

# LAG BA'OMER

## WHY IS IT A DAY OF CELEBRATION?

### 1 RABBI AKIVA'S STUDENTS STOPPED DYING ON LAG BA'OMER

Rabbi Akiva had 24,000 students who died from a terrible plague in the days following Passover. The day they finally stopped dying was Lag Ba'Omer. Rabbi Akiva then **restarted the chain of Mesorah** with 5 new students who became the pillars to transmit the Oral Torah to all future generations. We celebrate that the chain of teaching Oral Torah was reestablished on Lag Ba'Omer.



There is a custom to make **bonfires** on Lag Ba'Omer to celebrate the "light" that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai brought into the world through his mystical teachings.

### 2 RABBI SHIMON BAR YOCHAI PASSED AWAY ON THIS DAY

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai was one of Rabbi Akiva's 5 remaining students after the rest passed away. Usually, we mourn the day of someone's death, but today we celebrate because on the day Rabbi Shimon died, he gathered his students and revealed **deep kabbalistic secrets of the Torah**. We celebrate to show honor to Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and show how much we appreciate his teachings. Many Jews visit Rabbi Shimon's burial place in Meron (northern Israel) and study the teachings of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai on this day.

## IN NUMBERS

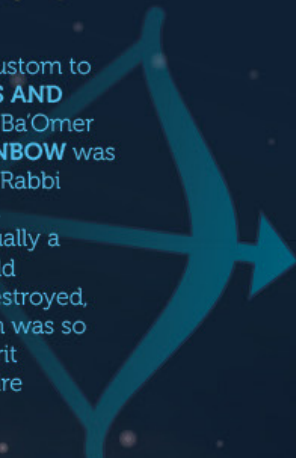
**33<sup>rd</sup>** day in the Omer count

**18<sup>th</sup>** day in the Hebrew month of Iyar

**24,000** students of Rabbi Akiva died until Lag Ba'Omer

**5** new students carried on Rabbi Akiva's teachings

Some have the custom to shoot with **BOWS AND ARROWS** on Lag Ba'Omer because **NO RAINBOW** was ever seen during Rabbi Shimon's lifetime. Rainbows are usually a sign that the world deserves to be destroyed, but Rabbi Shimon was so great that his merit protected his entire generation.



### 3 SOME SAY THAT LAG BA'OMER WAS THE DAY WHEN THE MIRACULOUS MANNA (MANNA) BEGAN TO FALL FOR THE JEWS AFTER THEY LEFT EGYPT.

Just as God provided food for the Jews in the desert thousands of years ago, we celebrate that God is always taking care of us even today, too.

