

מסכת סוכה דף ב

DAF YOMI4 KIDS

מסכת סוכה FACT FILE:

NAME: סוכה
מוניד: סדר (Festivals)
PAGES: 56
CHAPTERS: 5
RANK: 17th in ש"ס
TOPICS: סוכה, ד' מינים

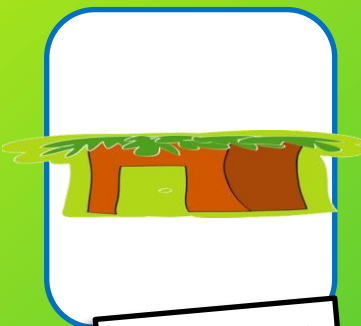
Inside the Daf

Sitting in a סוכה is a booth we are required to sit in at times during the holiday of סוכות. But a סוכה is not just any booth with a roof. There are special rules that a סוכה has to follow to be valid.

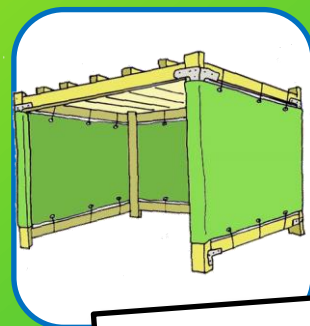
The first משנה of מסכת סוכה (Tractate "Booth") talks about some of the things that disqualify a סוכה from being כשר (valid):



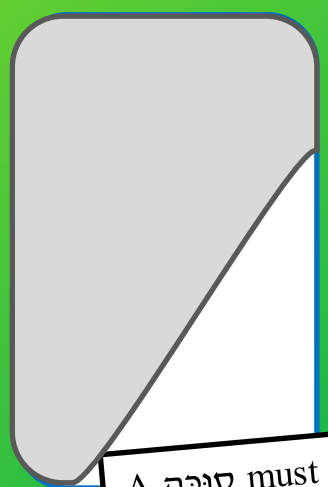
A סוכה may not be higher than 20 אמות (cubits), (or about 35 feet, or 11 meters)



A סוכה must be at least 10 טפחים (handbreadths) high (or about 3 feet, or 90 centimeters)



A סוכה must have at least 3 walls



A סוכה must have more shade than sun

WORD OF THE DAY:
פסולה
"INVALID"

A Moment גדול

Ethan was bemoaning the coming of the סוכות holiday. Less time to play video games. Eating outside (which, in the colder climate where Ethan lived, wasn't all that appealing). And of course, the overall discomfort of not being inside his cosy home. He expressed these feelings to his brother Joel, one day.

"But that's the whole point!" said Joel.
"What do you mean?" asked Ethan
"The whole point we sit in the סוכה is, like today's נבואה says, to leave our Rather, we focus on the important things in life without being distracted by the unimportant ones."

"I see," said Ethan. "So I shouldn't look at the סוכה as something that takes good things away, but an opportunity to realize that those things aren't all that important to begin with!"

(עקידת יצחק, שער קב)

Too High? Why?

We learned in a משנה that a סוכה higher than 20 אמות (cubits) is not valid. What is the reason for this?

We first have to understand that the essence of a סוכה is its סכך (covering). We will learn more about the סכך's requirements later. For now, let's make things simple by saying it is a roof that provides shade.

So why is a סוכה higher than 20 אמות no good? Our גמרא quotes three opinions of אמוראים (sages who lived in the גמרא era):

רבה says, the Torah tells us people should be aware that they are sitting in a סוכה. If they sit in a סוכה higher than 20 אמות, they will be not be aware they are sitting in a סוכה since they won't easily see the סכך, the most important part of the סוכה!

אביי says we know from a פסוק (verse) that the סוכה's סכך has to be the source of the סוכה's shade. If a סוכה is 20 אמות high, the walls will be the source of its shade, not the סכך.

רבא says, a סוכה must be a living space with makeshift walls designed to last for only seven days. A סוכה 20 אמות high would need sturdy walls and foundations to keep it from collapsing.



Did You Know...

הילגי המלכה (Queen Helena) sat in a סוכה in the city of Lod that was higher than 20 אמות. Elders who visited her didn't protest what she was doing.



Sarcophagus of הילגי המלכה (Queen Helena) at Israel Museum in Jerusalem

Games

Use the code to find ...

The Torah's command to dwell in a סוכה



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Review Questions - סוכה דף ב'

1. How high (minimum) must a סוכה be to be valid?

2. Give a reason why a סוכה higher than 20 אמות is not valid.

3. How high was Queen Helena's סוכה?
