

סדר
תיקון
ט"ו בשבט

A Seder
for
Tu B'Shvat

TU B'SHEVAT



ORIGINS

The Mishnah (Rosh Hashanah 1:1) teaches there are four new years:

- *The first of Nisan, the new year for the kings and festivals. This is the date from which the reigns of the kings of Israel were recorded.
- *The first of Elul (the twelfth month), the new year for animal tithing.
- *The first of Tishrei (the first month), the new year for the sabbatical and jubilee years, for the tithing of plants and vegetables.
- *The fifteenth of Shevat, the new year for trees, for the purpose of tithing the fruit yields.

The Tu B'Shevav Seder is divided into four parts, representing four worlds of the mystics. We drink four cups of wine, each a different color to correspond to the changing seasons. Unique to this celebration is the ritual consumption of fifteen types of fruits and nuts.

A Different set of 4 questions.....

How is this Seder Different from the Passover Seder?

At the Passover Seder we remember the exodus from Egypt. At this Seder we celebrate the New Year of Trees.

At the Passover Seder we eat Matzah and maror. At this Seder we eat fruits and nuts from the land of Israel.

At the Passover Seder we drink red wine. At this Seder we drink red wine and white wine together.

The Passover Seder has been celebrated since the Exodus from Egypt. This Seder has been celebrated only since the 15th century.

Why is there a controversy about the date for the New Year of Trees?

.. Israel is a land of valleys and hills, of plains and plateaus and for that reason, the climate is different in various parts of the country. Spring does not begin all over at exactly the same time. When the plants in the colder regions are putting forth their leaves, those in warmer regions already have their flowers. For these reasons the inhabitants of the valleys used to celebrate the New Year of the Trees on the first day of SHVAT, and those who lived in the hills celebrated it on the 15th of SHVAT. The two great Rabbis, Hillel and Shamaï also had different opinions on this. Shamaï agreed with the people of the valleys, but Hillel agreed with the people of the uplands. Hillel won, and ever since we celebrate the New Year of the Trees on Chamisha Asar Bishvat (TU BISHVAT, the 15th day of SHVAT).

THREE TYPES OF FRUITS ARE EATEN ON TU B'SHEVAT:

*(those marked with * are mentioned in the Bible)*

1) Fruits with an inedible outer shell and an edible inner core: pineapple, coconut, banana, walnut, pecan, pinenut, pomegranate*, papaya, Brazil nut, pistachio, almond*

☼ *On Tu B'Shevat we are reminded that winter makes the ground hard, but life is underneath waiting to be re-born.*

2) Fruits with a pit inside which cannot be eaten and an edible outer flesh: olive*, date*, cherry, peach, apricot, jujub, persimmon, avocado, plum

☼ *On Tu B'Shevat we are reminded that the ground is slowly thawing out.*

3) Fruits which are edible both inside and out: strawberry, grape*, raspberry, blueberry, cranberry, carob*, apple*, pear, kiwi, orange*, lemon*, fig*

☼ *On Tu B'Shevat, we are reminded that the earth has come alive once again.*

TU B'SHEVAT TREES AND THE BIBLE

Each Biblical quotation includes a tree known to have grown in the land of Israel in ancient days.

To Noah – “Make yourself an ark of GOPHER wood.” *Genesis 6:14*

And Solomon built the Temple and furnished it – and he built the walls with boards of CEDAR; He overlaid the floors of the house with planks of CYPRESS. *I Kings 6:15*

Moses told the Israelites to bring pure OLIVE oil – to be an external light in the tabernacle. *Exodus 27:20*

In times of peace, “Judah and Israel dwelt safely, everyman under his vine and his own FIG tree”. *I Kings 5:5*

I am no prophet nor a prophet's son, but I am a herdsman and a tender of SYCAMORE FIGS. *Amos 7:14*

And thou shall make the boards for the tabernacle of ACACIA standing up. *Exodus 26:15*

King David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord “with instruments made of CYPRESS wood, with harps, and with cymbals”. *II Samuel 6:5*

After the exile from the land of Israel in 586 BCF, our forefathers wept by the rivers of Babylon and hung their harps upon the POPLARS. *Psalms 137:2*

"For the Lord G-d shall lead you into the good land, a land of flowing water... The land of WHEAT and BARLEY, the vine and FIG and POMEGRANATE, a land of the OLIVE tree and honey" *Devarim 8, 7-8*

Like an APPLE tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the youths. *Song of Songs 2:3*

All the earth is calm, untroubled; Loudly it cheers. Even the PINES rejoice at your fate, and CEDARS of Lebanon. *Isaiah 14:7,8*

Let's Sing Together

עֲצֵי חַיִּים הִיא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ וְחַמְכִּיהָ מְאֹד:

דַּרְכֶיהָ דַּרְכֵי נֵעַם וְכָל־נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם:

הַשִּׁבְנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשׁוּבָה תַּדְרֹשׁ יְמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם:

It is a Tree of Life to them that hold fast to it,
And everyone that upholds it is happy.

