



Greater Washington Community Kollel  
**SHABBOS  
 DELIGHTS**

**TORAH MINUTE**

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

*Whose Side Are You On?*

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz

*Former Kollel Scholar and currently a Kollel Adjunct*

In this week's Parsha, we read the tragic story of the rebellion against Moshe and Aharon, led by Korach. Korach and his followers challenge the authenticity of Moshe's transmission of the word of Hashem. They take particular issue with Moshe's appointing his brother Aharon to the position of High Priest, which they claim should have gone to one of their group. Ultimately, Korach and his followers meet a tragic end at the Hand of Hashem, affirming the absolute authenticity of Moshe's prophecy.

In Pirkei Avos (the Teachings of the Fathers), the Sages of the Mishna comment that a dispute that is for the sake of Heaven lasts forever, but a dispute that is not for the sake of Heaven does not last. The exemplar for a dispute that is for the sake of Heaven are the disputes between the great sages Shamai and Hillel regarding matters of Torah Law. The dispute involving Korach and his followers is cited as the paradigm example of a dispute that is not for the sake of Heaven.

Why is it that when describing the dispute for the sake of Heaven the Mishna describes the dispute in terms of the two opposing sides - Shamai and Hillel - whereas when describing the dispute that is not for the sake of Heaven only one side is described, Korach and his followers?

The Malbim explains that, aside from the open dispute with Moshe, there was internal fighting amongst Korach and his followers as well. Various factions competed for the right to the priesthood. Such is often the case with disputes that have other agendas. In contrast, when two people argue for the sake of Heaven, both parties are really on the same side, as they both selflessly seek the truth.

Let us take to heart the lesson of the Parsha and the lesson of Hillel and Shamai. Let us only allow ourselves to engage in disputes that are truly for the sake of Heaven. May we thus merit to increase feelings of love and friendship between us, our families, our friends and the entire Jewish nation.

*Wishing you a Good Shabbos!*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

*The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, their households, all the people who were with Korach and their entire wealth (16:32).*

*Our teachers taught, "Even if Korach or his men had clothing at the laundry, the clothing rolled from the laundry to the hole and were swallowed along with Korach (Bamidbar Rabba 18:13).*

*Your garment did not wear out upon you... these forty years (Eikev 8:4).*

*The Clouds of Glory would rub against their clothes and keep them clean like laundered clothes (Rashi).*

If their clothes were cleaned while they wore them, why would there be a need to have their clothes washed at a laundry?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**How did the Kabbalas Shabbos davening trick Korach?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:**

What mitzva did all of Bnei Yisrael not fulfill in the desert?

**Answer:** 1) Bris Mila  
2) Kiddush Levona – the Ananei HaKovod made it impossible to see the moon.

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Following the destruction of Korach and his followers, "Elazar the Kohen [following Hashem's instructions] took the copper fire-pans that the consumed ones had offered and hammered them out as a covering for the Altar, as a reminder to the Children of Israel, so that no alien who is not of the offspring of Aaron shall draw near to bring up the smoke of incense before Hashem, that he not be like Korach and his assembly, as Hashem spoke about him through Moses" (Bemidbar 17:4-5).

The Talmud (*Sanhedrin* 110a) declares that "Anyone who supports (*machazik*) controversy (*machalokes*) violates a negative commandment, as it says 'that he not be like Korach and his assembly.'" But despite this seemingly clear assertion of a general Biblical prohibition against supporting controversy, both the Rambam (*Sefer Hamitzvos klal 8 and lo saaseh* 45) and the Ramban (*hasagah to Sefer Hamitzvos ibid.*) deny the existence of such a Biblical prohibition. The Rambam understands the phrase in question to not actually constitute a prohibition at all, and the Ramban, while accepting that it does constitute a prohibition, limits its scope to the challenging of the Aaronic prerogative of priesthood. [Both understand that the Talmudic interpretation of the verse as a blanket prohibition against supporting controversy is intended merely to discourage such behavior and not to convey the true, literal meaning of the verse.]

Other authorities, however, do understand the verse as a general prohibition against supporting controversy. The *Chofetz Chaim* (basing himself on passages in the *Semag* and *Shaarei Teshuvah*) rules that slander that supports controversy violates the negative commandment of "that he not be like Korach and his assembly." He explains that this prohibition is (definitely) violated by the slanderer, and perhaps even by the listener, since were he to react to the slander by expressing his disapproval thereof, the controversy would consequently dissipate (*Sefer Chofetz Chaim, Pesichah Lehilchos Lashon Hara U'Rechilus, Lavin* #12).

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. With this you shall know.
2. I was a new creation.
3. Steaming
4. I got a mouthful.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I was the neighbor.
2. I am the firstborn.
3. See son
4. I am not groovin' rather ...

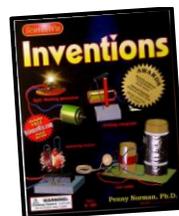
#### Last Week's Answers:

#1 *The Tcheles* (I caused joy on Mordechai; don't use a calzone; you can sea my color; I was lost.)

#2 *Tzitzis* (I am four yet eight; I am knotty; I am wrapped; I equal 613.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a



Science  
Inventions  
Kit!

Congratulations to  
Naphitali Tzvi & Yoseph Graham  
and others for answering last week's questions correctly!

Answer as many as you can.  
Each correct answer will entitle you to another  
raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!  
Visit [gwckollel.org](http://gwckollel.org) to submit your answers.

THE NEXT  
RAFFLE WILL BE  
AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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