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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 150**

**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

**“FOR YOUR SERVANTS DESIRED HER STONES AND
CHERISHED HER VERY DUST”(TEHILLIM 102:15)**

"At the end of tractate Ketubot (112b) several matters are cited regarding the love our Sages felt for Eretz Yisrael. Rabbi Abba kissed the stones of Acco. And, Rabbi Chia bar Gamda adorned himself with her dust. He didn't simply bend down to kiss the ground, he rolled in the dust, in order to actualize the verse: For Your servants desired her stones and cherished her very dust."(Tehillim 102:15)

Rav Tzvi Yehuda emphasized that Rabbi Abba did not kiss the ground, which nurtures the fruit over which the precepts are performed, but rather, he kissed the boulders, to show the inherent Kedusha of the Land itself. Also, Rashi, in his commentary, duplicates the verse, For Your servants desired her stones and cherished her very dust, without adding any new information, to emphasize the importance of her stones and the intrinsic Kedusha of the Land, in and of itself.

(From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

**NEVER SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT ERETZ
ISRAEL OR ITS INHABITANTS**

“Rav Ami and Rav Asi used to (have their students) get up (and move) from a sunny place to a shady place, and from a shady place to a sunny one.” (Ketuvot 112) The Ben Ish Chai comments on this Gemara the following: “So that no student would be moved to say, about the place where they stood, ‘not good,’ and thereby speak ill of a piece of the earth of Eretz Israel. And from this should every man learn a lesson: to guard his mouth and tongue against any negative utterance, condemning even one cubit of Eretz Israel, whether its air, its weather, its fruits, or its buildings; even in a time when the Land is desolate and in gentile hands, and the houses belong to non-Jews.”

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