

דברי מנחם

Divrei Menachem

mpersoff@ouisrael.org

With a name like that, what would you expect? "Korach" that associates with coolness and cunning; "Ben Yitzhar" that means the son of the Yetzer Hara, the evil inclination. So we might say that parents endow to their children their attributes, for good and for bad.

But then, despite the fact that the Torah records that Korach and his household were swallowed up by the earth, we later come across several chapters of Tehillim associated with the children of Korach! How could that be if they were "lost from among the congregation" (Bamidbar 16:3-34)? And how would the children of such a defiant leader turn out arranging songs of praise to Hakadosh Baruch Hu?

Well, the text records that, in reality, these people were swallowed alive. The Talmud (Sanhedrin 110a) notes that the sons of Korach demurred; ultimately, they did not follow Korach and consequently they were saved, as is written, "And the children of Korach did not die" (26:11). Indeed, the books of Ezra, Nechemiah and Divrei Hayamim, establish that David Hamelech apportioned to the Leviyim - including the descendants of Korach - the psalms they were to accompany with their song and music.

How appropriate that children can overcome the iniquities of their parents. How ennobling to know that we can have faith in our children, even in the face of today's choruses of hypocrisy and anti-religious sentiment. How beautiful to encounter weekly a psalm that begins "Shir Mizmor Livnei Korach" - 'A song; a psalm of the sons of Korach'.