Its ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all its paths are peace.

Turn us unto Thee, O Lord, and we shall return;
Renew our days as of old.

The first Cup and the first fruits & nuts...

First Cup of Wine

As we drink the first cup of wine, a white wine, we remember that nature has been asleep, awaiting warmer weather and the annual cycle of rebirth of growing matter. Let us recite together

רוּחַ אֱתָהּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם.

כּוֹרֵא סְרִי הַנָּסוּן:



Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine,

The first fruit represents winter. It is hard on the outside, yet soft and vulnerable on the inside.

Let us recite together two blessings, one for the fruit and one for eating something new.

קְרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָעֵץ.

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the tree, Amen.

קְרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שְׁהַתִּינוּ וּקְמֵנוּ וְהִצַּעַנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us alive, preserved us, and kept us until this occasion, Amen.

Let's Sing Together

בְּאֶרְזוֹ בְּלְבָנוֹן יִשְׁגָּה:	צְדִיק כַּחֲמֶר יִפְרַח
בְּחִצְרוֹת אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִפְרִיחוּ:	שְׁתוּלִים בְּבֵית יְיָ
דְּשָׁנִים וְרֵעָנִים יִהְיוּ:	עוֹד יִנּוּבוֹן בְּשִׁבָּה
צוּרֵי וְלֹא־עוֹלָתָהּ בּוֹ:	לְהַגִּיד כִּי־יֵשֶׁר יְיָ

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree;
they shall grow tall like a cedar in Lebanon.
Planted in the house of Adonai,
they will thrive in the courts of our God.

*They shall bear fruit even in old age;
they shall be ever fresh and fragrant,
to proclaim: Adonai is just —
my Rock, in whom there is no flaw.*

A Rabbinic Tale...

THE EMPEROR AND THE PLANTER

A very old Jewish man in Plaestine was planting a fig tree. The Roman Emperor Hadrian happened to pass by and said to him.

"Why do you do that, old man, surely you will not live long enough to see it bear fruit?"

"In that case", replied the aged man, "I will leave it for my son, as my father left the fruit of his labor for me."

The Emperor admired his spirit. "If you do live to see the figs on your tree ripen," he said, "let me know about it."

The old man lived to eat of the fruit, and remembering the Emperor's words, brought him a basket of figs. The Emperor was so pleased that he filled the old man's basket with gold.

A greedy woman who heard of the gift, made her husband go to the Emperor too. "He loves figs," she said, "and he will surely fill your basket with gold." The man listened to his wife, brought the figs to the palace and said: "These figs are for the Emperor, empty my basket and fill it up with gold."

When Hadrian heard this, he ordered the guards to have all the people who passed by throw figs at the man. When the man finally escaped, he ran home and told his wife what had happened.

"Well", she said, "you are lucky. Think what would have happened if the figs had been coconuts"

The 2'd Cup, fruits & (or) nuts...

We will now drink a darker wine. The sun's rays beat down upon the earth and thaw out the frozen ground. Soon we will see signs of the coming spring.

Let us recite together:

רוך אֱתֶרָה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֵּךְ
הַעֲלֵם, כּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן:



Blessed are You Oh Lord, Our G-d, King of the Universe who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

The second fruit represents the early spring. It is soft on the outside, with a pit in the middle.

קָרַךְ אֶתְּךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָעֵץ

Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the Tree, Amen.

Another Rabbinic Tale...

Once while Honi the Circle-maker was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him: "How many years will it require for this tree to give forth fruit?"

The man answered that it would require seventy years.

Honi asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat of its fruit?"

The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my forefathers planted for me. So will I do for my children?"

Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai used to say: if you should have a sapling in your hand and be suddenly told that the Messiah has come, plant the sapling first and afterwards go to welcome the Messiah?"

(Ta'anit, 5)

Let's Sing our favorite Tu BeShevat Song....

Hashkediya....

THE ALMOND TREE

The almond tree is growing
 A golden sun is glowing;
 The birds sing out in joyous glee
 From every roof and every tree

CHORUS: Tu Bishvat is here
 The Jewish Arbor Day
 Hail the Trees' New Year
 Happy Holiday.

