

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

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פרשת קרח
לי סיון תשפ"ד
5784
JULY 6, 2024
ISSUE #196

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EDITOR

DESIGN & LAYOUT:
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WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

FRUIT AND FLOWERS OF KEHUNA

Rav Asher Weiss on the Parashah

After Bnei Yisrael challenged Aharon's position as Kohen Gadol, Hashem instructed them to make a final test, by which Aharon's position would be proven once and for all. The leader of each tribe placed his staff in the Mishkan, with Aharon's staff among them, representing the tribe of Levi. A miracle then occurred, in which Aharon's staff sprouted flowers and almonds, signifying that he and his tribe had been chosen by Hashem.

The Rashbam notes two aspects of this miracle. First, it was miraculous that a stick of dry wood suddenly sprouted flowers and almonds. Second, the flower usually falls off as the fruit or nut begins to develop. In this case, Aharon's staff bore flowers and almonds at the same moment. What was the unique significance of this sign, and why was it chosen to answer the challenge against Aharon's priesthood?

There were two aspects to Aharon's role as Kohen Gadol. On one hand, he made an outward display of "kavod u'tiferes — glory and splendor," by wearing glorious raiment made of gold, *techeiles* and precious stones. The Ramban explains that these were the types of clothing worn by kings at that time.

On the other hand, more significantly, he offered *korbanos* to atone for Bnei Yisrael, and disseminated Torah among them, as the *pasuk* in Malachi (2:7) states, "For the lips of the Kohen should safeguard knowledge, and you should seek Torah from his mouth."


Korach envied the glorious garments of the Priesthood, and the honor that this entailed, but he did not realize that this was no mere superficial display of prestige. Aharon merited the priestly garments as a result of his constant effort to improve his character, help other people, teach Torah, and serve Hashem in holiness and purity. When Aharon was first informed

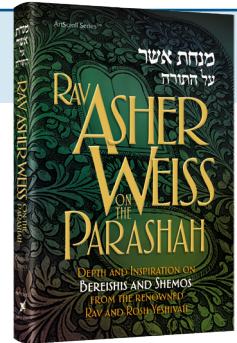
that his younger brother Moshe would be the king and savior of Bnei Yisrael, his heart overflowed with joy. Moshe feared that Aharon might be jealous of him, but Aharon had risen above these traits. Rashi tells us that in reward for his selflessness, Aharon merited to wear the *Choshen* on his heart.

The Gemara (Zevachim 88b) teaches that each of the other priestly garments atoned for a specific sin or character flaw as well. The breeches atoned for indecency, the turban for arrogance and so on. Aharon merited to wear these garments, since he strove to perfect himself in these areas, and inspired others to do the same.

Without the inner service of the heart, the outer display of grandeur is shallow and worthless. Korach desired only the honor of the Priesthood, without the character improvement that this demanded. Therefore, his bid was doomed to failure.

The flowers on Aharon's staff represented the outer beauty, honor, and splendor of the Priesthood and the Mishkan, while the almonds represented the "fruit" of this beauty — the practical benefit that gave substance and meaning to the outer display. R' Yehudah HaLevi composed a poem, in which he said of Greek philosophy, "Do not be swayed by the wisdom of the Greeks, which has only flowers, but no fruit." In other words, it seems graceful and beautiful from without, but it has no substance within.

To symbolize Aharon's singular greatness in both aspects of Priesthood, and the perfect balance between his depth of character and his outward display of grandeur, his staff blossomed with flowers and almonds together, thus proving for all generations to come that he had truly merited his position as Kohen Gadol. 



Rav Asher Weiss

Danny was a nine-year-old boy who lived with his family in London. Danny loved visiting his zeidy and bubby who lived in Manchester and he also loved the two-hour train ride from London to Manchester. Once they boarded the train Danny would cozily sandwich himself between his parents and dreamily watch the city fade into the countryside. Before he knew it, they would arrive in Manchester where his grandparents would always be waiting to fetch them and drive them to their welcoming home.

