

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

One of the hardest forms of criticism to take is when someone tells you that you are wrong because of an inherent character flaw. When a message of "I think you handled this issue incorrectly" comes with a special dose of "and that helps me realize that there is something the matter with you," the barb stings much more than it otherwise would.



Korah's takedown of Moses and Aaron is a great example. At heart, his objection is at least logically plausible: if God has declared that all of the Israelites are sacred enough for Him to dwell among us (cf. Ex. 19:6 and 25:8), why must we accept the authority of a small group of Kohanim who reserve special honors and duties for themselves? Yet instead of simply requesting a fair review of our leadership practices, Korah raises the charge of "*rab lakhem*," casting Moses and Aaron as a power-hungry cabal who are usurping God's authority for their own gain.

This personal attack is what rankles Moses. After all his self-sacrifice for his people, shouldn't it be clear that he has sincere intentions? After the Israelites' many public lapses of judgment, doesn't it make sense that God would put them under the care of a more stable personality? Moses didn't even want to be the leader, and now he must publicly face accusations that his ambition is hurting the people in his charge?! It is no small wonder that he would lose his composure and throw Korah's words back in his face.

I recently tasted what this is like when I got into a disagreement with a fellow *musmakh* of my rabbinical school. One of our colleagues wrote a piece about a hot-button issue in the Jewish community, which was edgy enough to prompt a clarifying statement from our yeshiva. In the public discussion that followed, this *musmakh* declared that many of the people weighing in were not entitled to express their opinion because he presumed them to be incompetent to do so. His judgmental language nettled me, and I allowed myself to get into a visible back-and-forth with him over free speech and the defense of our colleagues.

Afterwards, I wondered whether my pursuit was itself too hot, even if I felt that I was right. Reading later in the Talmud, I stumbled upon a passage rich in parallels to what had just happened. According to Ribbi Levi, when Moses asked God to let him into the land of Israel at the end of his life, God denied his request with "*rab lekha*," the very same harsh expression of rebuke that Moses said to Korah. From this we infer that even when Moses was unfairly accused, it would have been better for him not to dish out counter-attacks measure for measure. How can he expect mercy from God when he was not ready to give it to Korah? (Sota 13b, Num. 16:3, Deut. 3:26)

While it is easy to focus on Korah's misdeeds, the significance of his story seems to be about how we ourselves respond to a hurtful message. When we feel that others have been insensitive or unfair, it is our job to model what a better set of behaviors could look like. If we want the public square to become a more civil place, it is up to us to stay above the affray.

Parashat Korah Rosh Hodesh Tamuz

Torah: Num. 16:1–18:32, Num. 28:9–15
Hertz 639–648, 695; Stone 820–837, 890
Haftara: Is. 66:1–24 & 23; I Sam. 20:18, 42
Hertz 944–947; Stone 1208–1210
Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Ya'ale Veyavo, Half Hallel
Ata Yatsarta in Musaf; no Tsidkatekha

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 23rd

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle lighting **7:50 pm**
Minha 6:30 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 7:00 pm

Rosh Hodesh Tamuz / Yom Shabbat

Saturday, June 24th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer **8:30 am**
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:40 am

Women's Tehillim 6:15 pm
Minha 7:15 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 8:00 pm
Arvit 8:40 pm
Havdala 8:53 pm

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Congratulations

Sammy Sheff

2017 graduate of
Syracuse University's
Whitman School
of Business

Besiman Tov to
parents Rachel & Neil Sheff
siblings Max & Rebekah
and grandparents
Rica & Messod Emquies
and Rebecca Sheff

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Rosh Hodesh Tamuz (cont.)

