



A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA

A Powerful Thought

RABBI EZRA STETTIN



THERE IS A SECRET IN THIS WEEK'S TORAH PORTION. It's not a secret in the sense that it's hidden; rather, the knowledge of it is so pervasive that it is rarely focused upon, and thus it remains a secret.

But Korach's sons didn't die. (26:11)

Rashi points out something truly stunning. Korach's sons were (probably) the first people to join their father's campaign. Yet, in the midst of their revolt, they had thoughts of repentance.

In that merit, as everyone was swallowed by a miraculous pit, out shot a protrusion for them to hold on to, which stopped their descent. (See Talmud, Sanhedrin 110a, and Rashi's commentary to T'hilim 42:1.)

I think that, with our best efforts, we would still find ourselves unequipped to describe the magnitude of the sin Korach and his followers were committing—an uprising against “*Moshe emmess v'Toraso emmess*,” the notion that Moshe and all of the Torah he taught are absolute truth.

Despite the path they were on, which was doomed for disaster, Korach's sons found room in their hearts to second guess their convictions. In action, nothing changed... but internally, they had “thoughts of repentance.” In that merit, they were spared.

Not only that, but their descendants ultimately sang praises to Hashem in the *Bais Hamikdash*, the Holy Temple. Some of the eternal words of T'hilim were authored by the sons of Korach!

The lesson is clear. If the sons of Korach can do *t'shuva* (repent) in the midst of rebellion, so can we. Let's reveal that secret—not just to the world, but to ourselves, as well! 📖

A HALACHA FROM THE PARASHA

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

The Kollel has recently been encouraging the many people who benefit from its services to create their own legacies, by making endowments and including the Kollel in their wills.

Considering that the Torah portions this week and next discuss the laws of inheritance, let's set aside a few weeks and continue talking about this topic. Last week we focused on the benefits of making such a commitment. In the weeks ahead, I would like to clarify some potential issues that can arise.

First, let me share three interesting *halachos* (Jewish laws) regarding wills and estates.

- 1) If a person dies and leaves a written will, in which he pledged money or property to charity while he was alive, the will must be honored. Moreover, even if this written statement was not recorded in the form of a will, and it was not signed by witnesses, but was merely found among the deceased's papers, we must fulfill his promise. We need not be concerned that perhaps the deceased changed his mind

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THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On 21 Tammuz, 5723 (1962), the Israeli government banned the raising of pigs for food. What's interesting is that the bill was backed equally by secular and religious lawmakers. David Ben-Gurion himself felt it was good for national identity for pig farming to be banned. Excluded from this law were zoos and several places with extremely high Christian populations (Muslims are forbidden to eat pork), as well as raising pigs for scientific research (pigs are physiologically similar to humans and therefore are regularly used for medical research).

Another interesting point: Although raising pigs was banned, the actual sale of pig products was never banned. A 1956 law had already made the sale and marketing of pigs dependent on local ordinances. Importing non-kosher meat into Israel was banned in 1994. 📖

A RIDDLE FOR YOU

You may not give me this honor twice. What honor is it?

The answer will appear next week.

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE:

Q Where do we find a Torah commandment to eat meat? (There's more than one answer.)

A Eating the meat of sacrifices (Talmud, Chagiga 8a) and eating meat on Yom Tov (Talmud, P'sachim 109a). 📖

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A HALACHA FROM THE PARASHA

CONTINUED

and regretted this written commitment before he died. (*Aruch haShulchan* Y.D. 247:7)

- 2) If a person made a verbal pledge to *tzedaka*, but died before it was fulfilled, his heirs are obligated to fulfill this vow and give the amount pledged to charity. However, they are only obligated to pay the pledge out of the estate of the deceased—they don't need to spend their personal funds. (*Beis Lechem Yehuda* Y.D. 248)
- 3) If an individual set aside money for charity without designating a specific cause, and he then passed away, the executors of the estate should contribute the money to the best of all causes, which is the support of Torah study. (*Da'as Torah*, Y.D. 259) 🕊

GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

JOSEF ADAR, A WEALTHY MERCHANT IN ITALY, welcomed travelers from near and far into his magnificent home.

One week, a Shabbos guest noticed a broken, dirty bottle, prominently displayed among the crystal collectibles and figurines.

“Let me tell you a story,” Josef began. “When I was a young boy in Amsterdam, I traveled to Italy to join my grandfather in his business. I was a sincere eleven-year-old, and I kept up with my learning and never missed a *minyan*.”

“But my grandfather had a sudden heart attack, and after that the responsibilities of the business fell to me—and due to my ever-increasing involvement in the business, I slowly left behind my Torah observance.

“Many years later, I walked by a young boy sitting on the steps outside, crying and surrounded by shards and oil. He said that his father had sent him to purchase oil for the Chanukah menorah, but as he was running home he had tripped on a rock. His father had warned him to be very careful, but now the oil was gone. What would he tell his father?

“The young boy’s purity and sincerity stirred feelings in me. I started to have a similar thought... What would I tell *my* Father, whose tradition I had left?

“I handed the boy enough money for ten bottles of oil, and I chided him to be more careful. I then picked up the broken bottle and walked home pensively, committed to return to a life of Torah that would make my Father in heaven proud.”

Josef’s gaze shifted from the bottle and he smiled at his guest. “I paid a lot for that broken bottle.” 🕊



Please remember the Kollel with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

At the Kollel

EVERY DAY

EVERY WEEK

Sunday *Free brunch!*

👉 **Beginner's Gemara**
(Maseches Sukkah)

Rabbi Ezra Stettin 9:10–10 AM

👉 **Beginner's Halacha & More**
(skills-building)

Rabbi Moshe D. Zeffren.. 9:30–10:30 AM

👉 **Shivti** (Self-contained learning,
geared toward practical halacha)

Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib..... 10 AM–noon

Monday

👤👉 **Torah Treasures for Seniors at the Mayerson JCC**

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis 10:30–11:15 AM

Tuesday

👤👉👉 **Partners in Torah at the Mayerson JCC**

Rabbi Michael Soroka..... 8 PM

Wednesday

👤👉 **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn at Strauss & Troy**

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis 12–1 PM

Thursday

👤👉👉 **Yehoshua/Shabbos**
in the former Back Office

Rabbis Michael Soroka and Moshe Dovid Zeffren..... 9:10–10 PM

👤👤👤 *Homemade refreshments served*

KEY: 👉 Beginners 👤 Intermediate 👤👤 Advanced 👤👤 for men and women

Chavrusos are available for private and group learning—
speak to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann! weekdays noon–1 PM • Sun.–Thurs. 8–9:45 PM

DAVENING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/

Kollel Women's Learning presents

Ahavas Yisroel:
Taking Steps to Rebuild
the Beis haMikdash

with Rabbi Chaim Heinemann
7:45pm Wednesday evening, July 19
in the Kollel annex

FOR WOMEN ONLY