

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 154**

**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**

**GREAT AND HOLY RABBIS WHO SUPPORTED  
THE EARLY ZIONIST MOVEMENT**

**RABBI AVRAHAM BORNSTEIN (THE AVNEI NEZER)  
ALSO PROCLAIMED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLING  
OF ERETZ YISRAEL AND ALIYAH. WITHIN HIS SEVEN  
VOLUME RESPONSA, THE RABBI SPECIFICALLY  
ADDRESSES THE QUESTIONS OF ALIYAH TODAY**

(Responsa, Avnei Nezer, Yoreh Deah, Part 2, Section 454) and why the Gedolim don't make Aliyah. Within his answer, he quotes the Kuzari of Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi. In the lengthy discussion between the Rabbi and the king, the Rabbi answers all of the king's questions on Judaism except one. When the king asks the Rabbi why the Jews don't make Aliyah, the Rabbi is left without an answer. He says:

"You have indeed shamed me, King Kuzar, and it is this sin that withheld us from realizing the culmination of the Divine promise during the Second Temple...for only a minority returned, and the majority, along with the Gedolim, remained in Babylon, preferring exile and dependence, rather than leaving their homes and affairs...(The Kuzari 2:23)

The Avnei Nezer adds that: "Nevertheless, Heaven forbid us to make the Gedolim of Israel mistaken or conscious sinners, Heaven forbid." He prefers to explain that the Gedolim of his generation did not make Aliyah because they were simply unable to secure visas. He ends his response with the following plea:

"And so you leaders and aristocracy of Israel who have the capability to acquire a visa and actualize this honorable idea - upon you is this great mitzvah, and there is no end to the reward of those who help in this matter, whether by attempting to obtain visas, or in the essential matter of purchasing land in Israel...

(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**