



# THE SHALOM BAYIT JOURNAL



## Parashat Korach

### On ben Pelet and the Strength to Listen

*Understanding the Torah and the Human Experience*

Human beings naturally become attached to the beliefs and decisions they have already made. Once we publicly commit ourselves to a position, changing our minds can feel uncomfortable. We worry about appearing weak, looking foolish, or admitting that we were wrong.

Psychology recognizes this tendency. Once people commit themselves to a position, they often become even more attached to it, even when evidence begins pointing in another direction. We naturally defend our decisions because they have become part of our identity.

Parashat Korach offers a remarkable example of someone who overcame this tendency. When discussing the story of On ben Pelet, most of the attention is given to his wife.

The Gemara praises her wisdom and credits her with saving her husband from Korach's rebellion. Her insight and actions ultimately preserved her family and saved On ben Pelet from sharing Korach's fate.

Yet there is another part of the story that often receives less attention. On ben Pelet listened.

By the time his wife spoke to him, On had already chosen a side. He had aligned himself with Korach and become emotionally invested in the rebellion.

Yet On ben Pelet did something many people struggle to do. He was willing to reconsider a position he had already committed himself to and entertain the possibility that he might be wrong. That takes humility.

*Growth begins when we become  
willing to reconsider our  
assumptions*

There is another fascinating aspect to this story. Moshe did not immediately retaliate against Korach and his followers. Instead, he instructed them to return the next day with their firepans and offer ketoret before Boreh Olam. While the test would reveal whom Boreh Olam had chosen, it also created something equally important: an opportunity to reconsider.





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Throughout the Torah, Boreh Olam repeatedly gives people opportunities to change course before consequences arrive. The participants in Korach's rebellion received that opportunity as well. On ben Pelet was the one who took it.

Psychology observes something similar. Growth begins when we become willing to reconsider our assumptions. We remain curious long enough to ask whether there might be another perspective we have not yet considered.

The couples who grow are not necessarily the couples who are always right. They are often the couples who remain teachable.

They can hear something uncomfortable without immediately becoming defensive. They are willing to consider that their spouse may see something they do not.

*Healthy relationships  
require humility.*

The humility to consider that we may be missing something. The willingness to recognize that the person closest to us may have insight we do not. The courage to change course when wisdom calls us in a different direction.

The wisdom of On ben Pelet's wife saved him. But her wisdom could only help because On ben Pelet was willing to hear it. Sometimes our greatest strength is not being right. It is remaining humble enough to listen.



### About The Shalom Bayit Journal

The Shalom Bayit Journal explores the intersection of Torah, psychology, relationships, and the human experience. Through thoughtful essays and practical reflection, the Journal seeks to make timeless wisdom meaningful and accessible for everyday life.

