

My teacher, Malkha, gave an awesome shiur about סוכות and the בית שמחת השאובה. On סוכות were told many times in the Torah that we're supposed to be happy. Therefore, we celebrate with a שמחת בית השאובה. This is how they would celebrate in the Beit Hamikdash, they had a lot of fire shows.

The Torah says to be happy, why do we need a party specifically? In the beit hamikdash they did היין ניסוך, they'd pour wine over all the korbanot. On sukkot they would do a המים ניסוך, pour water all over, because it's the beginning of the raining season so we pray for rain. We learn this from פה שבעל תורה. The צדוקים, however, only believed in the שבכתב תורה. The תוספתא explains that one of the kohanim that was a צדוקי took the water in a חוצפה manner and through it on his feet. The word שאובה means "to draw". This party was to fill their buckets and to celebrate the המים ניסוך, the פה שבעל תורה. And not celebrate it quietly, to throw it in the צדוקים's faces.

Why the fire? When המלך שלמה built the first beit hamikdash he gave a long speech how Hashem should dwell in it. Hashem answered by sending fire from heaven. Hashem accepted the תפילות and korbanot; He was present. The שמחת בית השאובה we're bringing the fire back up, that's how we celebrate G-d bringing it down. We pour water on the מזבח so He makes it rain.

We're taking a step towards G-d so He takes a step towards us. We meet in the middle. We build a sukkah, G-d comes in. We want Him to make it rain, we bring Him water. The שבכתב תורה is G-d coming to us, the פה שבעל תורה is us coming to G-d. When we take a step He'll respond. When we get the fire from Hashem it's our job to bring the fire into the world and light it with goodness. We're not waiting for each other, the שמחת בית השאובה is the midpoint, so let's meet Him. שמה חג.