

## Leadership – Power vs Influence



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In this week's parasha we read about the rebellion of Korach and his followers. Our Sages teach us that the motivation for their complaints, which sparked the rebellion, came from personal grudges and beliefs as to why they deserved to be in higher positions of leadership.

Moshe's response to this situation is very strong, calling on God to perform a miracle as proof of his authority. In contrast, there is an episode a few chapters earlier, in which Yehoshua (Joshua) came to tell Moshe that Eldad and Medad were prophesying in the camp, and

Yehoshua is concerned about the threat to Moshe's leadership. Moshe tells him, "Are you jealous for my sake?"

If only all God's people were prophets and that God would place His spirit on them." (Bemidbar 11:29)

What is so different between Eldad and Medad, and Korach and his followers? Why was Moshe not concerned in the first instance but pulled out all the stops in the second?

Rabbi Sacks zt"l suggests that the answer to this lies in the distinction between two types of leadership: power vs influence. Imagine power as a glass of wine – if you share the wine with 9 other people you have 1/10th of a glass of wine. Influence on the other hand is like a candle, when shared with 9 people the light

only grows.

A fight for more power will always diminish the power of whoever is in control, an increase in influencers however will just increase the original influence.

Moshe exhibited both of these aspects of leadership; he had the power to command the people, appoint judges and lead them on their journey. But as a prophet, he was also an influencer, promoting the word of God.

This distinction answers the difference between two seemingly similar bids for leadership: Korach was looking for power, to seize control for himself – this needed to be stopped. Eldad and Medad were increasing the influence of God, hence Moshe's positive response.

## Parasha Quiz

1. Who are the 4 men named as leaders of the rebellion?
2. How was Korach punished?
3. How many other people participated in the rebellion?
4. What miracle occurred for Aharon in this week's parasha?
5. Who leaves the rebellion in the middle?

**Bonus Question:** What unusual verb is used to indicate the start of the rebellion?

## Parasha Anagrams

1. Parashat **HACK OR**
2. **FAN SOFA TRASH** was returned to the Holy of Holies
3. Korach and his followers were **YELLOW SHED BATHWATER**