



Thoughts on the Parsha

Rabbi Mendy Rosner

THE POWER OF A TZIBUR

This week's פרשה begins with קרח fomenting a rebellion against משה רבינו over the כהונה being given to אהרן and his sons. The תורה introduces this מחלוקת in a strange way. The פסוק says "ויקח" and "קרח בן יצהר בן קהת בן לוי" took, but then does not tell us what he took. רש"י explains that קרח actually took himself; he separated himself from the rest of בני ישראל so that he could enter into this מחלוקת with משה רבינו.

The implication from רש"י is that this was a necessary step for קרח to be able to question the כהונה. Had he not tried to distance himself psychologically and emotionally from the rest of בני ישראל, all the other נגיעות and סברות that were pushing him to start up with משה would not have resulted in rebellion. Our ראש ישיבה, R' Henach Leibowitz זצ"ל explains that כלל ישראל as a whole was very supportive of משה רבינו and the כהונה. Human nature leads one to take on the perspective of those around him. Therefore, had קרח still viewed himself as part of the nation, he would have been convinced to see things like the rest of בני ישראל. Through separating himself, he was able to break free from the influence of the ציבור and challenge משה.

MTI Recent Happenings

Ahron Orlansky
 9th Grade

RAFTING ON THE HUZZAH

The entire yeshiva recently went on a rafting trip. After an hour and a half bus ride, we pulled up to Huzzah Creek in Steelville, MO. It was a hot, sunny day. After we all put on sunscreen, we walked down a rocky path to the river and got right into the rafts. Each raft was able to hold at least eight people.

Being in the raft required a lot of teamwork. For example, my raft had nine people in it. We needed two people on each side rowing the oars hard. Additionally, they had to row in unison with the other side. If the raft went too far towards the right, the right side alone had to row really hard to get the raft on a straight path, and same with the left.

Around twenty-five minutes into the water filled trip, it started to rain. Soon after, we saw lightning and heard thunder - it was a real storm. Everyone had to pull to the side, onto a rocky shore. At this point, it was pouring. We took our oars and we propped our rafts against them, making ourselves a makeshift shelter from the rain that we were able to sit under.

Featured Torah Message

Aryeh Winter
 11th Grade

In פרשת קרח, קרח and his rebellion challenge the authority of משה רבינו. It's easy to understand משה's motive for challenging קרח's תלמיד. קרח thought that being לוי שבט, he should have earned himself a powerful position under משה רבינו.

Many rishonim ask the following question. A large percent of קרח's group of rebels were from שבט כהנים and לויים; only ראובן was eligible for a position under משה רבינו, so what could have possibly influenced them to side with קרח and fight against משה רבינו?

שבט ראובן explains that רש"י neighbored לוי שבט, and specifically קרח's family. Due to the conflict between קרח and משה, many of the leaders of שבט ראובן actually were influenced by קרח and unfortunately sided with him.

We need to take פרשת קרח message to heart. If the great tzadikim of שבט ראובן couldn't see through the שקר of קרח and got influenced by him, so too we need to be very careful about who we surround ourselves with, because influence is an extremely powerful thing.

Sparks of Mussar

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Rav Yisroel Meir HaCohen - The Chofetz Chaim

R' Eliezer Shulevitz asked the Chofetz Chaim to recommend someone as a Mashgiach and dean of the Lomza Yeshiva. The Chofetz Chaim named a person whom he warmly recommended for the position.

A short while later, R' Eliezer received a second letter from the Chofetz Chaim instructing him not to accept the candidate. R' Eliezer decided to go in person to clarify the matter. When he came to Radun, the Chofetz Chaim explained that after the first letter had been written, the candidate had come to his home. We the Chofetz Chaim had inquired as to how he was doing, the man complained bitterly about his situation. "As soon as I heard that he was a complainer," said R' Yisroel Meir, "I rushed you the second letter, for a complainer is not fit to influence talmidim."

We can learn from here the incredible כח that connecting to a ציבור has to shape and mold an individual. This idea can be used as a תחבולה for growth. When one is trying to develop מידות טובות and is struggling with his יצר הרע, he should join a group of people who value those מידות and make himself a part of that group. This will in turn provide him with the כח to stay strong despite the challenges. And if ח"ו one finds himself in a group that is having a negative השפעה, an עצה to extricate himself would be to mentally separate himself from the group and thus mitigate the negative השפעה.

As our school year draws to a close, we can look back on an amazing זמן of growth, fueled by the fact that as a group we have been focused on our goals in תורה and מוסר and thus lifted up and provided חיזוק to the entire ישיבה. Though we are parting ways for the summer and heading to various locations, let us make sure to keep our connection strong and continue to reap the benefits of the כח הציבור.

Some time later, the lightning stopped, and we were able to continue the trip. When we reached the end we got back on the bus and were on our way back to yeshiva. Upon our return, we were treated to a delicious BBQ. All in all, it was a really fun and memorable trip!


Thank you for joining us!

Hachnasas Sefer Torah & Annual Dinner in memory of Shlomo & Marsha Fredman a'h



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