

Shemot 5786

Bavli Nedarim 64b

The Gemara answers: They hold: These people who were seeking Moses' life, had they indeed died? But Rabbi Yohanan said in the name of Rabbi Shimon ben Yoḥai: Wherever it is stated in the Torah the term striving (Exodus 2:13), in reference to the men who slandered Moses, or standing (Exodus 5:20), in reference to those who complained against Moses and Aaron, they are none other than Dathan and Abiram.

Exodus Rabbah, 1:29

Indeed, you find that the matter was heard only by means of the Hebrews, as it is stated: "He went out on the second day and behold, two Hebrew men were fighting [*nitzim*]; [he said to the wicked one: why do you strike your counterpart?]" (Exodus 2:13). These are Datan and Aviram, and it called them *nitzim* after their end
"Pharaoh heard this matter and he sought to kill Moses. Moses fled from before Pharaoh, and he settled in the land of Midyan, and sat alongside the well"
(Exodus 2:15).

"Pharaoh heard" – because Datan and Aviram arose and informed on him. "He sought to kill Moses."

Exodus Rabbah 5:20

What is "standing [*nitzavim*]"? Our Rabbis, of blessed memory, say: Datan and Aviram were with them, as it is written in their regard: "Datan and Aviram emerged standing [*nitzavim*]" (Numbers 16:27); they began cursing and blaspheming vis-à-vis Moses and Aaron.

Tanchuma, Shemot 10

Who were they? Datan and Aviram. They are the ones who said, let us return to Egypt.

Exodus Rabbah 24:10

"Men left from it," these were those among them who lacked faith. Who were they? Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish said: They were Datan and Aviram. Here, "men" is stated, and below "men" is stated, as it is stated: "Depart now from the tents of these wicked

men" (Numbers 16:26). Just as the "men" stated below were Datan and Aviram, so, too, the "men" stated here were Datan and Aviram.

Rashi on Genesis 49:5

SIMEON AND LEVI WERE BRETHREN in the plot against Shechem and against Joseph. Scripture states, (Genesis 37:19—20) "And they said one to another... (literally, one to his brother) come now therefore and let us slay him" (Midrash Tanchuma, Vayechi 9). Now, who were these? Should you say Reuben or Judah was one of them — but they were not consenting parties to slaying him (cf. Genesis 37:21, Genesis 37:22 and Genesis 37:26). Should you say they were the sons of the handmaids (Dan, Naphtali, Gad or Asher) — their hatred of Joseph was not so perfect a hatred that they would wish to kill him for it is said, (Genesis 37:2) "whilst a lad he used to be with the sons of Bilhah and with the sons of Zilpah etc."