

## Ki Seitzei Amalek and Visiting Tzaddikim from Ahavas Sholom of Kossov

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

Parshas Ki Seitzei ends of with the mitzvah to remember Amalek. We are told to remember what Amalek did to us when we came out of Mitzrayim. They met us on the way and attacked us from the rear. Most importantly, they had no fear of Hashem when they attacked us.

Upon our entry to Eretz Yisroel, one of the main tasks was to destroy Amalek. Amalek, however, is not only the military enemy. Our Chassidic and Kabbalistic sources tell us how there is a constant battle with Amalek on a personal level. Amalek is the yetzer hara, the evil inclination within our inner selves. In this sense, Amalek is always with us and trying to convince us not to be servants of Hashem and not to do his mitzvos. When we defeat him and decide to perform Hashem's mitzvos despite his temptations, he then tries to cool us off as we are doing the mitzvos. He may try to prevent us from finishing the Mitzvah we started. Another ploy he may use is cool off our enthusiasm for the mitzvah. So even if we did the mitzvah, it will not be done with the proper feelings that should accompany the mitzvah.

Rashi points out that the word *karcha* can mean happened from the word *mikre*, occurrence. *Karcha* can also be rooted in the word *kar* cold. In Amalek's case all of these meanings apply. Amalek met us on the way. Amalek always tries to make us believe that everything happens by chance and not by Hashem's direction. They tried to cool us off in our service of Hashem. They also cooled us off in the eyes of the world. At this point in our history no one would dare attack us. We were clearly Hashem's beloved nation, just taken out of Mitzrayim through so many open miracles. No one would think of attacking Hashem's beloved nation. Only Amalek would be fanatical enough to attack us and 'cool us' off in the eyes of the world. Rashi gives the parable of a hot tub that nobody would dare go into. One daredevil jumps in and gets burned. Even though he got burned he cooled the boiling waters in the sense that they are no longer the waters NOBODY would go into.

The Ahavas Sholom of Kossov points out that these ideas about Amalek are indeed true in all mitzvos. In every area of serving Hashem, the yetzer hara will try to convince us either not to do it or to tone down the zeal for serving Hashem. However, the Ahavas Sholom states, in the mitzvah of loving tzadikim and making trips to be inspired by them to improve ourselves. This is a major part of our growth. Being in the company of tzaddikim and receiving their brachos acts as a medium to transfer their holiness to others. Furthermore, being in the very presence of tzaddikim is a positive influence. The Ahavas Sholom is following the understanding of the word *karcha* to cool you off The Ahavs Sholom stresses how important it is that we be on guard that when we serve Hashem and do his mitzvos, we do not cool off. We need Hashem's help to destroy Amalek *bimhairah veyameinu*.