As Danny grew, an idea began to formulate in his mind. Wouldn't it be wonderful if he were to visit his grandparents for a weekend? He would love their undivided attention. And it was such an easy commute as he had



THE WORLD AROUND HIM BEGAN TO SPIN WHEN HE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THE PAPER IN HIS POCKET.

ridden the train so many times that he could even travel alone. Eventually, he built up the courage to run his idea by his parents. Initially, they were adamant that he was way too young to travel on his own, but Danny's persistence paid off and finally, his parents promised him that for his eleventh birthday weekend, he could visit his grandparents all by himself.

Danny counted down the months until he would turn eleven and finally get his wish fulfilled. At last, the week of Danny's birthday approached and he anxiously looked forward to the weekend so that he could take his long-awaited trip. On the day of his solo journey, Danny rose early and packed a small case to take along,

Truth be told, he did have butterflies in the pit of his stomach both from excitement and from the anxiety of traveling alone. When they arrived at the train station, Danny's father went to buy him a ticket and even accompanied Danny onto the train. Danny swung his small case onto the shelf above his seat. On the outside he appeared calm and confident but on the inside, he was growing more and more nervous by the minute. His father, perhaps sensing some of Danny's apprehension, asked him if he was sure that he was okay traveling

all by himself. Danny assured his father that he was okay. After all, it was a short two-hour trip, and anyway, his grandparents would be waiting on the platform as soon as the train arrived in Manchester. "Well then, goodbye Danny, safe travels," his father said. But as he said goodbye, Danny's father pressed a folded piece of paper into Danny's sweaty palm. "Danny, if for some odd reason you begin to panic or if something happens, just open this note and you will be okay."

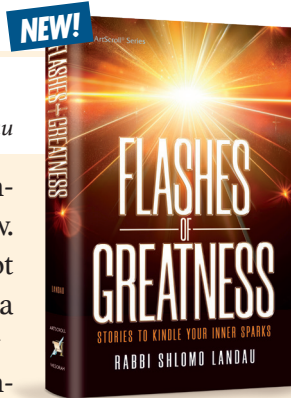
"No worries, Dad, I am just fine," and with that Danny quickly stuffed the folded note into his coat pocket.

Moments later the train pulled out of the station as Danny tried to calm his pounding heart and settle down. But, try as he might, his apprehen-

sion just continued to grow. It only got worse when a shady-looking character entered his train car and sat down directly across from Danny. All kinds of frightening thoughts entered his mind and his imagination shifted into overdrive. At the next stop, a group of rowdy thugs entered his car and sat near him. Danny began to panic. This was not how he had imagined the train ride and he regretted ever coming up with this crazy idea. The world around him began to spin as the panic intensified and Danny was losing it when he suddenly remembered the paper in his pocket. Frantically, he stuck his hand into his pocket and unfolded the piece of paper. As he began to read the note, a smile broke out on his face and a sudden calm set in. The note read. "Danny dear, if you are reading this note while still on the train, stay calm and walk to the back of the train. You will find me in the last car waiting for you!"

Danny grabbed his case and quickly walked through the train to the last car. Sure enough, his father was sitting there. Relieved, Danny ran into his father's arms. He knew that with his father onboard he would surely be okay.

On life's journey, complications and challenges sometimes arise and suddenly we begin to panic as we feel like we have to go at it all alone. This is so far from the truth, as a Yid always figuratively carries a note in his pocket that says, "*Imo anochi b'tzarah* — I am with you in your time of need. Just grab your *pekel* and find Me. I am there for you on your journey!" 📖



MARKING THE 7TH YAHRZEIT OF RABBI MEIR ZLOTOWITZ ZT"l

This Shabbos, 30 Sivan, marks the 7th yahrzeit of ArtScroll's legendary founder, Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz zt"l.

CREATING GREATNESS

Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz by Yisroel Besser

Before his last Rosh Hashanah, Reb Meir shared the following *dvar Torah* with some of his close friends. It revealed so much about his life's mission and what drove him to make the beauty of Torah accessible to all.

