

## Korach - 5784

After קרח challenged the *kahuna* of Aharon and was swallowed by the earth, Hashem commanded that each *shevet* place a staff, inscribed with the name of their *Nasi*, into the *kodesh kodashim*. Aharon's name was to be written on the staff of Levi. The staff of the *shevet* that was truly entitled to the *kahuna* would blossom, putting all debate and dispute to rest. When Moshe returned the following morning, the Torah tells us (17, 23) that the stick of Aharon blossomed. ויצא פרח ויצץ ציץ ויגמול שקדים , and a flower came out and a bud sprouted and an almond grew. The *gemora* in Yoma (52B) tells us that when the *Aron Hakodesh* was hidden, this staff was also hidden with its flowers, buds and almonds. This was an additional miracle, that the flowers and buds remained although the almonds grew. We see from this, says Rav Moshe Feinstein, that the process of bringing about *kedusha*, the effort put in to produce the fruit, is also valuable in and of itself! In the eyes of Hashem, that exertion is priceless as well, and worthy of great reward. This is certainly true as a metaphor for *chinuch* as well. The struggles and challenges we deal with, the grief and anxiety, all of these stages play a role in the final product, the development of healthy balanced children, and are critically important and enormously valuable. As difficult as it may be, this is something we must recognize.

I would like to add an additional point. Rashi discusses why it was an almond, the quickest growing fruit, that grew, rather than some other fruit. Perhaps the Torah is letting us know that eventually, when we see the "fruit" of all our labor, we will feel in hindsight that time flew by quickly! While we are living through the challenge, time seems to drag and we question if we will have the stamina to persevere, but ultimately, in the end, it will be like a fleeting memory. The almond is the salve for the difficulty and the encouragement to endure and persist!

Wishing you all a Good Shabbos, and ah *gutten Chodesh!*

*B'yedidus*, Rabbi Tzvi Krigsman