Let's make the land a garden
 With water from the Jordan;
 And our land will flow once more
 With milk and honey as of yore

HASHKEDIYA

Hash - ké - di - ya po - ra - hat, V' - she - mesh paz zo - ra - hat

Tai - po - rim mé - rosh kol gag M' - vas - rot et do ha - hag; Tu bi - Sh'vat' hi - gi - a

Hag ha - i - la - not, Tu bi - Sh'vat hi - gi - a Hag ha - i - la - not.

הַשְׁקֵדִיָּה פוֹרְחָה

הַשְׁקֵדִיָּה פוֹרְחָה
 וְשֶׁשׁ פִּי זוֹרְחָה
 צִפְרִים מְרֹאֵשׁ כָּל בָּג
 מִכְסָּרוֹת אֶת בֵּית הַחַג
 סוֹ' בְּשֶׁשׁ הַבֵּיץ
 חַג הָאֵילָנוֹת. (2)

The 3'd Cup, fruits & (or) nuts...

We will now drink the third cup of wine which is still darker, The ground
is now soft. The farmers have turned the earth and dropped the seeds. Water,
sunshine and time will now do their thing.

The wine is tasted a third time after saying:

Let us recite together.

רַבָּךְ אַתָּה יי. אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם.

בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגִּפְנוֹן:



Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe who brings forth the fruit of
the vine,

The third fruit represents the harvest season. It is soft both outside and in.

Again

Let us recite together the blessing over fruit:

רַבָּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הָעֵץ

Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who brings forth fruit from
the tree. Amen.

Shulhan Aruch!

Let's Eat!

Birkat HaMazon

Blessings after the meal ...

Concluding the Seder....

One last tale...

Rabbi Isaac told the following parable;

A man was once wandering in the desert, hungry, thirsty and exhausted with the heat. He chanced to find a tree whose fruit was sweet, whose shadow pleasant, and which had a brook flowing at its base. He ate the fruit, drank the water and rested in the shade. When he rose to leave, he addressed the tree:

"Oh tree, how can I bless you? If I were to say 'May your fruit be sweet,' see, it is already sweet. Were I to say 'May your shade be pleasant'---it is already pleasant. And were I to say 'May there be a brook at your feet'---the brook is already there.

My blessing will therefore be; "May all your saplings be like you."

The 4th Cup.

The fourth world of the mystics represents the world to come. Therefore, there is no fourth fruit, but there is a fourth cup. As we drink this last cup of pure red wine, may we become like a healthy tree planted by a stream, with strong roots, and branches reaching towards heaven.

Let us recite together:

רוך אתה יי. אלהינו מלך
העולם. בורא פרי הגפן:



Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

And one last song...

ATZAI ZAITIM OMDIM

Olive trees are standing

A-tzai zaitim omdim,
Atzai zai-tim om-dim,
La .. La ... La, la, la



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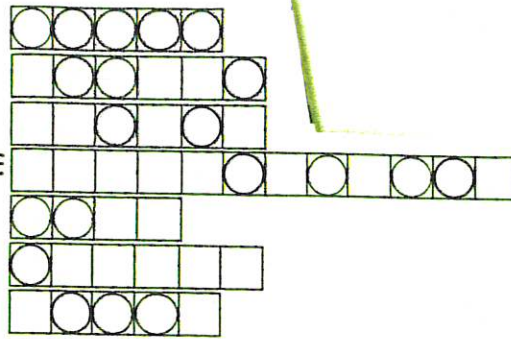
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The Magnificent Seven

On Tu B'Shevat it is customary to eat seven fruits or grains from the seven species of the Land of Israel, listed in *Devarim* 8:8.

Unscramble the letters to spell out all seven. Then comes the hard part! Unscramble all the circled letters to spell out another Tu B'Shevat custom!

AWETH
BYRALE
PARGES
RASONTGEPMAE
GIFS
VILSOE
DAETS



□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ U □ □ □ C □ □ □ □ □ □

Can't "Ceae" Straight!

Here's a different kind of family tree puzzle... Below are the "scientific" names of the many varieties of tree families. You may know the trees better as "Oak," "Elm," or "Apple," but in fact, they are known to arborists as "Fagaceae," "Ulmaceae," and "Rosaceae." See if you can find them all in the word search: Look up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally. Once you have found them all—if your eyes are not too blurry!—the remaining letters will spell out a little Q&A tree trivia for Tu B'Shevat!

