Looking for Core Information 04

Here’s something that caught my eye while I was reading Jude. In the King James Version, verse 11 reads “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”

The name “Core” - I thought “Hold on, who - or what - is that?”

Well, off I went on one of my research tangents. It didn’t take long to find that out of 62 English-language Bible versions of Jude 11, all but 7 render the name as Korah, the rest using this Core spelling. OK, but now to identify Korah (Core). Turns out that Korah, per the Old Testament, (and using our best understanding of his complex genealogy) was a first cousin of Moses and Aaron. This stuff and most of the following dirt on the gentleman is all recorded in the Book of Numbers.

Korah amassed and incubated a bunch of serious resentments about the way Moses was leading. Eventually, Korah accumulated enough of a belly full to gather a revolt against Moses, but God would have none of it and punished Korah and his 249 fellow revolutionaries by eliminating them from the face of the earth.

One of Kotah’s beefs beyond the seeming incongruity of Moses’ personnel assignments had to do with the proper way to treat the Jewish prayer shawl – the *tallit*. Korah asked Moses some questions about the shawl’s coloring and its *tzitzit* (fringes), but he disagreed with the answers he got, even claiming that Moses was making stuff up as he went. To brew up a rebellion even partly over something like the structure of a prayer shawl may seem to us to be a long reach, but the *tallit* and its makeup were – and still are – extremely important to the orthodox Jew, going back to Mosaic days and even involving the revered daily shema (“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone” and ff.), in which the third part spells out the *tallit* instructions.

The moral, as far as strict Judaism is concerned, is not to mess with – or try to shortcut - holy specifications - even the ones about how to tie the knots in the fringe cords.

Even the dye used in the making of a divinely-sanctioned *tallit* is special and specified – it’s a blue coloring known as *tekhelet*, originating from just about the ugliest-looking sea snail on the planet, a species native to the Eastern Mediterranean. Indigo? Not quite right.

But consider the Israeli flag and its blue on white. It tries very hard to duplicate the color scheme of a perfect *tallit*.

Anyway, having gone from Jude 11’s mention of Core clear to Benjamin Netanyahu’s national emblem - yipes!

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