

"An Ammonite and a Moabite shall not enter the Assembly of Hashem... because they did not meet you with bread and water... and because they hired against you Bilam." (23:4-5)

The above *posuk* implies a dual offense attributed to these nations: first, not greeting the *Bnei Yisroel* with food and drink, and second, for hiring Bilam to curse and destroy the Jews. The question arises, are we to expect kindness and human decency from murderers? We may suggest that when we see murderers bent on destroying a whole nation, it is necessary to be aware of the source of this atrocity. It was not spontaneously that such miscreancy was born. Its source is rooted in an enormous lack of human decency and respect. A deficiency in human sensitivity and feelings can ultimately lead to acts of violence, indeed, even to murder. Atrocities of great magnitude do not just happen, they evolve from a vile seed which has been allowed to germinate. It was the lack of proper manners and conduct on the part of these nations which eventually produced such acts of wickedness which attributed to their being forever excluded from the Jewish people.