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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 132**

**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

**THREE GOOD GIFTS, HASHEM GAVE TO ISRAEL, AND NONE WERE
GIVEN WITHOUT HAVING TO SUFFER FOR THEM. THEY ARE TORAH,
ERETZ YISRAEL, AND THE WORLD TO COME (BERACHOT 5A)**

Rav Tzvi Yehuda would remind us that the mitzvah of living in the Land of Israel was not easily fulfilled. Not on the personal level, and not for the nation as a whole. Many things in life follow a course filled with difficulties. The growth of a child into manhood is one example.

This same path of growth applied to the settling of Israel. Get yourself forth to the Land I will show you...and I will make you a great nation. This was happening today, Rabbi Kook said, but maturity does not occur all at once. The return of our people to our Land is an evolving, developmental process.

"The Gemara asserts that the Land of Israel is acquired through sufferings. (Berachot 5A: Three good gifts, Hashem gave to Israel, and none were given without having to suffer for them. They are Torah, Eretz Yisrael, and the World to Come. See also, the Gaon of Vilna, Kol HaTor, Ch.1) Only after generations of, Your offspring will be strangers in a land not their own,,, Genesis, 15:13 does Israel come into our hands. Rav Tzvi Yehuda taught us to see this Divine plan.

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."

**BARUCH HASHEM, WE DON'T CHOOSE BETWEEN MITZVOT, LIKE CERTAIN
'ORTHODOX' JEWS DO. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CONQUER THE LAND WITHOUT
SPILLING BLOOD, CERTAINLY THIS WOULD BE BETTER.**

(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**