

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 102**

**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**

**"Because of our long exile amidst the impurity of the gentile
nations, we have become accustomed to think that our life in
Galut is normal, and we forget that Eretz Yisrael is our natural,
healthy, Divinely-intended place," Rav Tzvi Yehuda said.**

This situation, Rav Kook emphasized, was a disgrace and tragic mistake. The matter is illustrated clearly in the Kuzari of Rav Yehuda HaLevi. In Chapter Two of this classic treatise on the nation of Israel and Torah, the Rabbi extols the virtues of Eretz Yisrael. After he finishes his lengthy praise of the Land, the King of the Kuzars chastises him for not acting in line with his words, for the Rabbi does not live in Israel. The Rabbi confesses:

"You have uncovered my great disgrace, O King of the Kuzars! It is this sin which prevented the Divine promise from being fulfilled in the time of the Second Temple - Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion. (Zecharia, 2:14) For Divine Providence was ready to restore everything as it had been at first, if all of them had answered the call and returned to Eretz Yisrael in gladness. But only a small portion responded, whilst the majority, and the Gedolim among them, remained in Babylon, preferring exile and slavery under the gentiles, rather than giving up their houses and their affairs...If we had been willing to approach the G-d of our fathers with a pure heart, He would have granted us the same salvation which He granted to our forefathers in Egypt. Now, since this isn't so, our prayers to Worship at His holy mountain; Worship at His footstool; and He who restores His glory to Zion, and other prayers like these, are like the speech of the parrot and the chattering of the starling. We say these words, and others, without true belief in our hearts, as you rightly observe, O Prince of the Kuzars. (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**