

But they continued to bring him free-willed gifts morning after morning. (36:3)

In his *Avodas Ha'Gershuni*, commentary to *Shir HaShirim*, the nephew of the *Gaon*, *zl, m'Vilna* (son of *Horav Avraham*, the *Gaon's* brother) writes that he heard from his revered uncle a reason why *Succos* is celebrated during the month of *Tishrei* (fifteenth), rather than *Nissan* which coincides with the liberation from Egypt. The Torah (*Vayikra* 23:43) indicates that the *Succos* festival was initiated because, "I caused *Bnei Yisrael* to dwell in *succos/huts* when I took them out of the land of Egypt." If so, why is *Succos* not celebrated in *Nissan*?

The *Gaon* explains that the underlying reason for *Succos* is Hashem's acquiescence to return the Divine Presence to *Klal Yisrael* via the *Mishkan*. The commencement of this return occurred on the fifteenth of *Tishrei*. Moshe *Rabbeinu* descended from *Har Sinai* on *Yom Kippur*, the tenth of *Tishrei*. He then announced that the people were to build a *Mishkan* for Hashem's return. On the twelfth and thirteenth (*ba'boker ba'boker*, morning after morning), they brought their contributions. On the fourteenth, Moshe declared an end to the contributing phase; they had sufficient contributions. On the fifteenth day, when we begin *Succos*, the Jews began the work of building the *Mishkan* and its vessels. This is when we merited to reside beneath the *kanfei*, wings, of the *Shechinah*. This was the return of the *Ananei ha'Kavod*, Pillars of Cloud. On the fifteenth of *Tishrei*, Hashem's return indicated His forgiveness for the sin of the Golden Calf. Thus, we celebrate *Succos* in *Tishrei*.