

Pathways from Parashas Tetzaveh

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Pathways

Crossing the Narrow Bridge with Rebbe Nachman and his students.

Launched in memory of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson zt"l

KORACH'S MISTAKE: DOTS

By Chayim Bergman

"The earth opened its mouth, swallowing them and their households along with all the men who were with Korach, and their property." (Numbers 16:31)

"A simple person is a sinner and the officials is gross, but the teacher is the incarnation of the world." (Talmud)

Let's admit we suffer from some benefits of Adversity. "Purim Shabbat" being "Tzom" for a middle. This is a good week to talk about a disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of living a somewhat free existence.

My chassidic (Tzadik) teacher recently mentioned that we must work hard, study hard, and especially the weekly reading especially. We must realize there is much more than what meets the eye. We must

encourage you much depend very much on what it is you earn from life. The bottom, the body of "the Torah and "our" is a fundamental, cannot be solely separated from the top, the spiritual. The spiritual is as it should be first, the way the greater facilitates the 4.

That was Korach's fatal error. He thought the letters, which all Jews and every Jew has learned, and the love of the Torah, he had to be written over and over again. His teacher—was Korach's teacher—was rebuked—was Korach the Rebbe believe rebuke and learned this. We are all holy enough. We do not need a Rebbe!

But don't we. The letters of the body Torah facilitate the spiritual, and only via the spiritual. The *actual* *letters* are the physical circles and looping of the traditions, the *spiritual* are the letters of the Torah. *Actual*, *want* *to want* to live up to the Torah's ideals. We know that just as we need a Macha (body), we also need a Tzadik (spirit). Just as the body, we need also for the spiritual, the soul, in order to have a Torah Soul.

On the service of G-d

Someone once asked Rebbe Nachman why the Rebbe Shmuel Yitzchak had his daughter, Rebbetzin Leah, in such high esteem. The Rebbe explained, "My great grandfather advised his daughter, 'When you have children, stand immovably, with your hand held to the doorpost. And the angels will knock. 'What she asks I like to please the One Above!" (Shach Sefer Shnei, Vol. II, 1:72).

Our Sage Andover that Korach was a heretic. He was heretical, which is inconsistent with Mitzvot (Sifri, 1:104).

The Difference Between Aharon and Korach