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**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 101**

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION  
OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES**

**“LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE  
MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)**

**LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES**

**RAV TZVI YEHUDA KOOK ZTK'L TAUGHT US TO SEE THE CONCRETE  
EXPRESSION OF THE WORDS OF OUR PROPHETS AND SAGES IN THE  
EVENTS WE WERE EXPERIENCING IN ERETZ ISRAEL TODAY**

**EVERY JEW IN HIS INNERMOST ESSENCE,  
BELONGS TO ERETZ ISRAEL**

To illustrate a Jew's eternal connection to Israel, Rav Tzvi Yehuda often used an insight of Rabbi Meir Yechiel of Ostrovtza, one of the great Talmudic geniuses of the past generation. He was a prodigy, a giant in Torah, and a Tzaddik famous throughout the Jewish world. All of his life was spent in fasting, Rav Tzvi Yehuda told us. He felt a need to live this way - above the ways of ordinary men. Only occasionally would he taste something, or nap a bit, then immediately return to his learning.

"When Jews meet, they customarily exchange, 'Shaloms', and ask, 'Where do you come from?' The usual response is: I come from Belgium, Brazil, or Colorado. The Admore of Ostrovtza says, 'Every Jew is obliged to answer - I come from Eretz Yisrael.' This is a very deep insight, telling us that every Jew, in his innermost essence, belongs to Eretz Yisrael."

Rav Tzvi Yehuda explained the Midrash (Devarim Rabbah, 2:5.) behind this insight of the Admore, a Midrash which brings a curious criticism of Moshe Rabenu in comparison to Yosef. Yosef identified with Eretz Yisrael. He admitted it freely when he said, I was certainly stolen from the Land of the Hebrews.(Genesis, 40:15) Therefore he merited to be buried in Israel. Moshe, in contrast, didn't acknowledge his homeland in the incident with Yitro's daughters, who reported to their father, An Egyptian man saved us. Moshe heard this and kept silent..(Exodus, 2:19) The Admore of Ostrovtza asks why the Sages find fault with Moshe for not saying he was from Eretz Yisrael. After all, he was born and raised in Egypt - how could he lie and say he was from Eretz Yisrael? The Admore of Ostrovtza replies that through Hashem's promise of the Land to Avraham's descendants, Moshe belongs to the Land. (The Admore of Ostrovtza, Hasidut and Zion, The Masters of Poland Return to Zion). (From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

**PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON  
HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF “THEY DESPISED  
THE DESIRABLE LAND” (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER  
THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE  
WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA  
MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON**