Pinchas 2014

1.

Pinchas, killing and Kehuna

Nachlas Tzvi page 407

"Hashem spoke to Moshe saying 'Pinchas son of Elazar son of Aaron the Kohen, turned back my wrath from upon the children of Israel, when he zealously avenged My vengeance among them, so I did not consume the children of Israel in My vengeance." (25, 10-11)

"וַיְדַבֵּר יְקֹוָק אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר. פִּינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן הֵשִׁיב אֶת־חֲמָתִי מֵעַל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקַנְאוֹ אֶת־קִנְאָתִי בְּתוֹכָם וְלֹא־כִלִּיתִי אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִנְאָתִי."

The Gemara in Zevachim (101) states that Pinchas did not become a Kohen until he killed Zimri. However, the Zohar Hakadosh says Pinchas was a Kohen prior to killing Cosbi and Zimri. Even though a Kohen who kills a person is typically removed from being a Kohen, the chidush (insight) and exception is Pinchas, who didn't become invalid from being a Kohen. Why? Because he acted on behalf of Hashem, whose wrath and anger toward Israel was great. Due to his merit in acting for Hashem, not only did he become a Kohen, but he additionally became a Kohen Gadol.

2.

Is it possible to receive reward in this world?

Kesav Sofer page 225 (Rabbi Avraham Shmuel Binyamin Sofer, son of the Chasam Sofer)

The Bamidbar Raba (25) states that Pinchas should receive reward for the act of killing Cosbi and Zimri. What is the explanation of this Medrash? Hashem doesn't typically grant reward in this world as stated in mesechas Kiddushin **(**39b**)** 'one doesn't receive reward in this world (שכר מצוה בהאי עלמא ליכא.)' Why isn't reward given in this world? If one receives reward he/she might become spoiled and rebel against Hashem chas v'shalom (heaven forbid). This concept is elaborated upon in the Gemara in Berachos (32b).The Gemara relates that the Jews sinned and made a golden calf because they had so much wealth. A lion doesn't go crazy and damage because of a box of straw, rather because of a box of meat. Let's relate another important concept. One who brings merit to the masses will not sin. Pinchas publically sanctified the name of Hashem by killing Cosbi and Zimri. Since Pinchas brought immediate merit to the masses, therefore immediate reward was given to him.