

THE POWER OF LAUGHTER

Background

One of the greatest rebellions in the history of our nation was that of Korach and his congregation. They not only stood up against Moshe Rabbeinu as the leader of the Jewish people, they eventually denied that Moshe was a *Navi* of HASHEM, claiming that he invented parts of the Torah. Their end was bitter and dark.

ספר במדבר פרק טז

א וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן יִצְחָר בֶּן קֵהֶת בֶּן
לֵוִי וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם בְּנֵי אֶלְיָאֵב וְאוֹן
בֶּן פִּלֵּת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן

And Korach, the son of Yitzhar, the son of Kehas, the son of Lavi; and Dasan and Aviram, the sons of Eliav; and Ohn the son of Peles, the sons of Reuven.

רש"י על במדבר פרק טז פסוק א

... מה עשה עמד וכנס ר"נ ראשי סנהדראות רובן משבט ראובן שכיניו והם אליצור בן שדיאור וחביריו וכיוצא בו והלבישן טליתות שכולן תכלת באו ועמדו לפני משה אמרו לו טלית שכולה של תכלת חייבת בציצית או בטורה אמר להם חייבת התחילו לשחק עליו אפשר טלית של מין אחר חוט אחד של תכלת פוטרה זו שכולה תכלת לא תפטור את עצמה

Rashi - *What did Korach do? He stood up and gathered 250 of the heads of the Sanhedrin, most of whom were from the tribe of Levi. Korach dressed each of them in a tallis made completely of techeiles. They stood in front of Moshe and said to him, "Is a tallis that is completely made of techeiles obligated in tzitzis?" Moshe answered, "It is obligated." They began laughing at him. "How is it possible that if a talis is made of any other material, one strand of techeiles eliminates its obligation, yet a garment that is completely made of techeiles requires tzitzis?"*

Questions

Rashi is telling us that while Korach may have had a personal agenda, what led the 250 heads of the Sanhedrin to rebel was the strength of the question that they asked about a garment made out of *techeiles* not needing *tzitzis*. Apparently, this question was so powerful that it led them to deny the truth of the Torah given to Moshe Rabbeinu.

On reflection, what is the tremendous strength of this question? If we were looking to pose questions on the Torah, there are many more difficult ones than this. What was so profound about this question that it led them to rebel against Moshe and eventually against HASHEM?