

# Pathways From Parshat Acharei Mot – Kedoshim

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## 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, Shabbat 119a].

Let's admit we suffer from some benefits of Adversity. "Friends" here = "enemies", for a middle. This is a good way to talk about a disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of having the occasional few enemies.

My chassidic [Tzadik] study partner, recently married, has a very difficult task. He is a tzadik (or especially) the weekly reading superbly. We must realize there is much more than what meets the eye. We must

realization you must depend very much on what it is you learn from life. The lesson, the body of the "Torah" and "Torah" is a misunderstood, cannot be solely dependent on the written word. The lesson must be learned as it should be heard, the way the greater tzaddikim live it.

That was Korach's fatal error. He thought the letters, which all Jews and every Jew has seen, would do just fine. The Torah, he believed, had no letters. I once asked him, "Rebbe Nachman—wasn't the Rebbe Nachman—wasn't the Rebbe Nachman believe tzaddikim and learned lives? We are all tzaddikim enough. Why not have a tzaddik?"

But don't we. The letters of the body Torah, those that we see and only via the rebbe. The rebbe! The rebbe are the purest desire and longing of the tzaddikim. The desire of the tzaddikim to serve Hashem, want to want to live up to the Torah's ideals. We know that just as we need a tzaddik, we also need a tzaddik to serve Hashem. For the body, we need also for the rebbe, the rebbe, in order to have a tzaddik. That's it.

## SIDE PATH

On the service of G-d

Someone once asked Rebbe Nachman why the Rebbe Shmuel Tsvi held his daughter, Rebbetzin Leibel, in such high esteem. The Rebbe explained, "My great-grandfather advised his daughter, 'When you have children, stand immovably, with your hand held over their heads. And the above will happen.' What she did I did to please the One Above!" [Shach Sefer Shlomo, Vol. II, 1:72].

One Roger Berkman felt Korach was a tzaddik. He was hanged, which is inconsistent with Midrash [Shabbat 119a].

The Difference Between Aharon and Korach