

This is the teaching regarding a man who would die in a tent (19:14)

It takes only one person to make a change, to alter one's plans, goals, trajectory towards success. Moshe *Rabbeinu* and Aharon *HaKohen* stood at the helm of the Jewish nation. Hashem had selected them to lead *Klal Yisrael*. One cannot be more legitimate and more authentic than being the personal choice of Hashem. Yet, one person – Korach – disrupted the pristine functioning of this leadership. It takes one student to disrupt a class. One rotten apple in a group can set the tone that undermines the group's functioning. One malcontent in a *shul* can infect those willing to listen and, suddenly, a movement is set in motion. *Adam ki ymus b'ohel*; a man dies in a tent. A perfectly built tent, secure, with all the accoutrements; a house with all of the upgrades; but, if one person "dies" there, the entire tent, house, is contaminated.

A community consists of individuals. We Jews do not live or assess by percentages. In other words, ninety-nine percent is still failure. To say that ninety-nine percent of our Jewish community is doing well, living above poverty level, implies that one percent of our community is living below poverty level. To say that ninety-nine percent of our students are doing well spiritually implies that one percent is not. At the end of the day, that is a failing grade. One person can contaminate a tent. One person can destroy a community. To rest on our laurels, which are based upon percentages, is a sin of omission – omitting the negative percentage which ultimately spells failure.