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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 166**

**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

**THE CENTRALITY OF ERETZ YISRAEL TO JEWISH
LIFE AND TORAH CAN READILY BE OVERLOOKED,
EVEN BY A TALMID CHACHAM**

(See, Sefer HaMitzvot of the Rambam, Positive Command #153, regarding the centrality of Eretz Yisrael: "Here lies a very great axiom from the foundations of our belief which was not known or understood except among the deep) if he is estranged from the deeper aspects of Torah. (Orot, Eretz Yisrael, 2. HaRav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook) This happens in our time, Rav Tzvi Yehuda said, because not all Torah scholars learn the Kuzari, Maharal, and Orot.

"When you learn the book Orot, and grasp the matters in all of their wholeness, the issues are illuminated in a different light. It is possible to understand the national, religious, historic value of Eretz Yisrael. But the essential centrality of our Land to our people is something deeper, mysterious, mystical, and secret. In Orot, these things are made clear: 'By becoming far removed from the secrets of Torah, the perception of Israel's Kedusha becomes blurred. " (Orot, Eretz Yisrael, 2. HaRav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook)

"It is impossible to truthfully recognize the value of Eretz Yisrael except through the hidden lights of the Torah. Otherwise, everything is seen in a superficial way."

"One who learns Torah for its own sake, secrets of Torah are revealed to him. (Avot 6:1) Contrasting this is the situation where one becomes alienated from the inner depths of the Torah, and even worse, when one becomes foreign to them. 'Through the estrangement to the secrets of Hashem, the exalted treasures in the depths of Divine life are made into inconsequential matters which don't enter the recesses of the soul, and thus the mightiest strength of the nation's soul and of the individual's soul is lost, and the Galut is experienced as a pleasing thing. (Orot, Eretz Yisrael, 2. HaRav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook)

...The Rabbi of Ostrovta 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