

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 199**

**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**

**RABBI YOSEF CHAIM SONNENFELD  
EMPHATICALLY REPLIED: “I WILL GO  
SPECIFICALLY VIA THE DAMASCUS GATE AND  
THUS INFORM THE ARABS THAT THEY HAVE  
NOT SUCCEEDED IN FRIGHTENING JEWS OUT  
OF EVEN ONE SECTION OF THE HOLY CITY.”**

**SELF SACRIFICE AND BRAVERY**

In the immediate wake of the murderous Arab riots of 1929, the Jewish yishuv in Eretz Israel was gripped by great fear and tried to avoid any unnecessary contact with Arabs or Arab neighborhoods. R' Chaim's family was therefore aghast one day to find that he had accepted an invitation to perform a bris in a new section of the city, something that would necessitate his passing through some particularly dangerous Arab neighborhoods. Despite their protests, R' Chaim donned his Shabbos clothing and set out to perform the mitzvah accompanied by R' Israel Shochet. As the pair reached the outskirts of the Jewish Quarter, R' Chaim turned to R' Israel and said, "Since you are afraid to proceed, it is a question of endangering your life and you must therefore turn back." R' Chaim then turned and headed towards the Damascus Gate. A frantic R' Israel grabbed R' Chaim and begged him to use the Jaffa Gate instead, since the Arabs in that section were much less hostile than the Arabs in the vicinity of the Damascus Gate. "Certainly not!" was R' Chaim's emphatic reply. "I will go specifically via the Damascus Gate and thus inform the Arabs that they have not succeeded in frightening Jews out of even one section of the Holy City."

...R' Chaim looked at his grandson lovingly and replied, "My son, I feel that being a laborer in Eretz Israel is greater than being a Rav in Chutz La'aretz (the diaspora)." Hearing this, the grandson immediately abandoned his plans.

**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**