

The Happy Tutor

Horav Sholom Schwadron, zl, embellishes this exegesis with a story. A simple villager hired a tutor to teach his son Torah. One night, he went upstairs to the tutor's room to find him on the floor, weeping. The villager could not understand what he was doing. "Why are you sitting on the floor weeping?" he asked. "I am mourning the destruction of our Temple," the tutor asked.

"May I join you?" the villager asked. "Certainly," the tutor responded. After awhile, the villager asked, "Is there any reason we cannot have a little vodka?" "I see no reason why not," answered the tutor.

This went on for a few shots of vodka until the tutor, unfamiliar with the effect of alcoholic beverages, became extremely "happy." Now that both the villager and the tutor were in excellent moods, they decided they might as well have a little dance. Shortly thereafter, one of the townspeople, hearing all of the racket and seeing two men dancing together in the middle of the night, asked them incredulously, "What are you doing? Why are you dancing?" The response from the villager was straightforward, "We are mourning the destruction of the Temple."

When one's vision is blurred, when the reish appears to be a daled-- and vice versa-- one can begin dancing for the destruction of the Bais HaMikdash and weeping for what should be viewed as a joyous occasion. This is all the result of eating the forbidden fruit.