1st Seder Weekly Divrei Torah

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

**FIRST SEDER BAIS MEDRASH** established in 2012 by Rabbi Uri Greenspan, provides a unique learning program for men with diverse schedules, ages, and backgrounds. Since its inception, the daily learning programs of Gemara, Mishnayos, Tanach, Halacha, and Jewish ethics, have provided hundreds of First Seder participants with a rich, challenging, and authentic Bais Medrash experience. The wide range of subjects and the varying levels of difficulty allow for the participants to choose which learning track best fits their individual needs, enabling them to truly take their learning to the next level.

**DAILY SCHEDULE:**
*9-11:30am:* Gemara in-depth and B'Chavrusa
*9:10am-1pm:* Classroom Learning

*Monday 9-9:45pm:* Dirshu Mishna Berura Shiur
Tuesday *8:45-9:45pm:* Daf HaShovua Gemara Shiur

**TO JOIN:** Contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at 732.407.3178
Office@FirstSeder.org, Lower Merion Synagogue

# PARSHAS KORACH – THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

**Rabbi Shlomo Caplan**

"And Moshe arose and went to Dasan and Aviram" (Bamidbar 16:25). The Gemara (Sanhedrin 110a) states, "From here we learn that one may not persist to quarrel. Whoever persists in quarreling violates a negative commandment as it says, 'And there shall not be [anyone] like Korach'" (Bamidbar 17:5). The Ramban (Sefer Hamitzvos Shoresh 8), the Smag (*lo saaseh* 157) and Rabbeinu Yonah (Shaarei Teshuva 3:58) all pasken this *halacha lema'aseh.*

To this end, Moshe attempted to mollify Dasan and Aviram. First he reached out to them at the very onset of the *machlokes:* "Moshe sent forth to call upon Dasan and Aviram" (ibid 16:12). Rashi explains that Moshe sought to make peace with them with conciliatory words. Later on, even after Hashem issued a warning of the imminent perishing of Dasan and Aviram, Moshe attempted to encourage them to repent.

Thus, Moshe is the paradigm of this halacha. Moshe had suffered more than once from the abuses of Dasan and Aviram. It was they who informed Paroh that Moshe had killed the Egyptian. It was they who defied Moshe when he told Bnai Yisrael not to leave any *mohn* overnight as it states, "But they did not listen to Moshe and left some of it until the morning" (Shemos 16:20 and Rashi ad loc.). Now they have joined Korach in his rebellion against Moshe and Aharon. Nevertheless, Moshe seeks to make peace with them. Even after they had excoriated him, Moshe is still prepared to try to save them from being devoured by the earth. Additionally, in this case Moshe was 100% in the right, and Dasan and Aviram were totally wrong. Nevertheless, Moshe did not respond in kind and sought to make peace.

If we are to derive the guidelines of the prohibition of *machlokes* from the way that Moshe conducted himself, it would appear that even one who has been verbally attacked and even one who believes that he is totally justified must still refrain from engaging in *machlokes.*

Why? Because *machlokes* is a powerfully destructive force. As soon as one becomes drawn into a dispute, he becomes entrapped. Soon he just can't seem to let go. As it proceeds and grows, the person becomes even more entangled. And in the process there is nothing too valuable to be sacrificed in order to perpetuate the *machlokes*. Dasan and Aviram blatantly declared, "Even if you were to gouge out our eyes, we would not come up to meet with you" (Bamidbar 16:15 as per Rashi ad loc.). Even as Dasan and Aviram and their children were about to be swallowed up by the ground, they stood defiantly in front of their tents. Once one becomes ensnared, there is often no turning back.

*Machlokes* has been compared to a fire out of control. There have been dozens of yeshivos, hundreds of communities and shuls, and countless families that have been ravaged and destroyed by this implacable fire. Years on end are spent with the goal only to prevent the other side from tasting success, regardless of how much is sacrificed. And no one wins, but everyone loses. They lose their tranquility, their *simchas hachaim* and perhaps their Olam Haba.

So, what are we to do when we discern a *machlokes* flaring up? If we can't extinguish the fire with conciliatory words, Rav Shimshon Pincus recommends that we say nothing at all. As the Gemara (Chullin 89a) proclaims, "The world exists in the merit of one who withholds himself from responding during a quarrel!"

**You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refuah sheleima by signing up for a weekly erev Shabbos contribution at https://pay.banquest.com/lightuptheworld and by joining the 2-3 minute daily shiur on the writings of the Chofetz Chaim.**

## THE LOST BABY GIFT

**Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner**

This week's Parsha, Korach, reminds us of the importance of avoiding machlokes, or arguments. This leads us to the following true story.

There was once a seminary class taught by a teacher named Mrs. Katz. As the school year was drawing to a close, Mrs. Katz had a baby. Shoshana, one of the girls in the class, had an idea that the class should chip in together to buy a baby gift for their teacher. All thirty girls in the class agreed to chip in to buy the gift for their beloved teacher's newborn.

