

**BSD**

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 194**

**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**

**STRESSING THE NEED FOR RELIGIOUS ALIYAH**

"Before two other young men from Poalei Agudath Israel and myself were about to travel to the diaspora, we took leave of R' Yosef Chaim. We sat with him for a long time as he spoke to us earnestly and emotionally about the need for Eretz Israel to be settled by religious settlers. We trembled before his holy words and blazing eyes. On that occasion, he told us that he was constantly asked to travel abroad on important public missions. 'But I never acquiesce to such requests,' R' Yosef Chaim explained. 'Perhaps Moshiach will suddenly come - and I want then to be in Jerusalem.' When he made this statement you could see that he meant it with every fiber of his being." R' CHAIM REJOICED in seeing the construction and expansion of Jerusalem. During the last summer of his life, when he was already very weak and could no longer travel by foot, he would often take taxis to visit Jerusalem's new neighborhoods.

**THE HAND OF HASHEM IN THE REBUILDING OF ISRAEL**

As he passed through the new sections of the city, his face would radiate joy and his lips would murmur the words "G-d is the Builder of Jerusalem" (Tehillim 147:2). R' Chaim saw the rebuilding of Jerusalem, even new buildings built and inhabited by non-Jews, as a preparation for the Redemption. On a stroll through Talabia and Katamon, R' Chaim could not conceal his excitement over one of the large, newly-constructed buildings. One of the people accompanying him remarked that his excitement was misplaced since the building belonged to non-Jews. "What difference does it make?" replied R' Chaim. "Their ancestors destroyed the Land, are they not required to assist in its rebuilding? Do not worry, all these beautiful and palatial buildings will one day be ours ... " Waving his hand over the panorama of the ever-expanding new city, R' Chaim would exclaim with fervent joy: "I remember when this entire area was the desolate home of wilderness creatures. Now I have merited to see all this built and flourishing!"

**FROM SEFER HA ISH AL HA CHOMA**

**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**