

Inside the Daf

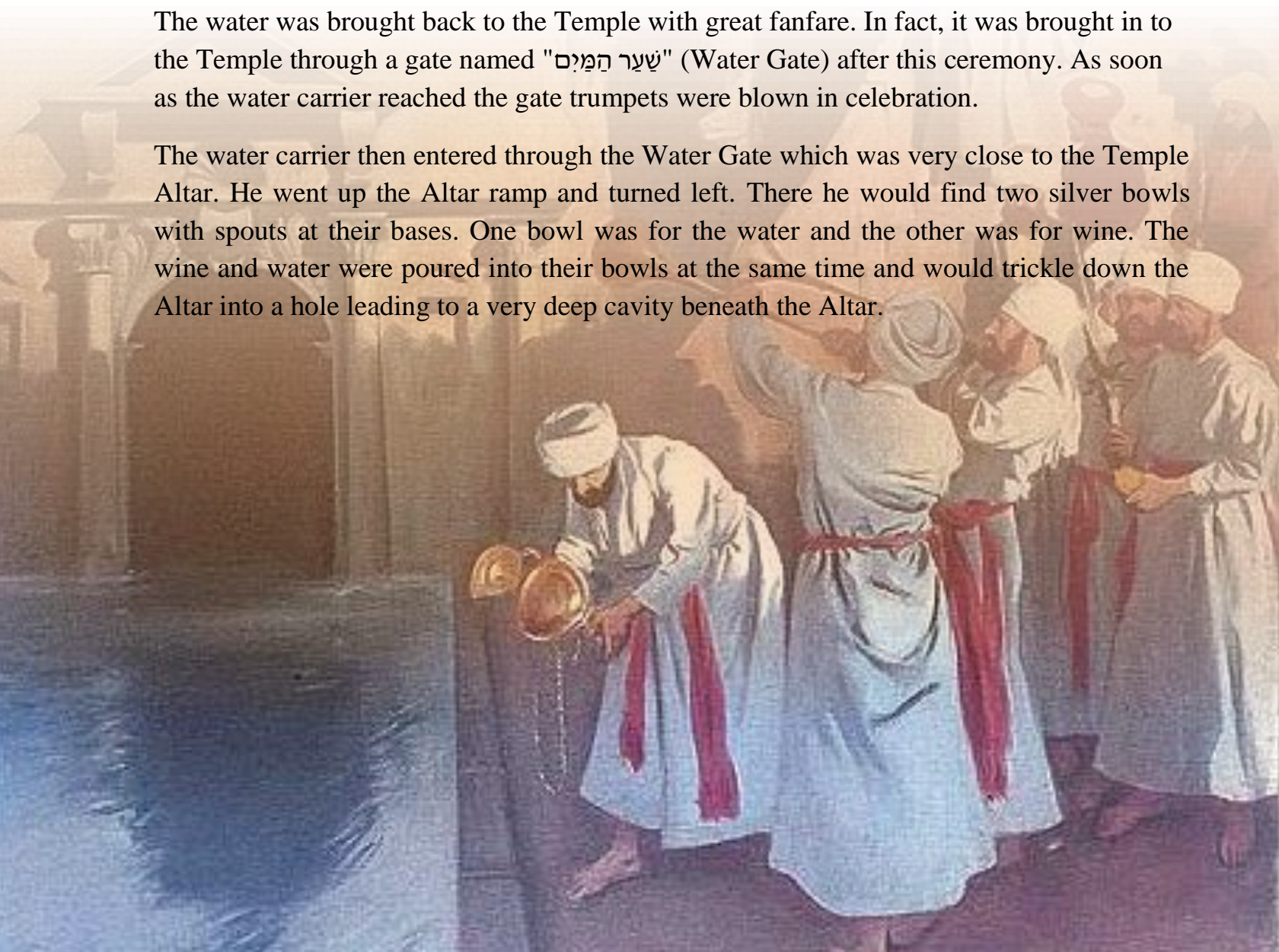
Believe it or not, but one of the most exciting סוכות celebrations in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple) centered around something as simple as water!

הַמִּים, or "water pouring", was a ceremony done only during the סוכות holiday.

Our מִשְׁנָה describes how a member of the group from the Holy Temple would fill a golden flask with a capacity of three לָגִים (about 34 fl.oz. or 1L) with water from the Shiloah spring outside the Old City of Jerusalem.

The water was brought back to the Temple with great fanfare. In fact, it was brought in to the Temple through a gate named "שַׁעַר הַמִּים" (Water Gate) after this ceremony. As soon as the water carrier reached the gate trumpets were blown in celebration.

The water carrier then entered through the Water Gate which was very close to the Temple Altar. He went up the Altar ramp and turned left. There he would find two silver bowls with spouts at their bases. One bowl was for the water and the other was for wine. The wine and water were poured into their bowls at the same time and would trickle down the Altar into a hole leading to a very deep cavity beneath the Altar.



The Man Who Was Pelted

During the time of the Second Temple, a sect of Jews called the צדוקים (Sadducees) denied the existence of תורה שבעל פה, the laws given orally by Hashem to Moses at Mount Sinai, but not written down for many hundreds of years. One Oral Law which they denied was that of המים, the water pouring ceremony described on the last page.

One year, a Sadducee (some identify as the Hasmonean king, Alexander Yannai) was chosen as the water carrier for the המים ceremony. When it came time to pour the water into the silver bowl atop the Altar, he disrespectfully poured it over his feet.

Outraged, the people pelted him with their אתרוגים (citron). In fact, this pelting was so spirited that it damaged one of the horns on the Altar. Since it is disgraceful for the Altar to appear damaged, it was temporarily repaired using salt.

WORD OF THE DAY:
לרבות!
 "TO INCLUDE"



A מְדוּת Moment

"What an outrage!" exclaimed Mr. Hasklofsky. "Have you seen this article in the newspaper insulting the greatest Torah scholars in the country! A shame!"

"I know," agreed Mr. Rolandovitch shaking his fists. "Someone ought to show that newspaper editor what happens to people who insult our rabbis!"

Mr. Calmenkrantz was the only man who didn't get into a tizzy.

"Gentleman, do you remember what we learned today about the people who pelted their citrons at a heretic?" Mr. Calmenkrantz asked.

"Why did they not throw rocks? Why citrons? We know Torah scholars who act with refined conduct are said to have a pleasant odor. That's the proper way to fight people who are anti-Torah. Not with stones. Not with projectiles. But with the sweetness of a Torah personality. When these heretics see the light of Torah shining on these scholars, it will brighten them, too."

(פניני אגדות חז"ל בשם הרב יצחק צדקה)

Games

Same Pictures

Which 2 pictures are exactly the same?



Did You Know...

The source for drawing the water for the נְיִסוּף (water pouring) ceremony is from the verse וישאבתם מים בששון, "and you will draw water in joy" (ישעיה יבג, Is. 12,3).

Review Questions – סוכה דף מ"ח

1. What was the name of the spring the water was drawn from?

2. What did the people do to the Sadducee who poured water on his feet?

3. What is the source for drawing water with joy?