The class gave the money to Shoshana, and entrusted her with the task of purchasing the baby gift. Shoshana found a wonderful baby outfit that she believed would make a delightful present. Later that day, she happened to run into a friend who was heading to the same neighborhood as their teacher. Shoshana saw this as an opportunity and asked her friend to deliver the present to Mrs. Katz's home.

A few years later, Shoshana and her friend crossed paths again in the US. During their conversation, Shoshana discovered that her friend had completely forgotten about the gift. The outfit had been left covered in her car and had ultimately been thrown out. Shoshana was aghast at the realization that she had collected money from her classmates to purchase a gift that never reached its intended recipient.

She found herself grappling with a difficult dilemma. Should she contact all the girls, confess the mishap, and try to return the money? Should she perhaps simply ask them to be mochel (forgive) her? Alternatively, should she buy a new gift for the teacher, because the baby is now much older and a baby outfit wouldn't be appropriate anymore? But perhaps that was not a good solution because that was not what the classmates designated their money for. Perhaps Shoshana should simply send the teacher the money, and the teacher can do what she pleases with it. But then again, that is not what the students designated the money for.

What do you think Shoshana should do next?

Regarding the question of Itamar's Rubick's cube which he tossed in the garage and was later retrieved by Nesanel, the answer is as follows. Since these boys are below Bar Mitzvah, they are unable to relinquish their ownership by simple hefker and Nesanel must return it to Itamar. However, if the garbage can was a large dumpster where people do not usually go to retrieve anything, it is considered lost from everybody. Therefore, even if it was a katan who tossed it into the dumpster, the Rubick's cube would be considered hefker.

## THIS WAY, THE NEW ALMANAH WILL REALIZE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT HER AND ARE SINCERELY CONCERNED FOR HER WELFARE

The father-in-law of an avreich who attended R' Aharon Leib Shteinman's shiurim passed away at a young age. After each shiur, R' Aharon Leib would ask the young man, "How is your mother-in-law feeling? Is everything well with her?"

When this had gone on for a while, the avreich asked his mother-in-law if she or her late husband knew R' Aharon Leib. "No," she replied, "I think he is probably confusing me with someone else."

More time went by, and R' Aharon Leib continued to inquire about her welfare. The avreich finally asked him if he knew his mother-in-law or her family.

R' Aharon Leib replied, "I don't know them at all. I heard that your father-in-law passed away at a young age, and I feel pain for his almanah. I inquire about her after the shiur; hopefully, you will tell her that I am asking. Until now she had a husband who inquired daily about her welfare, but she has lost that. I was also hoping that if a stranger asks how she is faring, you would also inquire, or ask your wife to ask about her well-being. This way, the new almanah will realize that there are people who care about her and are sincerely concerned for her welfare."

From Rav Aharon Leib, by Naftali Weinberg, published by Artscroll Mesorah, reprinted with permission from Table Talk.

## מזל טוב !

**Tremendous Mazel Tov to Reb Chesky Weiss and all of the participants in the Mishnayos shiur upon their completion of Shas Mishnayos this past week! You can join the shiur which meets every M – Th at 9:20 AM.**

**To sponsor the 1st Seder Weekly, please contact office@firstseder.org. For more information or to register for First Seder, contact RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org or 732-407-3178.**

1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

First Seder Weekly Schedule

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morning Track 1: Shiurim | | | | | |
| 9:20 AM – 9:55 AM | Mishnayos Berachos (R' Chesky Weiss) | Mishnayos Berachos (R' Chesky Weiss) | Mishnayos Berachos (R' Chesky Weiss) | Mishnayos Berachos (R' Chesky Weiss) | Parsha HaShevua (R' Yehoshua Levy) |
| 10:00 AM – 10:40 AM | Gemara Gittin (R' Daniel Baltuch) | Gemara Gittin (R' Daniel Baltuch) | Gemara Gittin (R' Daniel Baltuch) | Gemara Gittin (R' Daniel Baltuch) | Gemara Gittin (R' Daniel Baltuch) |
| 10:45 AM – 11:25 AM | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar (R' Uri Greenspan) | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar (R' Uri Greenspan) | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar (R' Uri Greenspan) | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar (R' Uri Greenspan) | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar (R' Uri Greenspan) |
| 11:30 AM – 12:10 PM | Practical Timely Halacha (R' Mordechai Shain) | The Life and Torah of our Leaders (R' Dovid Gross) | Biur Tefilla (R' Yoel Zeffren) | Sefer Tehillim (R' Uri Greenspan) | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha (R' Uri Greenspan) |
| 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha (R' Uri Greenspan) | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha (R' Uri Greenspan) | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha (R' Uri Greenspan) | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha (R' Uri Greenspan) | |

**Good Shabbos!**

***Daf HaShavua***

**Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf מ"ב**

***Have you joined the Mishnathon???***

**You can join the Mishnathon and enable the 1st Seder Bais Medrash to continue spreading Torah throughout the world!**

**To join please visit firstseder.org or contact Rabbi Greenspan or Zac Miller.**