Sunday, June 25th

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday to Friday, June 26th to 30th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, June 30-July 1

Shabbat Candle lighting 7:50 pm

Friday Mincha 6:30 pm

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Mincha 7:15 pm

Havdala 8:53 pm

In Memoriam

We remember the following yahrzeit anniversaries from June 24 to July 1, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

30 Sivan / Shabbat, June 30th

Ester Meyer *Ester bat Sofi*

1 Tamuz / Sunday, July 1st

Selina Jacobs

Ezra Kemareh *Ezra Yaacov*

Maurice Morris *Moshe ben Abdullah*

Lulu Moshi *Lulu bat Simha*

Abraham Posmentier *Abraham ben Isser*

Nadhim Sarraf *Yitzhak ben Haim*

2 Tamuz / Monday, July 2nd

Isaac Amron

Eugene Cornateanu

Simha Goury *Simha bat Lulu*

Meyer Edward Nathan *Meir ben Ezra*

3 Tamuz / Tuesday, July 3rd

Joseph Moses *Yosef ben Aharon Moshe*

Habibollah Rokhsar *Habib ben Mordecai*

4 Tamuz / Wednesday, July 4th

Aaron Saul Levy *Aharon Shaul Levi*

6 Tamuz / Friday, July 6th

Eliyahu Irani *Eliyahu ben Moshe*

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Sylvia Cohen

Simcha bat Rooha • Mordechai Cohen

Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra • Tilda Levy

Haskell Avrahamy • Florice Newberry

Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel

Aliza bat Victoria • Yvonne Moalim

Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben Mazal Tov

Malka bat Rahel • Chaya Chana bat Batya

Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour • Katie bat Farha

Arlette bat Rashel

Work in Progress!

Thanks in part to an earmarked donation, it will be possible to give our Kahal a much-needed face lift.

You may have already noticed the beautiful limestone in the lobby, which is now being extended to the wall behind the Ekhal.

With the help of supportive members like you, we can make our building the jewel of the neighborhood.



A MINUTE OF MIDRASH

PARASHAT KORAH * BEMIDBAR RABBA 22:7

Three gifts were created that allow individuals to have the most desirable things in the world. One with wisdom attains all; one with might attains all, and one with wealth attains all. When do the latter two apply? If they are granted from Heaven and come about through the power of Torah [...]

Two supremely wealthy people have arisen in history, Korah of the Jews and Haman of the gentiles, yet both were erased from the world. Why? Because they did not regard their wealth as a gift from God, but instead as spoils that they had seized.

This Midrash is a great reminder that most material things are not inherently good or bad, but rather our morality is determined by our intentions and outlook. May we have the best of both worlds, using the blessings of a comfortable life to connect to God and help our fellow humans.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY, JULY 14 AT 7:30 PM

Interested in....

- a delicious dinner?
- meeting new people?
- an interesting discussion?



Join Rabbi Melhado and his family at home for a relaxed, joyful Shabbat dinner with good people.

Open to members and friends in their 20s and 30s.

Register now by emailing Rabbi at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org.



Join Kahal Joseph at the Ball Park!
**Dodger's Jewish
Community Day**
Sunday August 13 at 1:10PM

Los Angeles Dodgers

v.

San Diego Padres

Group tickets \$34 including
Hebrew Dodgers hat!

RSVP by Wednesday, July 5
by calling the office at 310-474-0559





Register now for fall!

The Sam and Norma Dabby

Talmud Torah

Hebrew * Fun * Parasha * History

*** Friends * Values * Holidays ***

*** Food * Mitzvot ***

and you!

Contact Molly Jalali at molly@emetek.com or Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for more information!

Registration forms at www.kahaljoseph.org/talmudtorah.html



Shabbat Matters!

Rules, Rituals and Meaning
Mondays at 8PM live on YouTube!

Join Rabbi Melhado for an
interactive, online series on
all aspects of Shabbat

Email rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org for the direct link

Session II begins in July!

July 3: What are we resting from: The 39 Labors

July 10: Is that Practical? Food & Transportation

July 17: Bend Me, Break Me: Shabbat & Other Values

July 24: Crescent & Cross: Shabbat & Non-Jewish
Society

Missed Session I?

Find them online at

www.kahaljoseph.org/shabbat-matters.html

Class 1: What's it all about? The Philosophy of Shabbat

Class 2: Get the Spirit: Honoring & Protecting Shabbat

Class 3: Who/What/Why? Candles, Kiddush, Meals & Havdala

Class 4: Trumped! Shabbat v. Special Circumstances