In instituting the order of the weekly Torah readings, *chazal* ordained that Parashas Nitzavim should always be read the Shabbos before Rosh Hashanah. Perhaps, one reason for this decision can be found in Moshe's opening words (Devarim 29:9-10), as he spoke to his people on the last day of his life. He began by addressing the nation in its entirety: "all of you," and enumerated different categories of Jews, from the most revered leaders and scholars down to the most menial, seemingly insignificant laborers. Then he went on to give his inspiring charge for the millennia-long future of the nation. The message is clear. Moshe was not making demands only from the nation's greatest. He made the same demands of the porters and woodsmen as he did of the leaders and scholars. Every Jew has the potential to excel, and no one is predestined to fail. As Rambam writes, every Jew can be as great as Moshe Rabbeinu. Of course this is not meant literally. What it does mean is that just as Moshe reached his complete potential — which is the most anyone can do or is expected to do — so can every Jew, whatever his lineage or level of ability.

The first Rebbe of Gur, the Chiddushei Harim, spoke at the inauguration of the new shul built by his followers in the Polish town of Gora-Kolvaria. To the many thousands of chassidim from throughout Poland, he cited the story of Rabban Gamliel, who was the Nasi and the leading Talmudic scholar of the Jewish community. Rabban Gamliel had high standards for his academy; he admitted only students whose inner sincerity and piety matched their outward appearance. To him, clothes and outer appearance did not make the man, and he appointed a gatekeeper to ensure that unqualified

students were not permitted to enter the study hall.

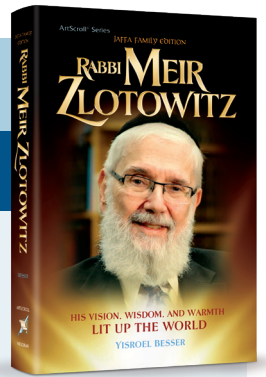
When Rabban Gamliel stepped down from his position, his successor, Rabbi Eliezer ben Azariah removed the gatekeeper, and the study hall was flooded with hundreds of new students. Rabban Gamliel was anguished — not over the loss of his position, but because he realized that his policy had prevented so many Jews from studying the Torah.

But why was Rabban Gamliel upset? He felt that it was important to maintain high standards. What caused him to now see the opposing view of his sincerely held notion with such positivity?

The Chiddushei Harim explains that Rabban Gamliel saw something that astounded him and caused him to regret his earlier conviction. The swarms of new students were not qualified when they were allowed into the once-restricted study hall. But when they became students and were exposed to their new rebbeim and colleagues, when they were infused with the challenging and sacred atmosphere of the Yeshivah, they were transformed. As time went on, they attained the standards Rabban Gamliel had demanded of his new students. That phenomenon made the great leader realize that Torah can transform people. It shed light on Moshe's speech that ordinary people can elevate themselves if given the challenge, the

tools, and the opportunity.

Reb Meir Zlotowitz was the one who gave **everyone** in Klal Yisroel — from the curious seeker in South Africa who may have never attended Yeshivah, to the accomplished scholar in Brooklyn — the opportunity and ability to transform themselves both within the study hall as well as anywhere Torah can be learned and cherished. *Yehi Zichro Baruch.* 📖



RAV MEIR GAVE EVERYONE THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM THEMSELVES

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

JULY / סיון-תמוז

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6 Bava Basra 11	7 Bava Basra 12	8 Bava Basra 13	9 Bava Basra 14	10 Bava Basra 15	11 Bava Basra 16	12 Bava Basra 17

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

JULY / סיון-תמוז

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6 Gittin 8:2-3	7 Gittin 8:4-5	8 Gittin 8:6-7	9 Gittin 8:8-9	10 Gittin 8:10-9:1	11 Gittin 9:2-3	12 Gittin 9:4-5

