

## In the Clouds

Sunday night we begin sitting and eating in the *Sukkah* as we celebrate the holiday of *Sukkos*. One reason given for why we do this is to commemorate the clouds of glory that surrounded our ancestors while they traveled in the desert. The question arises - what lesson is there for us today that we should be thinking about as we sit and eat in the *sukkah*? It was a miracle then; what relevance is it for us today?

The *Vilna Gaon* shares a little background information that will help us understand this. He quotes the *Chazal* who tell us that after the sin of the golden calf, the clouds of glory disappeared. This disappearance of these clouds was G-d's message to *B'nei Yisroel* of his displeasure with their actions. The removal of the clouds was G-d's way of physically distancing himself from them. It wasn't until *Moshe* pleaded with the *B'nei Israel* to do *teshuvah*, and they complied that *B'nei Yisroel* was forgiven. This act of G-d's forgiveness culminated on *Yom Kippur* when they received the second *Luchos* signifying that G-d and *B'nei Yisroel* were once again close. Immediately after the completion of this act, the clouds of glory returned which was right before the holiday of *Sukkos*.

Now, we can understand what we are commemorating. We are not recognizing the clouds of glory that were with *B'nei Yisroel* all those years in the desert. Rather, we are recognizing the ones that came back illustrating that we are once again close with G-d at this time of the year. May we all feel that special relationship throughout the coming year.