

תענית ה

We start saying שמיני עצרת of מוסף from משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם. Why don't we say it from the beginning of סוכות? Because a person will be unable to say it with כונה as he sits in the סוכה (for this reason, writes the מדרש תנחומא, we eat in the house in חוץ לארץ on עצרת, שמיני עצרת, as how can we daven for rain while we sit in the סוכה, unlike the גמרא in סוכה that says we eat in the סוכה). Why don't we say it from מעריב on עצרת? We want to start when there are the most people in shul. Why not by שחרית? The ט"ז explains that since there needs to be an announcement to begin משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם, and since the announcement can't be made right before עשרה שמונה עשרה, as we need to have סמיכת גאולה לתפילה, we wait until מוסף.