



THE RABBI BINYAMIN KAMENETZKY
TORAH LEGACY FOUNDATION
לזכרון של הרב בנימין קמנצקי זצ"ל

אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאת רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

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By Mr. and Mrs. Neil Wallin

5779 - Parsha Korach - Don't Turn a Blind Eye

This week, the Torah tells us the sad story of Korach and his failed rebellion against Moshe and Ahron. A rabble-rouser and haughty narcissist, Korach convinced the masses that he was the people's leader, and Moshe and Ahron were power-hungry dictators, who grabbed all of the benefits of priesthood and leadership for themselves and their immediate family.

Indeed, it only took one split second for G-d to show who was right, as the ground opened and swallowed Korach and his followers alive.

What sparked Korach to travel down this road? Rashi (16:7) tells us, "Why did Korach, a smart man, do this nonsense? **His eye tricked him.** He saw that his descendants will be great men, equal to Moshe and Ahron. He said, "Can it be that they will be so great and I will remain silent?..."

However Rashi uses a troubling word. "Eino hit'aso -his eye tricked him" **Humans have two eyes.** Why did Rashi use the singular term, "his eye"?

Rav Avraham Yeshaya Karelitz zt"l, "the Chazon Ish," was a giant in Torah, known throughout the world for his saintly and simple lifestyle. The story is told that as the village of Bnei Brak, the home of the Chazon Ish, slowly transformed from a village to a small city, the municipality began installing street lights for the first time. A certain influential individual arranged that they install a light one directly in front of the Chazon Ish's building, in order that the great sage benefit from the light.

After a few days, this individual approached Rav Karelitz and asked him how he is enjoying the light in front of his building. "I learned a great lesson from the light," he replied. "When one is far from the light, his shadow is big - he himself thinks that he is great. But as one get closer to the light, the shadow gets smaller, as one should realize how little he is. But when one is directly under the light, one realizes that he is so insignificant, that one hardly has his own existence at all!"

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l would explain in the name of Rav Yisroel from Ruzhyn zt"l. **Chazal tell us that a person has two eyes for a purpose.** One eye to look up heavenward, and see the vastness and greatness of our Creator. One should be inspired to emulate the ways of the righteous, and grow to be closer to Hashem. **The other eye is to look downward, towards the Earth,** to remind ourselves that we come from the ground after all, and we should remain humble and loyal to Hashem.

This is precisely where Korach went wrong. Yes, he used one eye to see the greatness of Hashem, as he was from the elite group of Levi'ites who actually carried the Aron! But his mistake was with his second eye. He did not use that eye correctly. **He forgot to look downward and remain humble.** He became haughty, letting his first eye, still looking upward, lead him to think that he was worthy of leading the Jewish Nation.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky is the Director of Advancement at Yeshiva of South Shore - ישיבה תורת חיים - בית בנימן. He is currently compiling the vast storehouse of all the Torah thoughts from his grandfather. If you have any stories to share from his grandfather, you can email him at skamenetzky@yoss.org.