

"When he zealously avenged My vengeance (jealousy) among them." (25:11)

Pinchas is lauded for endangering himself, demonstrating exemplary love for Hashem by working towards cleansing *Klal Yisrael* of those who had been defying Hashem. The *Torah* emphasizes that Pinchas remained "*among them*," not isolating himself from the general community. Rather, he executed his act of purification as a member of the community. Pinchas's devotion to Hashem provides us with the *Torah's* paradigm for *kana'us*, zealousness. Applying homiletic exegesis, *Chazal* develop the essential characteristics required for such singular acts of devotion.

The *kanai* acts out of love for Hashem, His *Torah* and His Nation. At no time does he hate the transgressors; rather, he abhors their reprehensible acts of insurgency against Hashem. His action is a last resort directed towards having a lasting effect upon those who sin against Hashem.

The *Noam Elimelech* asserts that Pinchas was the one who infused the concept of *kana'us*, zealousness, into *Klal Yisrael*. His feat demanded a remarkable amount of courage on his part. Thus, he inspired future generations to fight for *Torah* ideals and to express their abhorrence towards those who denigrate *Torah* Judaism. This is homiletically derived from the phrase "when he avenged My vengeance among them." Pinchas ignited the spark of zealousness "among them" for future generations.