

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

SIMCHAT TORAH

3-4 OCTOBER | 23 TISHREI

HARD WORK PAID OFF



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Chag Sameach! Simchat Torah is an amazing day on which we celebrate our Torah, which has strengthened the Jewish people for 3,000 years. However, every year I find myself wondering why only a few months ago we celebrated Shavuot, another festival centred around the Torah. What is the difference between these two occasions?

The Talmud in *Shabbat* (88a) famously teaches that when God gave the Torah at Sinai, He held the mountain over the Jewish people and compelled them to accept it. The message is that, as well as being a human pursuit, the Torah is primarily a gift from God. As much as we can choose to learn Torah, at the end of the day, it is a gift whose laws we are obligated to keep.

Simchat Torah, however, celebrates what we have done with the gift of Torah. Today marks the completion of the annual Torah cycle, where we have taken the gift of Torah and

learnt from it. Every week.

These two *Chagim* celebrate two distinct aspects of our relationship with Torah. On the one hand, we are grateful for the Torah, a way of life, a text which has given so much to the intellectual character of our people. On the other hand, Torah is not something which comes to us easily. We struggle with the Hebrew, the grammar and more. Today we celebrate the effort we put into making the Torah our own. So enjoy and have a (non-alcoholic) L'Chaim!

Parasha Wordsearch

Find these words in the grid. The words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

I	Q	L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	K	B	P	V	R
Z	M	Q	L	P	L	Z	Q	E	M	E	Z	U	O	P
M	M	E	Y	J	W	A	V	J	W	E	F	Y	B	Y
Y	U	F	W	U	D	U	V	N	T	G	H	H	R	Q
T	H	Y	I	N	L	C	R	A	O	O	Q	S	J	Z
Y	G	I	I	U	R	T	Y	D	R	E	K	D	E	O
F	C	R	U	S	E	W	O	D	A	N	C	I	N	G
B	P	H	A	S	P	V	T	F	H	W	R	G	O	B
D	E	B	A	X	H	O	U	C	A	L	I	Y	A	H
S	N	N	L	T	U	H	L	F	O	K	J	Z	W	J
W	W	B	C	I	A	Q	O	W	W	B	A	N	X	P
Z	W	E	B	U	L	N	U	X	X	F	W	H	H	O
V	A	T	E	L	K	S	K	L	K	Z	A	B	V	W
P	Y	N	A	T	F	Z	D	X	Z	K	V	T	S	T
D	O	I	I	Y	S	R	X	F	E	T	P	J	E	Y

ALIYAH

CHATAN

DANCING

GESHEM

HAKAFOT

LEARNING

SIYUM

SWEETS

TORAH

