

זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.
ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל מלאכתך,
ויום השביעי שבת לה'

SHABBAT LASHEM

THE VOICE OF BNEI AKIVA UK

PARASHAT KORACH

5ST TAMUZ 5780

26TH & 27TH JUNE 2020

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 39

BNEI
AKIVA
UNITED KINGDOM



בס"ד



THE POWER OF JEALOUSY DANIELLA WIEDER SHEVET NE'EMAN

It is a well-known psychological fact that we always find faults in others that are most prominent in ourselves. The Kotzker Rebbe commented that people who quarrel with the righteous try to find complaints in ways that are the exact opposite of the truth. Moshe was the humblest of men, and Aharon's relationship with others was always to pursue peace, which takes much humility. Now we are introduced to their cousin, Korach. Despite everything he had going for him, Korach was upset that he was not one of the leaders of Klal Yisrael. He therefore made accusations against Moshe and Aharon that they were arrogant leaders who were in it for the power and didn't listen to the people. He was jealous of their positions, and given the catastrophe of last week's parasha – where every male over 20 was sentenced to death in the wilderness – this was the perfect opportunity for Korach to start a rebellion against Moshe and Aharon. According to Rabbi Ari Kahn, Bnei Yisrael did not believe that Moshe and Aharon had done enough to save them from this decree by praying to Hashem; just as Moshe fought for them after the Golden Calf.

Moreover, Korach didn't understand how Aharon had not been punished for the instrumental part he played in creating the Golden Calf. In fact, Aharon was promoted to be the Kohen Gadol (High Priest), whereas Korach was 'downgraded' from the position of Kohen to the status of 'generic' Levite. To add fuel to the fire, the Levites had not sent a representative to scout out the land in last week's parasha. The only member of their tribe who was somewhat involved in this sin

was Moshe, as the man who had sent the spies on their mission in the first place. This made Korach's blood boil! But what he perceived as the injustice of it all was the fact that he himself had been denied the position of service in the Temple that would now be taken by Aharon and his sons, while Moshe and Aharon seemed to have slipped away unscathed. This may well be the background to Korach's rebellion; he was driven to distraction by what was, in his opinion, the unfairness of it all.

On this, Rabbi Zelig Pliskin writes that jealousy can be a powerful, self-destructive force. It prevents a person from enjoying what they have. Pirkei Avot 4:21 states: "Jealousy, lust and honour put a man out of the world". Korach's downfall was because of this trait. Not only did he not get what he wanted, but he lost everything he already had. How do we overcome jealousy? The key is to focus on what you yourself have and what you yourself can accomplish in this world. Jealousy arises when we look at others and compare ourselves to them. The ultimate pleasure that we can have in this world is true happiness. When we master this trait by focusing on things that are conducive to real happiness (e.g. by following the Torah), then we will never need to envy anyone.

I feel that this message is more important than ever. We are surrounded by a bombardment of social media, reality TV shows, advertisements, etc. It is enough to make someone who doesn't struggle with jealousy feel envious towards others, and it becomes natural to compare. Let's learn from Korach's mistake. Let's only compare ourselves to ourselves. And let's remind ourselves to focus on how valuable we are and think about all the amazing talents and abilities that Hashem gave specifically to YOU.

**DANIELLA IS THE SVIVOT AND HADRACHA
WORKER ELECT FOR THE MAZKIRUT 5781.**

London	In: 21:06 Out: 22:36	Oxford	In: 21:09 Out: 22:43	Leeds	In: 21:23 Out: 23:07
Manchester	In: 21:23 Out: 23:06	Bristol	In: 21:13 Out: 22:46	Liverpool	In: 21:26 Out: 23:08
Cambridge	In: 21:06 Out: 22:42	Birmingham	In: 21:16 Out: 22:53	Jerusalem	In: 19:13 Out: 20:31

KORACH 5780: TAKING IT IN

MATAN MILNER | NORTHERN SHALIACH



When I studied Parashat Korach with my 4-year-old son, he couldn't stand the frustration and pain and just burst into tears. He cried for Am Yisrael, who complained all the time and were punished by God repeatedly.

The innocence of a cute young boy who re-learns the Torah stories.

And what can we say? He's right. What is the matter with Am Yisrael? The sin of the spies, the refusal to enter the Promised Land, the sin of the Ma'apilim, complaints about food and water, 'good memories' of the past in Egypt (is that so?). And now, Korach and his followers come out against the leadership of Moshe and Aharon that was chosen by Hashem.

After all the miracles and wonders Hashem did for the generation who left Egypt with Moshe and Aharon, after all the people heard and saw on Har Sinai how, "As Moshe spoke, God answered him in thunder" (Shemot 19:19), after Hashem Himself testified to the greatness of Moshe, "he is trusted throughout My household, With him I speak mouth to mouth...My servant Moshe!" (Bamidbar 12:7). How could Korach and his disciples, important and wise people, say these things?

I remember once asking this question to my father and he answered me with a short quote of the Kotzker Rebbe, about the spiritual and mental state of the Jewish people in the desert.

