



**Chagim
Center**

Home for the holidays

Bringing of the Bikkurim (First Fruits)

Mishnah Bikkurim 3

(2) How do they bring the Bikkurim up [to Jerusalem]? All the cities of a Ma'amad [one of 24 regions, each of which sent in turn a delegation to the Temple to be present and represent the entire people at the public sacrifices] would assemble into the [central] city of the Ma'amad and sleep in the streets of that city without going into the houses. When they arose, the supervisor would say, Arise! Let us go up to Zion, to the house of the Lord our God:

(3) Those who were close would bring dates and grapes and the far ones would bring dried figs and raisins. And a bull would go before them, its horns plated with gold, and it would have an olive wreath around its head. The flute would play before them until they got close to Jerusalem. Once they got close to Jerusalem, they would send ahead of them [a messenger] and adorned their *Bikkurim*. The overseers and the officers and the treasurers would go out to greet them. In accordance with the stature of those coming in would they go out. All the artisans of Jerusalem would stand before them and greet them, "Our brothers from so-and-so, come in peace!

The flute would continue playing before them until they arrived at the Temple Mount. Once they arrived at the Temple Mount, even Agripas the King would carry his basket on his shoulder and enter until he reached the courtyard. (Once they got to the courtyard) the Levites would speak in song..."

City of a Ma'amad: city of the province.

Grogarot: dried figs

Atara: crown, wreath

Pahot: ministers, heads of provinces





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Questions:

- Why do they sleep in the city streets and do not enter the houses?
- What do those living close to Jerusalem bring, and those living far away? Why this distinction?
- How do the residents of Jerusalem receive the guests?
- What characterizes the ceremony of bringing the first fruits? What is the atmosphere in it?
- What do you think of the ceremony of bringing the first fruits? Would you want to participate in such a ceremony?
- Is there any point in fulfilling the precept of bringing first fruits nowadays?
- What are our first fruits? What are the fruits of our work / learning?

