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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 162**

**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

**MORE THAN ONCE, RAV TZVI YEHUDA REMINDED US OF
THE TRAGIC SIN OF THE SPIES, WHO HAD REBELLED
AGAINST HASHEM IN THE WILDERNESS, BY REFUSING TO
GO UP TO ISRAEL.**

They were the outstanding Talmidei Chachamim of the era, the chiefs of the Sanhedrin, the heads of the tribes, whose sin was so severe, the entire generation was punished with death in the wilderness. (Mesillat Yesharim, Chapter 11, In the discussion on Honor.) Our Sages inform us that this sin was the foundation of the destruction of both the First and Second Temples.(Tanchuma, Numbers, Shelach, 11-12) The taint of this sin still exists in the nation, and even Talmidei Chachamim can be affected by it.

See the Vilna Gaon, Kol Ha Tor, Chapter 5: "This sin of the Spies...hovers over the nation of Israel in every generation." And, "How strong is the power of the Sitra Achra that it succeeds in hiding from the eyes of our holy fathers the dangers of the Kleipot; from the eyes of Avraham Avinu, the Kleipah of Galut...and in the time of the Mashiach, the Sitra Achra attacks the guardians of Torah with blinders." And, "Many of the sinners in this great sin of, They despised the cherished Land, and also many of the guardians of Torah, will not know or understand that they are caught in the sin of the Spies, that they have been sucked into the sin of the Spies in many false ideas and empty claims, and they cover their ideas with the already proven fallacy that the mitzvah of the settlement of Israel no longer applies in our day, an opinion which has already been disproved by the giants of the world, the Rishonim and Achronim." loc.cit. See also, the letter of Rav Eliahu Guttmacher in the beginning of the book, Em HaBanim Simaicha, Pg.13; also quoted in Responsa, Nefesh Chaya, Rabbi Chaim Eliezar Vax, at the end of Responsa 1: "We can see how important this matter is, that the Kleipah attacks even the biggest Tzaddikim to negate this great thing (the settlement of Israel). For the whole power of the Kleipah depends on the Galut. With the cessation of Galut, the Kleipah comes to an end."

...The Rabbi of Ostrovtsa exclaimed, 'What is going on here?! Hashem sent His holy children to build the Holy Land, and here people condemn them!'" (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