

BLACK MAGIC LAG B'OMER

Time needed	20 -30 mins
Age range	Any teen
Background of teen	Basic background
Set up	At tables

Goals:

To explain the idea of the Torah being illuminating and the excitement of counting up towards this day and its spiritual relevance.

Relevance:

Lag B'Omer and R' Shimon Bar Yochai

Supplies needed:

1. Colored crayons
2. Cardstock paper
3. Black crayons
4. Kebab sticks or other scraping tools



Active Learning:

Have the teens make black magic, i.e. color paper with different layers of crayons with different colors, and then color over it all with black, when you scrape a picture, then you can see the color below.

<http://paintinglilies.com/craft/black-magic-craft-tutorial/>

And that is what kabbalah/Torah is: scraping away the dark so you can illuminate the beauty underneath, therefore we have bonfires on R' Shimon Bar Yochais yartzhet, the author of the zohar.

Step by step planning:

Time	Facilitator Activity	Teen activity
10 mins	Hand out resources and explain how to do the activity.	Do black magic activity
10 mins	Facilitation questions	Discussion
10 mins	Review the sources and wrap up	Discussion

Facilitation questions:

- ❖ Why do the colors look so striking when you scrape off the black?
- ❖ What element of your life do you feel like you need to scrape away?

Wrap up message and Torah thought:

<http://www.aish.com/h/o/33o/91684314.html>

Zohar, Idra Zuta, Devarim, Parshat Ha'azinu, p. 296 – Revelation of the Zohar.

On the day that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai was to leave this world, he organized his teachings. His friends came to his room and he said to them, "Now is a time of favor. I can now reveal to you holy things that have not been revealed until now." ... All that day the fire never left his room, and there was no one who was able to approach as the light and the fire were surrounding him ... [After he passed away, and they came to bury him] the fire flew into the air and danced before him. A voice was heard [from Heaven] saying, "Come and gather [every year] for the *hilulah* (anniversary) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai."

"אותו יום ביקש רבי שמעון בר יוחאי להסתלק מן העולם והיה מסדר דבריו. נתכנסו החברים לביתו, והוא אמר להם: עתה שעת רצון היא, מילים קדושות שלא גיליתי עד עתה: רצוני לגלותן ... כל ההוא יומא לא אפסיק אשא מן ביתא, ולא הוה מאן דמטי לגביה, דלא יכילו דנהורא ואשא הוה בסוחרניה... ואשא הוה להיט קמיה שמעו קלא עולו ואתו ואתכנשו להילולא דרבי שמעון.

Rabbi Gedalya Schorr, Ohr Gedalyahu, Moadim p. 153

Lag B'Omer is the anniversary of the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. He was on the level of those who ate manna, as he resided in a cave for fourteen years and God provided him with water and a carob tree with which he was nourished for all those years. It was through Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai that the Oral Torah was revealed, as he was a student of Rabbi Akiva. Rabbi Akiva was the foundation of the Oral Law – every anonymous statement of Tannaim is ascribed to the opinion of Rabbi Akiva. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai was Rabbi Akiva's student, and the revelation of the secret part of the Torah came through him. It was only possible to reveal it through those who ate the manna. Therefore, it is appropriate that the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai was on Lag B'Omer, as on that day the manna began to fall. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who was on the level of those who ate the manna, left the world on Lag B'Omer.

בל"ג בעומר הילולא דרשב"י, רשב"י הי' בבחינת אוכל המן, שהי' במערה י"ד שנה ונזדמן לו מן השמים מים ועץ חרובין שממנה הי' זן כל הימים שהי' במערה, כי רשב"י שעל ידו הי' התגלות תושבע"פ, שהי' תלמיד של רע"ק, שרע"ק הוא היסוד של תושבע"פ, כולה סתימאה אליבא דרע"ק, ורשב"י הי' תלמידו, ועל ידו הי' התגלות חלק הסוד בתורה, ולא הי' אפשר התגלות הזאת רק באופן שיהי' בבחינת אוכלי המן, ולכן שייך הילולא דרשב"י דייקא לל"ג בעומר, שבאותו היום התחילה ירידת המן כמו שכבר הבאנו בשם החת"ס, ורשב"י שהי' בבחינת אוכל המן נסתלק בל"ג בעומר.