



From the desk of
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Office of the Rabbinate of Elad, Rosh HaAyin and Herzelia

Religious Court of Elad * Batei Hora'ah * Religious Services * Marriage Licensing * Kashrut * Mikvaot * Eiruvim

OHR

Sukkot

HAMELECH

Special Clouds

Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim and took care of all of our needs in the desert. In the process, He provided us with *Ananei HaKavod* – Clouds of Glory – which protected us from the desert heat and took care of all of our laundering and ironing needs. Those clouds also flattened the mountains and raised the valleys allowing for smooth desert travel. They also combatted the threat of poisonous snakes and scorpions.

On the *Yom Tov* of *Sukkot*, we leave our homes and live in temporary huts for a week, remembering these miraculous clouds which made our desert stay so much more comfortable.

Only For the Clouds

The Chid"ra asks why we make a *zecher l'ananei hakavod* and not also for the *mon* and *be'eir*. He gives three answers: a) Every desert traveler needs food and water; especially being that we are Hashem's servants, every master provides these basic needs for his servants. The clouds were a step beyond necessity and that is why they displayed endearment. b) *Mon* and *Be'eir* were given to us after we complained. The clouds were given at once, with no prior complaint. c) *Mon* and *Be'eir* were enjoyed by *eirav rav* as well. The clouds were for Yisrael exclusively.

Sukkah – The All-Inclusive Mitzvah

A surprising Medrash tells us that the verse "And Hashem blessed Avraham with everything" refers to the mitzvah of *Sukkah*. The Vilna Gaon explained that "*Bakol*" is an acronym for the three verses in Parashat Emor which refer to the mitzvah of *sukkah*: a) *Beit – Basukkot teishvu...* b) *Kof – Kol Ha'ezrach...* c) *Lamed – Lema'an yeid'oo doroteichem...*

It is also interesting to note that *Sukkah* and living in *Eretz Yisrael* are two *mitzvot* which encompass the entire person. Most *mitzvot* are done with one or more particular body parts. These two *mitzvot* are done with one's all. This is alluded to in the verse (Tehillim 76:3) "*Veyehi Beshalem Suko ume'onato betzion*" I.e., one is complete in his *sukkah* and by dwelling in the Holy Land.

Safety-Zone

Just as the Clouds of Glory provided supernatural protection in the desert, so too, our *sukkah* protects us from all harm. There were Gedolei Yisrael in wartime who felt safer in their *sukkot* than in any other bomb shelter.

Hachnasat Orchim

A distinguished guest visited in the home of Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinsky on *Sukkot*. Mealtime was approaching and the guest was invited to dine. He was shown to the outdoor *sukkah*, but



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Reb Chaim Ozer explained that due to health circumstances, he was exempt from *mitzvat sukkah*.

The guest was served his meal and began eating alone. A few minutes passed and Reb Chaim Ozer joined him in the *sukkah*.

"But the Rav explained that he had an exemption?!" inquired the surprised guest.

"Yes," said Reb Chaim Ozer, "I am exempt from *mitzvat sukkah*. But *mitzvat hachnosat orchim* demands that I join you so you do not have to eat all alone."

First Day of Accounting

The *Yom Tov* of *Sukkot* is called "First for the Accounting of Sins." Why is this so? Numerous explanations have been suggested. Here is a novel one:

On *Yomim Noraim*, the Prosecutor stands up in the Great Court and tries to incriminate. The defending angels claim that the Jews were under pressure and great temptation and thereby lured into sin. So the prosecutor says: "Let us see if they are so gullible when it comes to money matters."

Then come the days between *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot*. *Klal Yisrael* spend hundreds of *shekalim* on sets of *arbah minim*. They reappear in Shul on *Sukkot* with their expensive sets of *arbah minim*. Anywhere else in the world, these items would have been sold for much less.

The prosecutor is silenced. He has nothing to say. He erases all the old claims and begins for us a new slate.

The Best Type of Mitzvah

In Europe of old, sets of *arbah minim* were not easy to find. The Vilna Gaon would send out messengers weeks before *Sukkot* to buy for him a good set. One year, it was very hard to find a set. Finally the messengers found a man with a good set, but he wanted it for himself.

The messengers explained that they were buying it for the Gaon of Vilna. What price could he ask for? The man acquiesced on the condition that he receive the reward for the *mitzvah*.

The messengers returned, not knowing what the Gaon would say. But the Gaon was overjoyed, "Now I can do the *mitzvah leshmah* – with no ulterior motive."

Don't Worry, Be Happy

We have before us eight days of *Yom Tov*. Eight days of happiness and joy. Let us rise above the possible hindrances and obstacles to our joy, and rejoice with the special *mitzvot* of the *Chag*, rejoice with our closest family members and rejoice with *Hashem Yitbarach*.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Samei'ach

Mordechai Malka