

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT KORACH

24 JUNE | 5 TAMMUZ

## How Not to Grow



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"Be Yourself." "Say no to peer pressure." "Stand up for what's right."

We've all heard these before, and for good reason - they're all great pieces of advice! Avraham, one of our greatest role models, lived according to these phrases, and we praise him for it! Avraham was known as *'Ish Ivri'* because he stood across (*'ever'* in Hebrew) from everyone else; he separated himself from his peers because he disagreed with their life choices. Like Avraham, Rashi (1040-1105) introduces Korach as "taking himself to one side to separate himself from the congregation." Unlike Avraham, who is considered a hero for being *Ish Ivri*,

Korach is considered a supervillain for doing the same thing! Why?!

We need to understand how the character trait of separation works to understand where Avraham got it right, and Korach got it wrong. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (1707-1746) explains that separation means:

1. Stop doing the wrong thing.
2. Distance yourself from anything that tempts you to do the wrong thing.

When Avraham realised that his peers were making lifestyle choices that could bring him down, he stayed away from them and made the choices he believed were correct. On the face of it, it seems like Korach did the same thing – he saw that Moshe and Aharon were bringing him down spiritually by taking all the spiritual jobs for themselves, so he separated from them. However, that's not all he did. Remember that Rashi we mentioned earlier to describe Korach? Well, there's more to it.

The complete explanation of Rashi says, "Korach took himself to one side to separate himself from the congregation **to provoke the Kehuna (priesthood).**" Not only was Korach incorrect in what he was protesting about, but he was incorrect in protesting, full stop. Why? Isn't it powerful to scream to others to avoid things that will bring them down spiritually? Sometimes. But mostly, it's more powerful to show others by example. Once other people saw the fulfilled and happy life that Avraham was living, they wanted to live it too. If Avraham stood on a box in the main square and yelled at the people about the beauty of One God and how everyone is connected, it may not have sat so well with them.

When working on our spiritual growth, let's focus on distancing ourselves from anything that will tempt us and on living our best lives - not on where to hold a protest.

## Parasha Wordsearch

F O I M W U X W F P  
P N Y A V I R A M H  
A M K L A E O M F P  
I Z C D L H O O J Y  
C V Q D M O M S A K  
D N S G O A D H H C  
P U Y M N Y A E A F  
K L E Q D W T G R I  
K O R A C H A U O R  
E A R T H U N E N E

KORACH  
AVIRAM  
DATAN  
AHARON  
MOSHE  
ALMOND  
EARTH  
FIRE