

Good Shabbos Everyone. A man once complained to Reb Simcha Bunim of Parshischo, saying "The Talmud (Eruvin 13a) states that when a person runs away from honor, honor will run after him. I run away from honor, but honor does not pursue me." "The reason," explained the Reb Simcha Bunim, "is because you keep looking back, and therefore it hides from you." (Gateway To Happiness, Reb Zelig Pliskin, p.283, citing Simchas Yisroel , p.57)

We read about honor seeking in this week's Torah portion Korach. Korach "had it all," but it was not enough. As Moshe said to Korach, "Is it not enough for you that the G-d of Yisroel has segregated you from the assembly of Yisroel to draw you near to Him [Hashem], to perform [as a Levi] the service of the Mishkan of Hashem, and to stand before the assembly to minister to them? And He drew you near, and all your brethren, the offspring of Levi, with you-- yet you seek priesthood (to be a Kohen) as well?!?"(Bamidbar 16:9-10)

When Korach failed to receive the honor he felt he deserved, Korach attempted to stage a revolt against Moshe. We see how Korach's search for honor eventually caused his own death and the death of many others who supported him. If honor seeking is the source of evil, then surely shunning honor is a source of blessing. The following story, which is a continuation from last week, illustrates this point.

Last week, we read the story about 2 Bar Mitzvah boys whose bar mitzvahs came out on the same Shabbos, parshas Yisro. The Gabbai (attendant) in the shul, had forgotten that both boys had bar mitzvahs on the same shabbos. Thus, when both boys and their fathers approached the bima to read from the Torah, nobody knew what to do! One of the boys Shlomo, was new to the neighborhood and he had had a hard time integrating into the local yeshiva and making friends, etc.

The other boy Binyamin recognized Shlomo's difficulties. Binyamin overcame his desire to read the Torah that Shabbos, and instead he let Shlomo read the parsha. Four years later, Binyamin's knowledge of his bar mitzvah parsha came to good use.

One Erev Shabbos, Mrs. Neuman - Binyamin's mother was experiencing heart trouble, and she was rushed to the Hospital. Mrs. Neuman was taken straight to the Cardiology Department. A whole set of tests were immediately ordered. Mrs. Newman would have to stay in the hospital until the results were ready - after Shabbos.

Binyamin's father told Binyamin to stay with his mother in the hospital, and he went back home to be with the other children for Shabbos.

That evening Friday night, a doctor came into Mrs. Newman's room. "We've found the cause of the problem, Mrs. Newman. We can treat it with a new medicine, or we can operate. But you must decide by tomorrow, because if you want to take the medication we must start right away - and if you prefer surgery, we have to prepare you with other medicines."

Binyamin and his mother didn't know what to do. Mrs. Newman didn't trust herself to decide, and Binyamin was only 17... It was already Shabbos, so they could not call Binyamin's father and ask him what to do. Binyamin suddenly noticed how noisy it was in the hallway outside his mother's room. He went out to look.

"What happened?" he asked someone standing nearby. "Oh, didn't you hear? Rabbi Yoseif Shalom Elyashiv was admitted to the hospital just before Shabbos."

Rav Elyashiv is one of the greatest Torah leaders of our time, an elderly sage who lives in Yerushalayim. People from all over the world come to him for advice and guidance and with all kinds of questions, including medical ones. He had not been feeling well that Friday and was taken to the hospital. Although they did not find anything seriously wrong, the doctors thought that he should remain there until after Shabbos, just to be sure that everything was okay.

"Baruch Hashem," thought Binyamin, "I'll ask Rav Elyashiv what to do. Abba always goes to him for advice."

But as Binyamin watched, a crowd of people filled the end of the hallway near Rav Elyashiv's room. How would he ever get to see the Rabbi? Then he had an idea

"This Shabbos is Parshas Yisro, my Bar Mitzvah parsha," he thought. "I remember exactly how to read it. I will offer to read the Torah for the Rabbi's small minyan tomorrow, and then afterwards, perhaps I'll have a chance to speak to him."

Later that evening, Binyamin knocked quietly at the door of the Rabbi's room. "May I ask for the privilege of reading the Torah for the Rabbi tomorrow? It is my Bar Mitzvah parsha and I know it very well..."

The Rabbi graciously accepted Binyamin's offer. And so, the next day, Binyamin finally read his Bar Mitzvah parsha-four years late, but just in time now!

After davening, Rav Elyashiv called Binyamin over to thank him. Binyamin then told the Rabbi of his problem. "I have to give the doctors an answer right away," he said. Rav Elyashiv is a beloved, very well-known and deeply respected person, so Israel's best cardiologist (heart doctor) had been sent to take care of him.

"Don't worry, Binyamin," said Rav Elyashiv. "I will ask my own doctor, Professor Shammai Tzivoni, to see your mother. With the help of Hashem, she will recover completely

That night, right after Shabbos, Professor Tzivoni examined Mrs. Newman and then spoke to Rav Elyashiv. He recommended that an operation be performed as soon as possible. The professor decided that himself would do it, first thing the next morning.

Soon after the operation, Mrs. Newman returned to her family in full health, Boruch Hashem!" "Rav Elyashiv really did not need to be in the hospital at all," said Binyamin. "Hashem sent him to save my mother's life!" Hashem notices everything, no good deed goes un-rewarded..." **Good Shabbos Everyone.**