

# Pathways From Parshat Tzav

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# Pathways

Crossing the Narrow Bridge with  
Rebbe Nachman and his students.  
by author and editor Tzvi, Korach Chava and Moshelel

**KORACH'S MISTAKE:  
DOTS**

By Ozer Bergman

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

"A leopard pounces in a sudden and the victim is gone, but the meekness is the foundation of the world" (Pirkei 1:23).

Last week we talked about some benefits of Ahavat Hashkita, being "meek" to a meekah. This is a good week to talk about a disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of being disconnected from meekahim.

My chavrusa (Tzav study partner) recently reminded me we cannot study Torah, even for *sefirah* (i.e. merely 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 want from life. The letters, the body of the Torah and how it is individualized, cannot be safely separated from the meekah, the soul and desire to live it as it should be lived, the way the greatest meekahim 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 suppose you own his soul—can you live like those before meekah and how to live it. We are all holy enough. We do not need a meekah!"

But it isn't so. The letters of the holy Torah receive their life, their soul, only via the meekah. The meekah themselves are the positive desire and longing of the meekahim, and of an ordinary Cholim, who want (or at least, want to want) to live up to the Torah's demands. We know that just as we need a Mekei Seder to give us the Torah's letters, the body we need him for the meekah, the soul, in order to have a Torah Cholim.

**SIDEPATH**

On the service of G-d

Someone once asked Rebbe Nachman why the Netz Shem-Tov held his daughter, Selmanah (1861), in such high esteem. The Rebbe explained, "My great grandfather adopted his daughter so much because she went about constantly with a heart full of longing for G-d, the answer about Korach. 'What else can I do to please the One Above?'" (Sichot Sepher Chofetz, Vol. II, p. 172).

Our Sages declare that Korach was a heretic. He was haughty, which is inconsistent with Malchut (Lev. 1, 10:6).

The Difference Between Ahava and Korach