

This shall be to you an eternal decree to bring atonement upon the Bnei Yisrael for all their sins once a year. (16:34)

The phrase, "*once a year*," underscores the significance of *Yom Kippur*. We find a similar idiom regarding the festival of *Succos*. The *Torah* declares, "*You shall celebrate it as a festival for Hashem, a seven-day period in the year*" (*Vayikra 23:41*). It seems that these two *Yamim Tovim*, festivals, distinguish themselves in that their *hashpaah*, spiritual influence, is to endure for "the year." *Horav Mordechai Ilan, zl*, notes that this idea applies only to *Succos* and *Yom Kippur*. The parallel that exists between them is that the *avodas Hashem*, service to the Almighty, which is intrinsic to these festivals is powerful enough to inspire us for "the year."

On *Yom Kippur*, we serve Hashem through *yiraah*, fear, as we achieve an unprecedented plateau in our spiritual relationship with Him. *Yom Kippur* lasts for only one day, but its spiritual influence is to carry us through the entire year, until the following *Yom Kippur*. On *Succos*, we serve Hashem through *simchah*, joy. We experience the joy of serving Hashem in such a unique manner that it should last a whole year. The word, "*bashanah*," presents a new dimension in our *avodas Hashem* during these festivals. If we realize that our experience must carry through the entire year, we will place greater emphasis on our *avodas Hashem* during the *Yom Tov*.