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**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 126**

**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**

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED? THE TITLE OF THE RAMBAM'S  
HALACHIC WORK ON THE MASHIACH, THE LAWS OF KINGS  
AND THEIR WARS, DO YOU GET IT?**

In the same way that the mitzvot of Kashrut, Sukkot, and Tefillin, are comprised of many details, so too the mitzvah of living in Israel has many different facets. At its foundation rests one of the Torah's most difficult precepts - a military command.

Certainly, the subject of war is not a pleasant topic. The prospect of having to wage war, even in defense of land and life, is a difficult matter to face. However, war is a facet of life, of Torah, and of our redemption, which has to be confronted and understood. The nearly two-thousand year Exile, without a land of our own, or a Jewish army, altered our orientation to matters of war. Without the means to defend ourselves, we adopted a self-image as victims. War was seen as something which belonged to the gentiles. We were to busy ourselves with Torah. War and religion were looked at as opposites. The idea that a rabbi, a Talmid Chacham, a man devoted to Kedusha, and to the service of Hashem, could be connected in any way to weapons, and killing, and the horrors of war, was simply out of the question.

However, a look at the Torah, at our history, and our Sages, clearly shows the distortion of this thinking, and how very far we strayed from our forefathers. (Orot, Orot HaMilchamah, 2. Also, note the title of the Rambam's Halachic work on the Mashiach, The Laws of Kings and Their Wars).

In addition to being our nation's holiest Tzaddik and Talmid Chacham, Moshe Rabenu was the Commander-in Chief of the Israeli army. Out of his exalted Kedusha, he had to leave his wife and move his tent outside the camp of the people, yet he led the nation in war. (Joshua, 12:6) Rashi tells us that in the war with Amalek, Moshe's arms grew tired, and needed support in punishment for not having led the battle himself. (Exodus, 17:12) This connection between Gedolei Yisrael and the army appears again and again in our history.

(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**