This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

JULY / סיון-תמוז

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6 Maaser Sheni 33	7 Maaser Sheni 34	8 Maaser Sheni 35	9 Maaser Sheni 36	10 Maaser Sheni 37	11 Maaser Sheni 38	12 Maaser Sheni 39

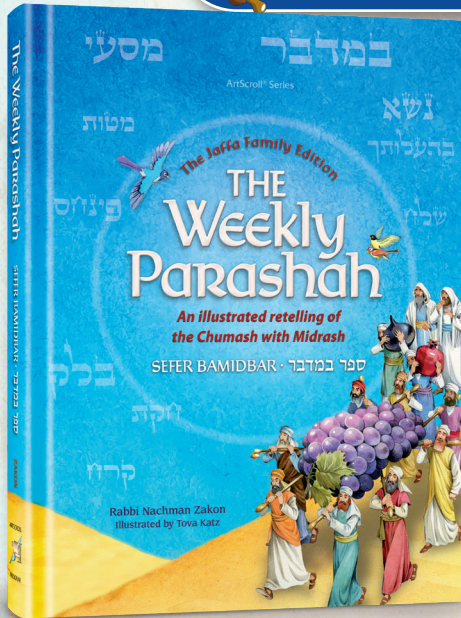
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Parashah for Children

פרשת קרח

Torah Messages



What are some of the messages we can learn from the story of Korach?

- ▶ Want to have a happy life? Don't be jealous of what others have. It makes it impossible to enjoy what you do have. Look at Korach. He had wealth and wisdom, and even an important job, but he became upset and angry, because he was jealous that Elitzafan was appointed nasi, and not him. In the end he lost everything he had, all because of jealousy.

How can we not feel jealous when someone else has something we want? Here's a way to beat jealousy. Think to yourself: Who runs the world? Hashem!

If Hashem wanted you to have a brand-name pair of shoes like your friend just

Hashem created all of us with a job to do in this world. Some people are Kohanim, some are Levi'im. Men put on tefillin and have to get up early to go to minyan. Women light Shabbos candles. We are born to specific families and we are given specific talents.

We are who we are because Hashem picked us to do the jobs He chose for us. We are exactly what we need to be in order to do the job Hashem wants us to do.

In the army, some soldiers are pilots, others are sailors, and others drive tanks. Everyone is needed, and it's important that each one does the job he's supposed to do. That's how a war is won.

Trying to be something you're not is Korach's way. And the results for him were disastrous.

- ▶ Korach did a terrible thing when he refused to listen to Moshe Rabbeinu. Moshe was the greatest Torah leader, and he knew that Hashem wanted Aharon and his family to be Kohanim. Korach had no business telling Moshe he was wrong.

Our Torah leaders know more than we do. We have to trust them and listen to what they say. Because if we don't — that's Korach's way!

got, or a hoverboard like the one that your cousin has, couldn't He give it to you? Everything in the world is His to do with as He pleases.

So why doesn't He give it to you?

Hashem loves you. It must be that in some way, having that pair of shoes or that hoverboard is not what you need, and it's not good for you. Just as a father would never give his diabetic child cotton candy made out of sugar, or a mother wouldn't give her allergic child a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, Hashem won't give you what is not good for you at that time — and He makes sure you get exactly what you do need.

So why be jealous?

- ▶ Korach's mistake was that he tried to be something he wasn't. Imagine if a soldier who was appointed by the army to be a tank driver decides to leave in the middle of a battle and fly a helicopter instead.

Korach was a Levi, and he had a special job, yet he only wanted to be a Kohen.

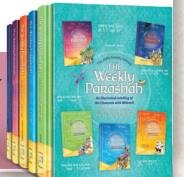
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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Korach:

The first pasuk in the parashah says that Korach was the son of Yitzhar, the son of Kehas, the son of Levi. The pasuk stops there. Someone is missing! Who? Yaakov! The pasuk should have ended with the words, "the son of Yaakov." Why is Yaakov left out?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



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