

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 201**

**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

**TWO BROTHERS UNITE IN THE HOUSE OF HASHEM,
IN THE GATE OF HEAVEN**

A meeting that took place between R' Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld and Zionist leader Menachem Ussishkin at the Kotel. The account was penned by Ussishkin himself

It was Erev Rosh Hashanah of 5690 (1929), a month and a half after the fearful riots had befallen us. Jewish Jerusalem was still wrapped in mourner's black and the impact of the frightful occurrences had not yet subsided. We walked dejectedly through the streets and saw everywhere the "improved protection" that had, naturally, come too late. Near the Kotel, which had been the ostensible cause of the violence, stood scores of police carefully inspecting each visitor. Under these circumstances, visits and steady services at the Kotel had nearly ceased. I had returned from abroad only two days previously. Although I was not accustomed to visiting the Kotel on Erev Rosh Hashanah, I decided to go in the late afternoon, at Minchah-time. I left my house furtively, afraid that my family would prevent me from going. Somber and depressed, I entered the Old City. On the entire route to the Kotel I met virtually no Jews; only police and Arabs filled the narrow streets. Soon, I found myself before the Kotel. The area around this relic of our past had always depressed me but this time I was even more deeply disturbed. That wall, a reminder of our great and glorious past, the last remnant of our Temple - and only two Jews were standing there, the shammas and myself. The entire plaza in front of the Kotel was filled with British policemen; above, near the entrance to the Mosque of Omar on the site of the Temple, Arabs stood looking down on the Jewish ruins; and I stood silently in my distress thinking of times past, two thousand years ago. I do not remember how long I stood there with these depressing thoughts. Dusk fell and darkness began to engulf the Kotel plaza, lanterns began to glimmer nearby yet here it was forbidden to light them. Suddenly, I detected the sound of approaching footsteps. Out of a darkened side-street stepped an elderly Jew of stately appearance, attired in traditional festival garb, and accompanied by two men. He approached the Kotel with bowed head and began to kiss its stones with holy fervor. I recognized him - it was R' Chaim Sonnenfeld. I did not move or approach him for I did not want to disturb his awesome reverence. A deep sigh escaped his lips. He raised his head, gave the stones a final embrace, and turned to leave. Then he noticed me and approached. "How happy I am," he said, "that I have found here a brother" 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