

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

SUCCOT

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## A SUCCAH OF PEACE



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We often connect the idea of Succot with peace. In the daily *Maariv* prayer, we ask for “*succat shlomecha* – the tabernacle of Your peace”. And in the prayer for the Royal Family, recited on Shabbat morning, we ask our Heavenly Father to “spread the tabernacle of peace over all the dwellers on earth.”

Rav A.Y. Kook asks an interesting question: Why a succah?

The succah we build in our gardens is hardly substantial! Its walls are temporary, its roof is made from branches, and there can even be gaps between the walls and the ground or between the

walls themselves. If we are praying for peace, why don't we ask for a fortress of peace, something strong and permanent?

Rav Kook's answer is based on the *halachot* (laws) of a succah.

A succah doesn't have to be physically perfect to be considered valid. Its walls can have gaps, and, in certain circumstances, a succah can be kosher with only two full walls and part of a third. As long as it meets the requirements of *halachah*, it is still considered a proper succah.

And perhaps that teaches us something important about *shalom*.

Peace doesn't have to be perfect to be valuable.

Sometimes peace begins with something small: two family members who stop arguing, neighbours who agree to talk, or friends who put an argument behind them.

We might think, “That's not really peace, there's still so much unresolved”. Rav Kook teaches us that an imperfect peace is still peace. Just as *halachah* can recognise a partially complete wall as being a kosher wall, we can recognise a small step towards peace as something real and worthwhile.

The succah may look fragile, but it gives us shelter. In the same way, even a fragile peace can give people the space to listen, understand and eventually build something stronger.

This Succot, perhaps we can think about peace in our own lives. Is there a friendship we could repair? A disagreement we could let go of? Someone we could make the first move towards?

We don't have to create perfect peace overnight.

Sometimes, all we need to begin with is the first wall.

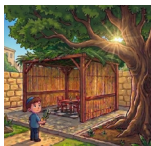
## Succot puzzle

Which succot are kosher and which are *pasul* (not kosher)?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



**Answers:** 1. *Pasul* (too tall) 2. *Pasul* (under a tree) 3. Kosher 4. Kosher (the wall of growing trees does not invalidate the succah) 5. Kosher (the 2 walls and partial third is the minimum needed for a kosher succah) 6. *Pasul* (the gaps in the schach covering are too large)