

The feeling can lead to self-destruction



**SHIFRA
CHESLER**

Youth Director at Pinner
United Synagogue

Korach harboured deep envy towards Moshe (Moses). It's a common human emotion, but it can lead to serious trouble.

Reflect on a time when you may have felt envious of someone or something. Did it distract you from your own goals and aspirations?

It says in *Pirkei Avot* (4:28) that jealousy, desire and the thirst for recognition can derail a person's life. Essentially, when you're too fixated on chasing honour and glory, you might lose sight of what really matters and end up trampling on others along the way.

Rabbeinu Bechaya (1255-1340) presented a powerful parable to illustrate the effect of jealousy and greed.

A king approached two men – one driven by greed, the other by jealousy. He told them that one of them could choose anything in the world that he wished for and the king would give it to him as a gift. The other would then receive double. The greedy man refused to choose because he wanted double. The jealous man refused to choose because he didn't want the greedy man to have double. For a day, each agonised over his dilemma until the king said that he was giving up and leaving. Desperately, the jealous man said to the king, "Please your majesty – take out one of my eyes..."

It's a powerful story and illustrates just how much jealousy can cause a person to lose touch with common sense.

Rabbeinu Bechaya's tale of the two men and the king's offer serves as a cautionary reminder of jealousy's grip on the human mind. Have you ever witnessed jealousy

clouding someone's judgment, perhaps even your own? How did it affect the outcome of the situation?

Korach fell victim to the same trap. He was so consumed by envy that he failed to see the foolishness of his actions. Moshe made it clear: God would choose the leader of the Jewish people, and anyone opposing His decision would face dire consequences. But Korach's jealousy blinded him to reason, leading to his downfall.

So, watch out for jealousy. It's like stepping onto a slippery slope that can cause you to lose touch with reality and cloud your judgment of what's right and wrong. The first step to steering clear is simply noticing who or what you may be jealous of.

So, take a moment to reflect on this; it might just save you from making regrettable decisions down the line.

*Adapted from a Devar Torah by
Rabbi Shaul Rosenblatt*

Korach Crossword!

Across:

- Moshe told Korach to wait until this time in the hope that he would see more clearly and change his mind.
- He wanted to be leader so much that he made some very bad decisions.
- These were swallowed up along with the people.

Down:

- Moshe told Korach and his men to place this on their firepans and see if God would accept the offering.
- This feeling will make you lose sight of the truth
- This miraculously opened up and swallowed Korach and his followers.

