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בס"ד חג הסוכות, תש"פ

וחג האסיף תקופת השנה (שמות ל"ד כ"ב)

…and the Festival of Harvest shall be at the changing of the year. (Shemos 34:22)

From this Heilige (Holy) Yom Tov one can gather and take strength and inspiration in Avodas Hashem for the whole year. - Sabbah Kadisha of Lechovich

On the Yom Tov of Sukkos a Yid must start anew his Avodas Hashem [Serving Hashem] with happiness.

Such as a parable about a son of a king that ran away from his father. He then returned to the King, and his observance.

The King is not sure to settle with him since he suspects that maybe his repentance is not from his inner will, but just from fear of the King. But when the King sees that he serves him with happiness and love, he then knows that he returns to him with a full heart. That is the subject of Sukkos. - Sabbah Kadisha of Slonim

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ראשון לחשבון העונות: מדרש תנחומא (אמור כ"ב)

By the Yom Tov of Sukkos the Possuk calls it Bayom Harieshon – The First Day. On this the Medrash says Rishon Licheshbon Avonos – the first day of counting of Aveiros (sins). Why is this so, that after Yom Kippur until Sukkos it does not begin the counting of Aveiros?

The Sefas Emes ZY"A says, that since the Hachanoh (preparation) of a Mitzvah is greater than the Mitzvah itself, and between Yom Kippur and Sukkos Yidden are preparing for all the Mitzvos of Sukkos, it is only on Sukkos itself that it starts the counting of Aveiros.

תשובה מאהבה

The Kedushas Levi ZY"A expounds on the Medrash of Rishon Licheshbon Avonos. How can it be that on Sukkos זמן שמחתינו the time of joy, it should be the starting point of counting Aveiros? He explains as such. As we all know the Gemorah [Yuma 81:2], that one that does תשובה מיראה - Teshuva from fear, זדונות נעשה כשגגות - His outright sins become mistaken sins. Whereas he who does תשובה מאהבה - Teshuva Meyahava, out of love for Hashem, then זדונות נעשה כזכויות - His aveiros become Zechusim (merits).

Continues the Kedushas Levi, the month of Elul and Aseres Yemei Teshuva are a time of Teshuva Meyira, out of fear. Then comes Sukkos Zman Simchoseinu, The Yom Tov of joy. It is now תשובה מאהבה repentance out of love for Hashem. Says the Kedushas Levi, we now take out all the Aveiros and recount them that they should now turn into Zechusim out of Teshuva Meyahava during The Festival of Joy זמן שמחתינו.