

"See, Hashem has called the name of Betzalel the son of Uri, the son of Chur, of the tribe of Yehudah." - "And also the gift of teaching He has put in his heart, both he and Ahliav, the son of Achisamach, of the tribe of Dan." (35:34)

The *Midrash* takes note of the various "partnerships" involved in the making of both the *Mishkan* and the *Bais Hamikdash*. Regarding the *Mishkan* it is stated that Betzalel of the tribe of Yehudah and Ahaliav of the tribe of Dan were the ones who spearheaded the work. The *Bais Hamikdash* was also built by individuals who descended from these respective tribes, such as Shlomo *Hamelech* of the tribe of Yehudah and the son of a widow from the tribe of Dan. The *Midrash* points out the significance of using an artisan who was a member of the tribe of Yehudah which was the most exalted tribe, and a member of the tribe of Dan, the lowliest tribe. By placing them together, Hashem taught *Bnei Yisrael* never to look with disdain upon one whose origins are not noble, for in the eyes of Hashem the great and the small have equal stature. A less gifted person who serves Hashem with all of his capabilities ranks equal to one who is more gifted, for Hashem judges a man in accordance with the intentions of his heart.

The *Midrash*, however seems to emphasize the uniqueness of the "copartnership" which contributed to the *Mishkan's* construction. What was so exceptional about Betzalel's collaboration with Ahaliav? *Horav Chaim Zaitchik Z"l* derives from here that the ultimate test of an individual's qualification to assume and maintain leadership over a community or to spearhead a given project is his capacity to accept assistance and advice from others. A leader must possess the ability to overcome any paranoia and envy associated with sharing the limelight with others. Hashem appointed members of two different tribes to collaborate on the construction of the *Mishkan* in order to discern whether their goals were solely for the sake of Heaven. There are individuals who, despite their total devotion to a given community service project, must be the only ones who are "in charge." They must maintain control over every facet of an activity. Such people are never able to delegate authority to others, feeling this would diminish their own prestige. Betzalel was different. His willingness to collaborate with Ahaliav, a member of the lowliest tribe, illustrated his pure intentions in building the *Mishkan*, thereby revealing his worthiness to be the prime artisan in its creation.