



Don't Take It Personally

There's a joke in our family related to this week's portion. It is about a itinerant rabbi/darshan whose repertoire was limited to one speech: about Korach. He would go up to the pulpit, ostensibly drop his snuffbox. Bend down to look for it. Not finding it, he would look at his audience and exclaim. "Eingesunken wie Korach!" Swallowed in the ground like Korach.

"And since we are already talking about Korach..."

Then he would continue by saying - if we are already talking about getting swallowed up then it reminds him about Korach, repeating the same things he always said week after week. With that joke in my mind I was wondering if I would find something new and exciting to write about this week related to the episode of Korach. Who wants to write so much about machloket - disputes?

While flipping through Rav Pliskin's book, "Growth Through Torah. Insights and Stories for the Shabbos Table", I found a very practical tip that he brings on verse (16:11) from our portion. The verse says, " It is

actually against God that you and your group are protesting! After all, who is Aharon that you should have grievances against him?"

Rabbi Kluger explained that from this verse we can learn that one should never take it personally if someone who verbally abuses other people also insults you. This is a very important lesson but how do we see that from this verse?

Moshe says to Korach - "you are really complaining against God - NO'ADIM AL HASHEM, how can your words hurt Aharon? - MA HU KI TALINU ALAV. He will easily remain oblivious to anything bad you might say to him, since he sees that you also have complaints against God." If someone verbally abuses a very distinguished and elevated person and then also insults a simple person, the simple person shouldn't take offense. He should realize that this critical and rude person speaks roughly to everyone, and no one should take offense at what he says. He doesn't only speak improperly to you, but does to everyone. So you needn't take anything he says to you personally. You should just try to realize that the problem is his, not yours. By doing that, you can free yourself from feeling hurt. It's always so easy to feel affronted by someone else - but keeping this verse in one's head will remind you not to feel poorly from the wickedness of others. Remembering this verse can help us not to be hurt by other people's words.

In the episode with Korach, Aharon's position is verified by his staff gave forth leaves, and produced blossoms

and almonds were ripening on it. So heres a simple salad with almonds and "sticks" to serve as a side dish.

GREEN BEANS ALMONDINE

2 cups cut green beans

Boiling water to cover beans

¼ cup, sliced almonds

1/3 cup onion, chopped

3 Tbsp oil

¼ tsp salt

1/8 tsp black pepper

¼ tsp garlic powder

3 Tbsp vinegar

2 Tbsp pimento pieces (optional)

Cook green beans in boiling salt water until tender; drain and set aside. Sauté sliced almonds and onions in oil in a large skillet until onion is tender. Stir in salt, pepper, garlic powder and vinegar. Mix in prepared beans and pimento pieces. Cook until heated through. [A](#)