

THE "USHPIZIN," The Seven Guests: Demystified

Source: The Zohar,
the foremost book of Jewish mysticism.



EXPLANATION:



The Sukkah generates an intense concentration of spiritual energy, similar to Eden.

During Sukkot the souls of the seven great leaders of Israel actually leave Eden to partake in the divine light of the earthly Sukkot.

Each day of Sukkot, all seven souls are present, but each takes his turn to lead the other six.

Collectively these transcendent guests are known as Ushpizin.



Abraham



Isaac



Jacob



Moses



Aaron



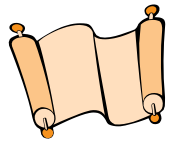
Joseph



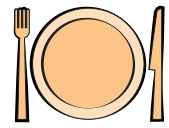
David

QUICK FACTS:

The Aramaic word meaning "guests."



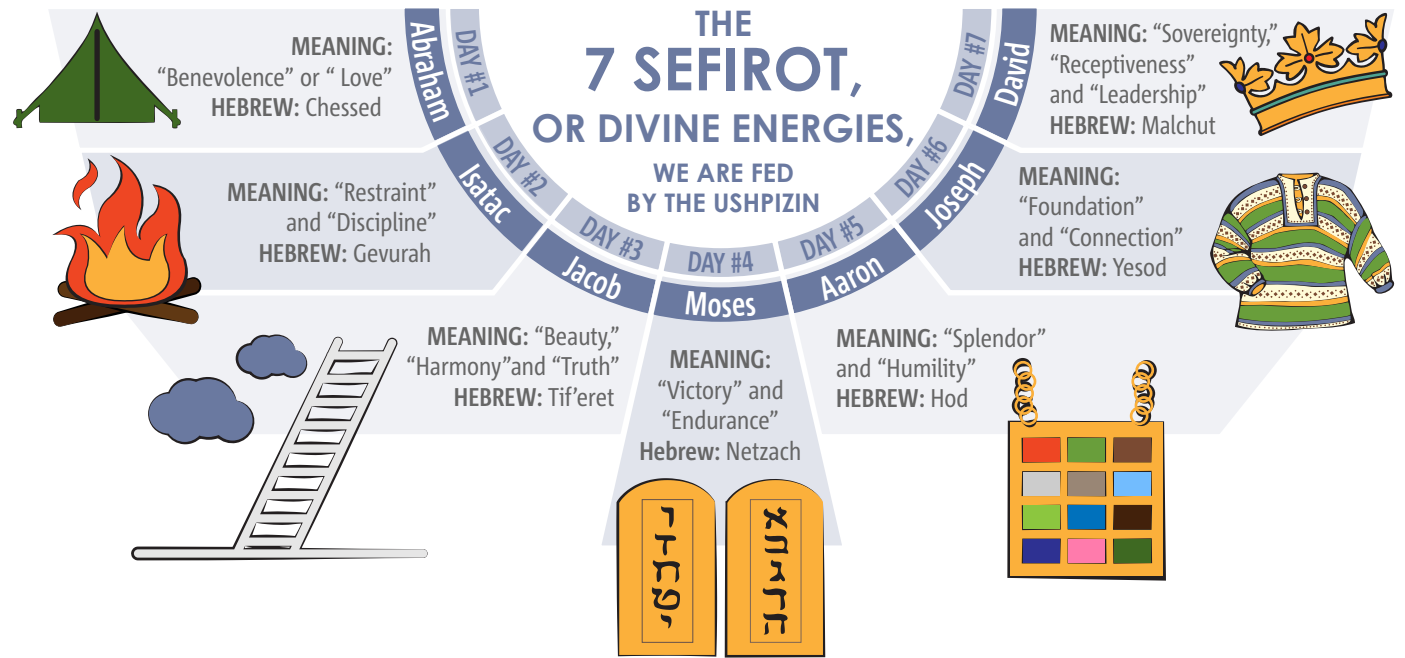
To welcome these illustrious souls, many have the custom to recite a lengthy mystical invitation upon entering the Sukkah for the first time.



Many invite the Ushpizin each time they partake of a meal in the Sukkah.



Some Sephardic Jews even have the custom of setting aside an ornately-decorated chair covered with fine cloth and holy books.



ALTERNATIVE "USHPIZIN" GUESTS:

According to the tradition of Medieval Italian kabbalist Menachem Azariah of Fano, the ushpizot are:

- Sarah
- Miriam
- Deborah
- Abigail
- Hannah
- Huldah
- Esther

Other traditions include biblical figures such as:

- Rebecca
- Leah
- Racheal
- Dinah
- Tamar
- Ruth

In Chabad tradition, an additional set of corresponding "chasic" ushpizin enter the sukkah:

- Baal Shem Tov
- Maggid of Mezeritch
- Rabbi DovBer
- Alter Rebbe
- Mitteler Rebbe (Rabbi DovBer)
- Tzemach Tzedek (Rabbi Menachem Mendel)
- Rebbe Maharash (Rabbi Shmuel Schneersohn)
- Rebbe Rashab (Rabbi Sholom Dovber Schneersohn)

Likewise, others include a list of historically significant Jewish women such as:

- Gracia de Nasi
- Emma Lazarus
- Hannah Szenesh

Sources:

<http://www.geni.com/projects/Sukkoth-The-Holy-Shepherds-Ushpizin/8193>

<http://www.ou.org/chagim/sukkot/ushpizin.htm>

<http://www.aish.com/h/su/dits/48965711.html>

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