

Bringing the Farbrengen Home

YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

Gimmel Tammuz

"The parsha of Korach is beautifully interpreted in the Midrash of Rebbi Tanchuma."

- Rashi's first comment on this week's parsha.

What am we to make of this comment? Granted, in later comments, Rashi offers three explanations of what Korach did wrong in challenging Moses' authority. Nevertheless, this stand-alone is a bit puzzling.

Are we supposed to look up the reference to Midrash Rebbi Tanchuma? And if it's so important, couldn't Rashi have just quoted the relevant portions, as he so often does? Furthermore, when Rashi quotes a Midrash, he often just says "Midrash" (as in a comment made a couple verses later), so why in this instance does he specifically tell me *which* Midrash?

Furthermore, why does Rashi tell me that the explanation in the Midrash is beautiful? If it indeed is beautiful, won't I come to that conclusion on my own?

Korach never repented for his rebellion, and is considered a rasha (wicked person). Nevertheless, the entire parsha is named after him, for eternity. Why would the Torah memorialize a wicked person?



Korach wanted to be the Kohen Gadol (High Priest). In other words, he wanted to be on a higher spiritual level; that's something that each and every one of us can emulate.

Beautifully interpreted: Even though Korach's actions were negative, Rashi suggests that they can be "interpreted" in a positive light. By focusing on the positive intent behind his actions, namely that he wanted to be on a higher spiritual level, we reveal the good within him. And not just good, but "beautiful."

Midrash Rebbi Tanchuma: "Tanchuma" means consolation. Rashi is not telling me the specific source in order that I should go check the reference (although that is always a good thing to do!); rather, he is hinting that there is a consolation to be found even within the actions of Korach.

Tanya Shiur Summer Series

5:00pm Shabbat afternoon

Chabad House Zal

144-01 69th Avenue

(enter on Main St. btwn 68th Dr. & 69th Ave.)


Separate seating for men & women

The Torah thus memorializes the name of Korach in order to show me that even the darkest thing contains a beautiful light within. We can derive a life lesson even from Korach.

This Sunday is Gimmel Tammuz, the yahrzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

The Rebbe mastered the art of "beautifully interpreting." No matter how bleak the situation, the Rebbe always found a way to reveal the inner light, offering a consolation to a generation that rose from the ashes of the Holocaust.

The Rebbe inspired so many to "beautifully interpret" every person we meet and every situation we encounter.

May we merit to join together in emulating the Rebbe in his Ahavas Yisroel (love of our fellow), which will in turn hasten the coming of Mashiach. 

Q & A

Q: How Many Chabad Houses are there across the world?

A: Over 5000 Chabad centers in over 100 countries.

Q: When did R. Menachem Mendel Schneerson become the leader of Chabad?

A: The Rebbe formally accepted the mantle of leadership on 10 Shvat (Jan. 17) 1951 which was the first yahrzeit of his father in law, the Previous Rebbe - R. Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson. 20 Shvat 1950 the Rebbe appointed Rabbi Michael Lipsker, as shliach to Morocco.

Recognize Your Blessings

Advice from the Rebbe

"I have not experienced good throughout my entire life; please pray on my behalf and on behalf of my wife and children."

That's what someone wrote to the Rebbe in 1956.

The Rebbe responded (Igros Kodesh vol.12, p.270):

It seems that you don't realize that you contradicted yourself in your letter.

The very idea that a man -- whom the Creator of the world has brought together with his wife and blessed them with children -- should say that he has never experienced good in his entire life, is an astonishing lack of gratitude.

Certainly these words will not, Heaven forbid, negatively impact these very blessings that Hashem has given you up until this point; but certainly the continuation and growth of these blessings should not be a reason for you to continue to lack gratitude.

Moreover, hundreds and thousands of people pray every single day to be blessed with children, and they would be willing to give everything they have for one son or one daughter, yet they have still not merited to receive that blessing -- may Hashem bless them and fulfill their hearts' desires for the good in a timely manner --



But you, who have received this blessing, seemingly without the need for any extra prayers, don't recognize your wealth and great fortune, and even repeat this statement [of ingratitude] in your letter! And you even conclude your letter that you don't believe, Heaven forbid, that you will be helped from Above, because you think that it has been decreed, Heaven forbid, that you should be poor and downcast for your entire life!

It's understood that my intention is not that one should live with the bare minimum for one's livelihood, or in a state of weakened health etc. --

Rather, I mean to call to your attention that it is possible that the very reason you are in a state of poor health and have insufficient income is because you don't recognize all the blessings you have received from Hashem.

You have been blessed in an area that is even more important than health and parnassa; that is-- the blessing of sons and daughters who go in the ways of Hashem.

And when you don't recognize this open and revealed good that has been given from Above, and particularly when your lack of recognition is so astonishing and even brings you to such sharp expressions as you use in your letter -- so what's the surprise, if blessings in others areas don't come from Above?

It is my hope that these few lines will suffice to illuminate your eyes and enable you to see the situation as it really is.

And when you begin serving Hashem with true and internalized joy, Hashem will certainly increase His blessings for you with regards to health and parnassa, as can be understood from numerous places [in Torah texts], among them Zohar II 184b.

Certainly you have fixed sessions for learning the revealed Torah and the teachings of Chassidus; in any event, you can begin from now going forward. It would be proper to check your tefillin and the mezuzahs in your home, and every day before the morning prayers you should set aside a few coins for tzedakah. ☯

HAYOM YOM

2 Tammuz

The Alter Rebbe writes in his Siddur: It is proper to say before prayer, I hereby take upon myself to fulfill the mitzva - "Love your neighbor as yourself." This means that the precept of Ahavat Yisrael is the entry-gate through which man can pass to stand before G-d to daven. By merit of that love the worshipper's prayer is accepted.

Gimmel Tammuz Farbrengen

*31st yearzeit of the
Lubavitcher Rebbe*

Shabbos Parshas Korach
7:30pm Mincha (144-01 69th Ave)
followed by Farbrengen

To place:

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HERE

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In honor of our wonderful children and grandchildren -- Shaul & Tzipah, Mendel, Shoshi, Sruli, Shmuel and Zalmy."

8:13pm Candle Lighting
8:18pm Mincha
Followed by Kabbalas Shabbos
8:45am Chassidus Shiur
10:00am Davening
5:00pm Tanya Shiur
7:30pm Mincha
Gimmel Tammuz Farbrengen
9:21pm Maariv / Shabbos Ends