

[Passing Through Moed Katan—and Life](#)

Tablet

Tractate Moed Katan centers around two polar-opposite topics: Chol Hamoed, days of moderated celebration, and *aveilut*, days of mourning. One we associate with trips to the zoo, the other with the *shiva* house. Their juxtaposition seems almost offensive. Rabbi Dovid Bashevkin shows that the two are more closely related than we may think. He argues that both represent in-between stages—between *yomim tovim* and between periods of loss. Moed Katan is about “how to live a life that is in between, in flux, and sandwiched between conflicting identities.”

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