

# Pathways From Parshat Toldot

written by breslov.org  
November 15, 2012

Parshat Toldot 5771 • Vol. 1 196-1 | [breslov.org/pathways](http://breslov.org/pathways)

## Pathways

Crossing the Narrow Bridge with  
Rebbe Nachman and his students.  
by author/illustrator Talya Korach Chutakov Minsk, Belarus

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### KORACH'S MISTAKE: DOTS

By Our Rebbe's

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

"A leopard pounces in a sudden and the victim is gone, but the maddik is the foundation of the world" (Proverbs 19:27).

Less words we talked about some benefits of tikunim (Tzavah being "tzedek") to a maddik. This is a good word to talk about a disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of being disconnected from maddikim.

My chavrusa (Tzavah study partner) recently reminded me we cannot study Torah, even (or especially) the weekly reading, superficially. 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 read from the letters, the body of the Torah and how it is individualized, cannot be safely separated from the maddik, the soul and closer to the 11 as it should be lived, the way the greatest maddikim live it.

That was Korach's fatal error. He thought the letters, which all Jews and every Jew has equally seen also (the soul of the Torah, "I love the letters, I approve who sees his soul"—can know the life force before, outside and lower to live it. We are all holy enough. We do not need a teacher!"

But it isn't so. The letters of the holy Torah receive their life, their soul, only via the maddik. The maddik themselves are the positive center and bridge of the maddikim, and of an ordinary Tzavah, who want (or at least, want to want) to live up to the Torah's ideals. We know that just as we need a teacher (Halakha) to give us the Torah's letters, the body, we need him for the maddik, the soul, in order to have a Torah that lives.

### SIDEPATH

On the service of G-d

Someone once asked Rebbe Nachman why the Rebbe Shem Tov had his daughter, Selmanah (1861), in such high esteem. The Rebbe explained, "My great-grandfather married his daughter so much because she went about constantly with a heart full of longing to G-d. She always asked herself, 'What else can I do to please the One Above?'" (Dishon Ezer, Vol. 2, 172).

Our Sages declare that Korach was a heretic. He was lengthy, which is associated with Mikolp (Lev. 1, 16-17).

The Difference Between Ahava and Korach