ACERACEAE	M E F W H A T I S F E L J T T H A E
ANACARDIACEAE	A R A H E M O S A A E U A T I Q A S
AQUIFOLIACEAE	G I G C O M M B E G N X O P U E N A
BETULACEAE	N C A T R E A C U G O E P I C A F L
BIGNONIACEAE	O A C O U C A M L D E O F A B E N I
BUXACEAE	L C E D E L I A I A C O I I I C N C
CORNACEAE	I E A A U N N A E A L D G T H A E A
CUPRESSACEAE	A A E T O D C C S I R N J N F E F C
ERICACEAE	C E E S A E A T A A O O R E S L T E
FABACEAE	E B A C A I A C C N S O F I S O R A
FAGACEAE	A E E E L N E A I A C E R A C E A E
GINKGOACEAE	E A A I A A N A C O R N A C E A E E
HIPPOCASTANACEAE	O L E A C E A C E A E C A O G K N I G
JUNGLANDACEAE	M E E E A E C A S S E R P U C D I T
LEGUMINOSAE	E A P L A T A N A C E A E C A N I P
MAGNOLIACEAE	E R R E S A P I N D A C E A E A N E
OLEACEAE	E A E C A X U B A N P I N E O R E N
PINACEAE	
PLATANACEAE	
SALICACEAE	
SAPINDACEAE	
TAXODIACEAE	
TILIACEAE	

Put the remaining letters in these spaces, in order:

----- ?

Welcome to the quiz on Tu Bishvat

Test your knowledge of Tu Bishvat by taking our self-assessment quiz. This will help you choose the right level of Guided Learning to start with.

Question 1: What was Tu Bishvat's original purpose?

- The beginning of planting season
- Time to start gathering wheat for Passover matzah
- The birthday of trees
- Time to bring thanksgiving offerings at the Temple

Question 2: Which of the following is not one of the seven species of fruits and grains mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8?

- Fig
- Almond
- Wheat
- Olive

Question 3: In ancient times, how many years after planting a fruit tree did farmers have to wait before they could eat the fruits of the tree at any time or place?

- They could eat the third year's fruit.
- They could eat the fourth year's fruit.
- They could eat the fifth year's fruit.
- They could eat the seventh year's fruit.

Question 4: The name Tu Bishvat literally means:

- The Birthday of Trees
- The Feast of Fruits
- The Seventh Month
- The 15th of Shvat

Question 5: The Torah expressly forbids the destruction of what kind of tree when engaging in war?

- A tree that provides food
- A tree that provides shade
- A tree where a bird has built a nest
- A tree that does not block one's path

Question 6: The Tu Bishvat seder originated with what group?

- Legal scholars in Babylonia
- Mystics in Safed
- Family educators in America
- The Israelite slaves in Egypt

Question 7: One reason that carob became a popular Tu Bishvat fruit is:

- The carob tree is believed to be the first of all trees to blossom in Israel.
- The kabbalists of medieval times believed that the carob plant contained hidden wisdom.
- The carob tree grows in all parts of the world.
- Carob could survive the long trip from Israel to the Jewish communities of Europe.

Question 8: Zionists appreciated Tu Bishvat because:

- It symbolized their longing for a vibrant ecology in Israel.
- Trees provided their only defense against their enemies.
- They sought to emulate the mystics of yore.
- The Tu Bishvat seder replaced the Passover seder in wartime.

Question 9: At modern Tu Bishvat seders, what is used to symbolize winter?

- Cold water
- Whole milk
- White wine
- Olive oil

Question 10: Which of the following is not a popular Tu Bishvat custom?

- Planting trees
- Holding a seder
- Eating fruits
- Saying a blessing over the moon and sun

Here is how you did on the quiz about Tu Bishvat.

Question 1: What was Tu Bishvat's original purpose?

Correct Answer: The birthday of trees

Your Answer: Time to bring thanksgiving offerings at the Temple

Question 2: Which of the following is not one of the seven species of fruits and grains mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8?

Correct Answer: Almond

Question 3: In ancient times, how many years after planting a fruit tree did farmers have to wait before they could eat the fruits of the tree at any time or place?

Correct Answer: They could eat the fifth year's fruit.

Question 4: The name Tu Bishvat literally means:

Correct Answer: The 15th of Shvat

Question 5: The Torah expressly forbids the destruction of what kind of tree when engaging in war?

Correct Answer: A tree that provides food

Question 6: The Tu Bishvat seder originated with what group?

Correct Answer: Mystics in Safed

Question 7: One reason that carob became a popular Tu Bishvat fruit is:

Correct Answer: Carob could survive the long trip from Israel to the Jewish communities of Europe.

Question 8: Zionists appreciated Tu Bishvat because:

Correct Answer: It symbolized their longing for a vibrant ecology in Israel.

Question 9: At modern Tu Bishvat seders, what is used to symbolize winter?

Correct Answer: White wine

Question 10: Which of the following is not a popular Tu Bishvat custom?

Correct Answer: Saying a blessing over the moon and sun