Korach 2014

1.

Korach standing with giva and chuspa

Nachlas Tzvi page 371

“They stood before Moshe.” (16, 2)

"ויקומו לפני משה."

The question arises; why doesn’t the pasuk state that they came (ויבואו) to Moshe? The simple explanation of the pasuk is their getting up before Moshe. However the pasuk can be homiletically explained to mean that they got up with giva (arrogance) and chuspa (brazenness). This explanation is also offered by Targum Yonason.

2.

One eyed giva

Talelei Oros pages 254-255

“Korach took.” (16, 1)

"ויקח קורח."

Rashi (16, 7) says that Korach was smart (פיקח). What did Korach see that led him to such foolishness? His eye led him to err. He saw a great chain of descendants emerging from him, etc.

The question arises: Did Korach only have one eye? Rabbi Meir Schapiro from Lublin (the founder of the daf yomi) offers an answer. **What is the explanation of two eyes? One eye would really be sufficient. One eye is in order to see and contemplate the greatness of Hashem. The second eye is to see our lowliness. This is precisely what caused Korach to error, his other eye. The eye that should have viewed his lowliness didn’t. Rather, instead he was busy looking at great chains of decedents that would emerge from him.**