finger to Him and declare, "This is our G-d!"

## Games

### MATCH UP

Match the date to its event (some have more than one event!)

9th אב ●

- Guards removed from roads
- Second Temple destroyed
- Jewish girls dance

17th תמוז ●

- Tablets shattered
- Jerusalem plowed
- Bethar destroyed

15th אב ●

- Dead of Bethar buried
- Idol placed in Sanctuary

## תענית דף ל"א – Review Questions

1. On which dates did unmarried girls dance in the vineyards?  
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2. Name an event that happened on the 15th of אב.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the future, who will Hashem make a circle for?  
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