

“ WHO ARE THE TRUE TORAH LEADERS ”

Korach charged that Moshe and Aharon were power-hungry, that they had set up a power structure and raised themselves above the congregation. He equated the exercise of power with kingship. This equation, between the relationship of leader and those whom he leads, is incorrect. The community of Bnei Yisrael was not a political community; it was and is, a teaching community. Throughout the ages, the central figure in the covenantal community has not been a king, a warrior, or high priest, but the teacher, the *rebbe*. The people are not subjects, as is customary in the political community; they are disciples. The relationship is not of a political nature, nor is it connected to the use of violence. It is a free commitment on the part of the disciples to their master and teacher.

Moshe is not known to us as our king, even though he was formally a king—“*Va yehi Bi yeshurun Melech*” “*And he was king in Yeshurun*” (Devarim 33:5). He was known as *Moshe Rabbeinu*, as the greatest teacher of all teachers, the teacher par excellence. Aharon is not just a Kohen Gadol, he too is a great teacher. The function of the Kohanim was not to merely serve in the Mishkan and Temple but their sanctity is associated with teaching. “They shall teach your laws to Yaakov and your Torah to Israel (Devarim 33:10), “For a Kohen’s lips shall guard knowledge, and teaching should be sought from his mouth”(Mal.2;7). The disciples love their masters and listen, not to their orders, since they give none, but to their teachings, which enlighten the mind and gladden the heart.

Moshe had not raised himself above the community; as Korach had charged, but rather the community had raised him above itself. Moshe was elevated without desiring leadership. A saintly person is the leader because he is THE teacher. We find in Gemara Pesachim (66a) that the Bnei Beteirah, these were 3 brothers one of whom [at one time or another] had the position of NASI. The one chosen as NASI was always the greatest scholar of the generation. These 3 scholars had forgotten a law pertaining to the Korban Pesach and did not know how to rule. Someone suggested that there was a man who came from Bavel (Babylonia), his name is “Hillel HaBavil” who studied under the two greatest scholars of our generation, Shemaya and Avtalyon, and he presumably knows the laws of Korban Pesach. They sent for him and he immediately gave them the answer and substantiated it with Biblical references. Upon hearing his ruling, *they immediately seated him at the head and appointed him NASI over them.*

Imagine that, stepping down from a positions of eminence and glory and simply relinquishing it in favor of someone whom they perceive as a greater scholar. (Can anyone imagine this happening in our society?) And furthermore, the scholars in Eretz Yisrael usually looked down upon the “foreign” scholars from Bavel. Yet here, the Bnei Beteirah showed their great humility in deference to true scholarship. That’s how Hillel, and subsequently the Beit Hillel rose to power and leadership. Not by military force or violence, but by sincere modesty and scholarship.

The Rambam in Spain was the recognized scholar and leader of his generation. Not by political voting or pressures, but simply by students studying his writings and realizing his scholarship. So too for Rashi in France, Rav Yosef Karo in Tzefat, (Mechaber of Shulchan Aruch) as with Rav Moshe Isserles (The Rama) in Poland. It was not any different for R’Chaim Ozer, R’Chaim Soloveitchik, in Europe or R’Henkin and R’

Moshe Feinstein or R' Yosef Dov Soloveitchik in New York. These were all leaders of our people, but not by elections or appointments but simply out of recognition by their students and followers of their great Torah scholarship. They did not appoint themselves as Korach claimed, but rather the people voluntarily recognized them and appointed them as Torah leaders. That is how our Mesorah started and continues to guide us with the example of Moshe Rabbeinu.

Shabbat Shalom from Yerushalayim---- Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

QUESTIONS ON PARASHAT KORACH

1-Who was the GREAT, GREAT grandfather of KOrach?

2- BESIDES PARASHAT KORACH, WHICH 5 OTHER PARSHIOT ARE NAMED AFTER A PERSON?

3- MRS OHN, SAVED THE LIFE OF HER HUSBAND . (16:1). WHAT DID SHE DO TO SAVE HIS LIFE?

4-THERE IS ONE PASUK IN THE TORAH THAT HAS A PHRASE OF 3 IDENTICAL WORDS WRITTEN TWICE IN THAT SAME PASUK?
[HINT- ITS IN PARASHAT SHELACH LECHA]

5- HOW DO WE KNOW THAT A MINYAN IS COMPRISED OF TEN JEWISH MALE ADULTS?

6- SOME MITZVOT CAN BE PERFORMED THROUGH A "SHALIACH", AND I DON'T HAVE TO DO IT BY MYSELF. WHERE IS THIS CONCEPT OF "SHLUCHO SHEL ADAM K'MOTO" DERIVED FROM?

7- LIST 3 MITZVOT THAT ARE USUALLY DONE THRU A SHALIACH, AND 3 MITZVOT THAT CANNOT BE DONE VIA A SHALIACH. THERE ARE MANY MITZVOT IN THESE TWO CATEGORY'S , SO ANY THAT YOU CHOOSE ARE ACCEPTABLE.

8-According to Midrash Tanchuma, Shimoshon and Gliath were the two strongest men in world. Achitofel and Bilaam were the two WHAT of the world? Korach and Haman were the two WHAT of the world?

KOL HAKAVOD TO THOSE WHO ANSWERED LAST WEEK:

#1 *Rabbi Jay Karzen- Arnona, Israel//Rabbi Levi VanLeeuwen-Elazar, Israel//*Pechman Family-J'lem/
*Nechama Masliansky-Washington, DC//Yehudis Teller-Lakewood,NJ//Libby Ziegler-Yerushalayim//
Yosef Teller-Lakewood, NJ//*Rabbi Charles Meisels- Far Rockaway, NY//Devorah Balsam-B'klyn NY//
*Yaakov Doerrshuck-Kollel Agudath Achim-Bern,Switzerland//*Dr.Michael Rose-Kollel AA-Katamon,
Israel //*Rabbi Steven Maurer-Kollel AA-Bet HaKerem, Israel//Rabbi Tzvi Zev Teller & Family-Lakewood,
NJ