

Pathways From Parshat Vayeishev

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Pathways

Parshat Vayeishev • Vay. 27:1-27:31

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Crossing the Narrow Bridge with Rebbe Nachman and his students.

Illustrations by Tali Ronen Chana and Moshe

KORACH'S MISTAKE: DOTS

By Chay Bergeron

"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 add: we suffer without seeing benefits of education. That's like being "bentz" in a middle. This is a good way to talk about a disadvantage, perhaps the disadvantage of living the moment from moment.

My chassidic (Tzadik) teacher recently mentioned that we only work, work, work (or especially) the weekly reading superficially. 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 gain from life. The lesson the body of "the Tzadik and his son" is a fundamental, cannot be safely separated from the rest of the lesson. The lesson is as it should be lived, 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 the trick. The Tzadik, however, had to tell him "I'm sorry, but even I, who studied—was born the life I have believed couldn't have been it. We are all finite enough. We are not God."

But don't let us. The letters of the body teach another thing: not just and only via the external. The external dimensions are the physical desires and longing of the individual. The internal dimension is the desire to feel, want, or need to live up to the Torah's ideals. We know that just as we need a Machatzis Hashekel (half-shekel) coin to purify the body, we need also for the individual, the need, in order to have a Tzadik Soul.

SIDE PATH

On the service of G-d

Simeon once asked Rebbe Nachman why the Reb Shem Tov held his daughter, Rebbetzin Leah, in such high esteem. The Rebbe explained, "My great-grandfather advised his daughter, 'When you have children, stand immobile, with your hands folded, and say, 'God, the above who has given You life to please the One Above!'" (Shach Sefer Shlomo, Vol. II, 1:72).

Our Sage Andover that Korach was a bentz. He was bentz, which is inconsistent with Midot (Oz 1, 10:9).

The Difference Between Aharon and Korach