

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

לחיות את הפרשה LIVING THE PARSHA

KORACH #453

וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן יִצְחָר וּגֹי' וַיִּקְמוּ לְפָנֵי מֹשֶׁה (במדבר טז, א-ב)

“Korach the son of Yitzhor... They stood before Moshe” (Bamidbar 16:1-2).

ומה ראה קרח לחלוק עם משה, נתקנא על נשיאותו של אליצפן בן עוזיאל (רש"י שם)

Why did Korach quarrel with Moshe? He was jealous of Elitzafan ben Uziel who became the Nasi”
(Rashi ibid).

HOLY JEALOUSY

Holy jealousy is when one sees that his fellow man is climbing up to high spiritual levels, and he desires to be like him.

IN PRACTICE

Jealousy is very influential, it can inspire a person to yearn for spiritual growth. This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it isn't sufficient. The primary goal should be to be himself – “Me, as I am”. The desire for growth should be internal. It should be his own will. It should be the desire of his *neshamah* to rise higher and higher.

◆◆ EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING ◆◆

HOLY JEALOUSY

A positive form of jealousy is when seeks to emulate the good he sees in others. He is inspired to climb up the ladder of spiritual growth, as he sees it in his fellow man. Nevertheless, this isn't always a virtue, because he might be following a path that isn't his.

Korach made this error. He was jealous of Elitzafon's *nesius*, and he was jealous of Aharon HaKohen's role as Kohen Gadol. He wanted the roles and the *avodas* Hashem of others, and he didn't discover the service that is uniquely his.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

When one sees people excelling in *avodas* Hashem, and he wants to be like them, he will grow. He will become a better Yid because of his jealousy. Holy jealousy is therefore a good beginning, a good foundation, but it isn't sufficient. This is because there is a path that is uniquely his, and he won't find that path in others.

Therefore, one should search deeply into his *nefesh* and discover the path that is uniquely his. When this path is found, he will reach very high levels. He will excel in the path that Hashem destined and chose specially for him.

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