After crossing the Red Sea, an extraordinarily spiritual event, Chazal describe the size of the column of people: "A maidservant beheld at the Red Sea what was not beheld by Yechezkel" (Mechilta on Shemot). Even a maidservant, in her low rank, while crossing the Red Sea saw even more than what the prophet Yechezkel saw in his prophecy of the Merkava, the holy chariot of God! This is a very high level of spiritual attainment.

If so, how can one explain the fact that Am Yisrael complained immediately afterwards? In his wisdom, the Kotzker Rebbe says: "A maidservant beheld at the Red Sea what was not beheld by Yechezkel **and remained a servant**". That is to say, despite her spiritual attainment, she did not take advantage of the situation for spiritual strengthening and proximity to God but remained in her rank. Which is also the reason for the repeated complaints of the people: **Am Yisrael were not undergoing a gradual and deep process of choosing God and His teachings through self-work, growth and internalisation.**

In the absence of a complete internalisation of Torah values, which are not only technical acts but a way of life and a worldview, Am Yisrael are in a troubled and confused situation. The spies have created a crisis of confidence against the leadership of Moshe. The people have just received harsh punishments and they need to find their stability to rise from this place so that they can return to the right path and arrive in Eretz Yisrael.

**IN THE ABSENCE
OF A COMPLETE
INTERNALISATION
OF TORAH VALUES,
AM YISRAEL ARE IN
A TROUBLED AND
CONFUSED SITUATION.**

The month of Tamuz that was renewed upon us this week is the month in which the days of mourning for the destruction of the

Bet Hamikdash begin (the 'Three Weeks'). The words of the prophet Yishayahu may indicate the fact that the root of destruction lies also in the absence of a true internalisation of the Torah:

"Because that people has approached [Me] with its mouth and honoured Me with its lips, but has kept its heart far from Me, and its worship of Me has been a commandment of men, learned by rote. Truly, I shall further baffle that people...And the wisdom of its wise shall fail, And the prudence of its prudent shall vanish." (Yishayahu 29:13-14)

It may be said that Korach, about whom the Midrash says, "who certainly was a wise man", also loses his wisdom and disagrees with Moshe and Aharon. The lack of internalisation permeates everyone, from the maidservant at the sea, through the spies, to Korach. Perhaps our great blessing in understanding this parasha, will be the strengthening of one more 'screw' in our connection to the Torah and its understanding and in connection with Am Yisrael.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- Our final **Virtual Sviva** of the year takes place on **Sunday at 3pm** over Zoom. ID: 208-209-1319, Password: YadAchim. Email Zoe at svivot@bauk.org for more details!

- **Sichot B'Ivrit**, our Ivrit ulpan taught by the Bnot Sherut continues on **Sunday at 4.30pm**. To sign up head to bit.ly/ba-ivrit. For more information contact Eli at israel@bauk.org.

- **Bonim Atid**: join together with Bnei Akiva from around the world on Sunday at 7pm for a series of **Hadracha talks** organised by World Bnei Akiva's Chinuch department! Topics include: **"The ABC of Bnei Akiva" (28th June)** and "The Difference Between Modern Orthodoxy and Religious Zionism" (5th July). Further information at worldbneiakiva.org/bonim-atid.

- Join us on **Monday at 8pm** in the Bnei Akiva Zoom room for a **shiur by Rav Joel Kenigsberg** exploring the topic of **organ donation**.

- **Student Bet Midrash** continues on Thursday 2nd July! Join us at **7.00pm** for a choice of chaburot by **Gidon Schwartz** and **Daniella Wieder**, followed by a thought from one of our Lilmod U'lamed participants and a shiur by our guest speaker. Email Chana at chinuch@bauk.org for more details or if you have any questions. Zoom links will be posted on the Student Bet Midrash Facebook page.

- Help us reach **100 Acts of Kindness!** By (anonymously) sharing your deeds you will inspire others to give their time, and let them know where and how they can! Fill in the form at tinyurl.com/BA-100AOK.

- **Mazal Tov** to **Daniel Lederman** (Shevet Ne'eman) and **Avigail Simmonds-Rosten** on their engagement!

- Be sure to like our **Facebook page (Bnei Akiva UK)** and follow our **Instagram (bneiakivauk)** to stay informed of our online content!

- To receive weekly copies of **Shabbat Lashem**, sign up for our mailing list at bauk.org/contact.

- Visit bauk.org/feedback for contact details for all Mazkirut members and to leave any general feedback!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. What does the term 'Elokei Haruchot' (God of the spirits) refer to? (**See Ramban on 16:22**)

2. Why is the relationship between God and the Kohanim called a 'covenant of salt'? (**See Rashi on 18:19**)

SHABBAT SHALOM!!!

CALLING ALL BOGRIM!!

INTRODUCING...



Sichot B'Ivrit!

BA'S NEW WEEKLY IVRIT CLASS
TAUGHT BY THE BNOT SHERUT!

STARTING SUNDAY 10TH MAY
4:30 PM
BNEI AKIVA ZOOM ROOM

To sign up: bit.ly/ba-ivrit

For information on more Ivrit classes, drop us a dm!

TO SPONSOR AN EDITION OF SHABBAT LASHEM OR FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT CHANA AT CHINUCH@BAUK.ORG