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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 108**

**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 KOOK: "WE MUSTN'T FORGET THAT THE
GENTILE NATIONS DO US A FAVOR BY ALLOWING US
TO STAY IN THEIR LANDS - UNTIL THEY EXPEL US.**

One must realize that we are on foreign soil there. It is not our society, nor government. Nothing is ours. Only in Israel, are we at home, with family, living according to our customs, and our uniquely Jewish year; living in the place designed for our Kedusha, for our psychological health, and even for our physical wellbeing. We must return to health, and turn away from unhealthy, polluted places, from environments which are sometimes so polluted and disorienting that one forgets who he really is, and thinks that it is normal to live among the gentiles. This is a tragic mistake."

...*"The air of Israel makes one wise,"* Rav Tzvi Yehuda said, quoting the well-known *Gemara in Bava Batra 158b* "It causes intelligence and wisdom. And the beginning of intelligence is to understand that existence among the gentile nations is totally unpleasant."

...Rav Tzvi Yehuda wanted us to know that, on the contrary, living outside of Israel was unpleasant indeed; not only in being a guest in someone else's country, but even in the very air that we breathe. It is a well-known fact that the food we eat influences our internal being. We are careful to eat kosher food, because a Jew understands that to live a life of Kedusha, he must observe the dietary laws which Hashem has decreed for His people. The food which we eat has an effect on our souls. How much more so our surroundings, the air we breathe, and the land we walk on. In Israel, we are surrounded by Kedusha, by holy air and holy soil. And every moment we are here, we are performing a mitzvah, as our Sages say: Everyone who walks four cubits in the Land of Israel merits a portion in the World To Come. (Ketubot 111A) In contrast, outside of Israel, the air is impure, the land is impure, even Halachically, the Diaspora is categorized as possessing a state of defilement similar to that of a grave. (Shabbat 14B) (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