

Crazy rules about a sukkah!

Sukkot 23a:3 -8

There was an incident involving Rabban Gamliel and Rabbi Akiva, who were coming on a ship. Rabbi Akiva arose and established a *sukka* at the top of the ship. The next day the wind blew and uprooted it. Rabban Gamliel said to him: Akiva, where is your *sukka*? It was unfit from the start.

Abaye said: Everyone agrees that in a case where the *sukka* is unable to withstand a typical land wind, the *sukka* is of no consequence and it is not even a temporary residence. If it is able to withstand even an atypical land wind, everyone agrees that the *sukka* is fit. Where they disagree is in a case where the *sukka* is able to withstand a typical land wind but is unable to withstand an atypical land wind, which is the equivalent of a typical sea wind. Rabban Gamliel holds: In order to fulfill the mitzva of *sukka*, we require a permanent residence, and since it is not able to withstand an atypical land wind, which is like a typical sea wind, it is of no consequence and is not a *sukka* at all. Rabbi Akiva holds: In order to fulfill the mitzva of *sukka*, we require a temporary residence, and since it is able to withstand a typical land wind, it is fit, although it is unable to withstand a typical sea wind.

Rabbi Meir - The mishna continues: Or if one establishes his *sukka* atop a camel, the *sukka* is fit.

Rabbi Yehuda - It is prohibited to climb upon an animal on the first day of the festival of *Sukkot*, and therefore a *sukka* atop an animal is unfit, as it cannot be used all seven days.

However, if one utilized his animal as a wall for a *sukka* and did not establish the entire *sukka* atop the animal, Rabbi Meir deems it unfit and Rabbi Yehuda deems it fit

In the case where one established a wall with a tied elephant, everyone agrees that the *sukka* is fit, as even if it dies and falls, its carcass still has a height of ten handbreadths and is fit for the wall of a *sukka*. Where they disagree is in the case of an elephant that is not tied. According to the one who said: It is due to the concern lest the animal die, we are not concerned in this case, as the carcass would remain a fit wall. According to the one who said: It is due to a decree lest it flee, we remain concerned.

Sukkat Shalom

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A day ago we broke free of the chains of slavery
A day ago we left our past behind
The road ahead is long but our faith will remain strong
As the promised land awaits our family

I see the stars shining through my sukkah
As I lay out here tonight in the desert on my own
I see the stars shining through my sukkah
And I know that God is with me, and I know I'm not alone

Today we make our home in many places, many lands
We're settled and we've built up rich new lives
But houses rise and fall, and a wall is just a wall
If it crumbles our spirit still survives

I see the stars shining through my sukkah
As I lay out here tonight in the desert on my own
I see the stars shining through my sukkah
And I know that God is with me, and I know I'm not alone

Sukkat shalem, sukkat shalom
This temporary dwelling is tonight my peaceful home
Sukkat shalom, sukkat shalem
I can hear the breeze blow gently by
Whispering God's name

I see the stars shining through my sukkah
As I lay out here tonight in the desert on my own
I see the stars shining through my sukkah
And I know that God is with me, and I know I'm not alone
Tonight my God is with me
In my sukkah, that's my home