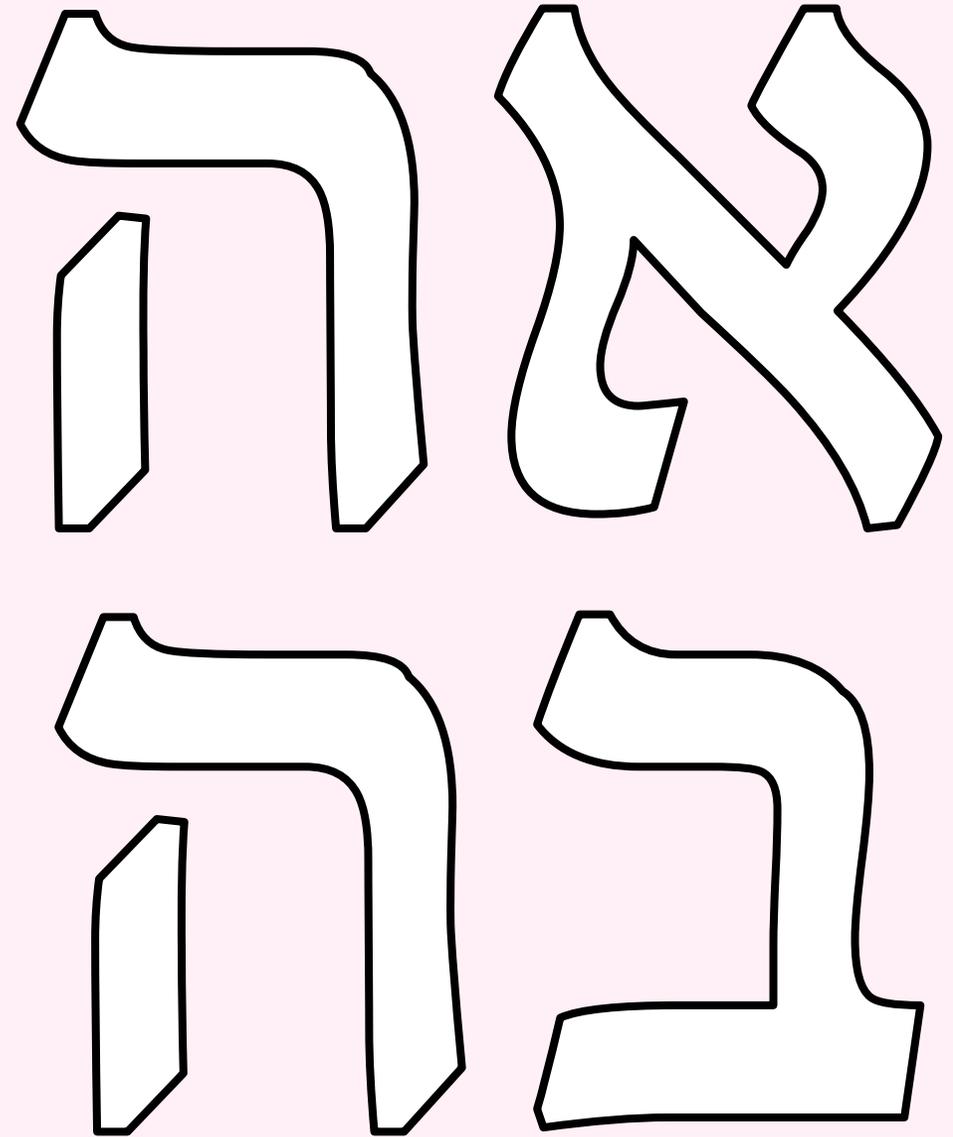


A Jewish Love Story: Tu B'Av

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Some Context and History

- The three weeks from 17th of Tammuz to 9th of Av are a time of semi-mourning and sadness.
- The fifteenth of Av is a break from the sadness, and a traditional day for weddings.
- The customs associated with this day vanished after the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., but some have re-emerged since the establishment of the State of Israel.
- It's a strange mixture – a traditional holiday from Temple times that is popular in secular society but has no traditional contemporary endorsement.
- Why is this day different from all other days, and what makes it special?

EST = Eastern Standard Time (UT-5)
EDT = Eastern Daylight Time (UT-4)
DST = Daylight Saving Time

August 2020

NM = New Moon
FQ = First Quarter
FM = Full Moon
LQ = Last Quarter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 	3  FM: 11:59 AM (EDT)	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11  LQ: 12:45 PM (EDT)	12 	13 	14 	15 
16 	17 	18  NM: 10:42 PM (EDT)	19 	20 	21 	22 
23 	24 	25  FQ: 1:58 PM (EDT)	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 	31 					



אמר רבן שמעון בן גמליאל, לא היו ימים טובים לישראל כחמשה עשר באב וכיום הכפורים, שבהן בנות ירושלים יוצאות בכלי לבן שאולין, שלא לבייש את מי שאין לו. כל הכלים טעונין טבילה. ובנות ירושלים יוצאות וחולות בכרמים. ומה היו אומרות, בחור, שא נא עיניך וראה, מה אתה בורר לך. אל תתן עיניך בנוי, תן עיניך במשפחה. שקר החן והבל היפי, אשה יראת ה' היא תתהלל (משלי לא). (ואומר, תנו לה מפרי ידיה, ויהללה בשערים מעשיה. וכן הוא אומר, צאינה וראינה בנות ציון במלך שלמה בעטרה שעטרה לו אמו ביום חתנתו וביום שמחת לבו) שיר השירים ג. (ביום חתנתו, זה מתן תורה. וביום שמחת לבו, זה בנין בית המקדש, שיבנה במהרה בימינו. אמן:

Rabbi Shimon ben Gamaliel said: There were no days of joy in Israel greater than the **fifteenth of Av** and Yom Kippur. On these days the daughters of Jerusalem would go out in borrowed white garments in order not to shame anyone who had none. All these garments required immersion. The daughters of Jerusalem come out and danced in the vineyards. What would they say? Young man, lift up your eyes and see what you choose for yourself. Do not set your eyes on beauty but set your eyes on the family. “Grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30). And it further says, “Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs, 31:31). Similarly it says, “O maidens of Zion, go forth and gaze upon King Solomon wearing the crown that his mother gave him on his wedding day, on the day of the gladness of his heart” (Song of Songs 3:11). “On his wedding day”: this refers to Matan Torah (the Giving of the Torah). “And on the day of the gladness of his heart”: this refers to the building of the Temple; may it be rebuilt speedily in our days, Amen.

אלא ט"ו באב מאי היא אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל יום שהותרו שבטים לבוא זה בזה

However, what is the special joy of the **fifteenth of Av**? Rav Yehuda said that Shmuel said: This was the day on which the members of different tribes were permitted to enter one another's tribe, by intermarriage. It was initially prohibited to intermarry between tribes, so as to keep each plot of land within the portion of the tribe that originally inherited it. This halakha (law) was instituted by the Torah in the wake of a complaint by the relatives of the daughters of Zelophehad, who were worried that if these women married men from other tribes, the inheritance of Zelophehad would be lost from his tribe (see Numbers 36:1-12).

Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 30b

A Jewish Valentine's Day?

- We don't have saints in Judaism, so there is nothing connected to this or any date with any specific person and his/her piety or actions.
- As Judaism adapts to different circumstances and surroundings, we pick up customs and habits and then re-define them.
- Marriage was traditionally not associated with romantic love; it was a business transaction. Love could follow but it was not necessary.
- Do we need a holiday for romantic love?
- We should grasp every opportunity to celebrate!