

Pathways Ha'azinu

From

Parshat

written by breslov.org
September 27, 2012

Parshat Ha'azinu 5772 • Vol. 11 No. 1

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Pathways

Crossing the Narrow Bridge with
Rebbe Nachman and his students.

In and for members of Talmi, Torah Chai and Mussafim

KORACH'S MISTAKE: DOTS

By Chay Hagerman

"The earth opened its mouth, swallowing
Korach and those headstrong, along with all the
men who were with Korach, and their
property" (Numbers 16:32).

"A deepest passion is a wall and the refuge
is gone, but the wall is in the foundation of
the world" (Pirkei 1:18:1).

Last week we talked about some benefits of
Chochma (wisdom), being "na'ar" is a
benefit. This is a great week to talk about a
disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of
being so successful in Chochma.

My chavrusa (Talmi study partner) recently
mentioned we are careful study Torah, even
(or especially) the weekly reading,
especially. We must realize there is much
more than what meets the eye. We must

conclusions you reach depend very much on
what it is you start from. The letters, the
body of the Torah and how it is
individualized, cannot be safely separated
from the outside, the soul and desire to live it
as it should be lived, the way the greatest
saints live it).

That was Korach's fatal error. He thought the
letters, which all Jews and every Jew has
equally, were also the soul of the Torah. "I
have the letters. I—anyone who sees his
soul—can have the life these letters contain
and how to live it. We are all holy enough. We
do not need a leader!"

But it isn't so. The letters of the holy Torah
receive their life, their soul, only via the
outside. The outside circumstances are the
positive desire and longing of the individual,
and of an ordinary Chochma, who want (or at
least, want to want) to live up to the Torah's
ideals. We know that just as we need a Master
Rabbi to give us the Torah's letters, the
body we need him for the outside, the soul,
to enter to have a Torah life.

SIDEPATH

On the service of God

Sometimes one asked Rebbe Nachman who the
Real God? He told his daughter, Rebekah
said, in such high voices. The Rebbe
explained, "My great-grandfather advised his
daughter to reach because she was about
consistently with a heart full of longing for
God. She always asked herself, 'What can I
do to please the One above?' (Chofetz Chaim,
Shema, Vol. 2, p. 172).

Our Sages declare that Korach was a heretic.
He was haughty, which is inconsistent with
Mitzvah [Lev. 1, 10-15].

The Difference Between Akava and
Korach