

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS KORACH

How Far Must Our Love Go

In this week's Parsha, Korach, we read about the rebellion of Korach and his cohorts Dasan and Aviram. At one point, Hashem commanded Moshe, "Speak to the congregation saying, 'withdraw from the dwellings of Korach, Dasan, and Aviram.'" Then it says, "And Moshe arose and went to Dasan and Aviram, and all the elders of Israel followed him." It continues, "And he spoke to the congregation..."

The Torah doesn't say anything extra. Why then does it say that Moshe arose and that all the elders followed him? It could have just said that Moshe went to Dasan and Aviram. What moved the elders to follow him?

Commenting on the words "And Moshe arose," Rashi explains that Moshe had expected Dasan and Aviram to show him respect, but they didn't.

This was already after Hashem gave the command to separate from Korach, Dasan, and Aviram. At this point, their fate was, so-to-speak, sealed. It was beyond the point of reconciliation and repentance. For that matter, going to talk to them would be going against Hashem's command to separate from them. And even more, Moshe was on a mission from Hashem to warn the people to separate themselves from Korach, Dasan, and

Aviram. It would be highly inappropriate for him to do anything before completing his mission.

Even though Dasan and Aviram's fate was sealed, and even though they acted brazenly against Moshe and were instigators of the rebellion, still, Moshe, out of his great love for every Jew, sought to find a way to save Dasan and Aviram from their looming fate.

He couldn't go talk to them nor do anything that would interfere with his mission. This is why Moshe arose, meaning, he used his position and stature as king and leader of the Jewish people, in the hope that it would affect Dasan and Aviram to at least show respect, saving them from being swallowed by the earth.

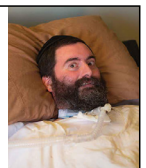
This is also why the elders followed him. Because Moshe was acting in the capacity of the king, and where the king goes, so do the elders. This added to the prestige of the event, but unfortunately, it still didn't have the desired effect on the conspirators.

If Moshe found love in his heart to try and find ways to save these evil people, how much more so must we find ways to include Jewish people who are less knowledgeable in Torah, especially when it is no fault of their own.

We have many brothers and sisters who were not granted a proper Jewish education for whatever reason. We must take a page from Moshe's playbook and Moshe's love and seek to find ways to include these Jews as well into the life of Torah, which is an everlasting life.

More than anything else, it is our love of every Jew that is the key to bringing Moshiach, which all Jews will experience together. May he come soon.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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