

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 204**

**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 KOOK EXPLAINS THAT THE STRIKING DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN THE CONCEPT OF KEDUSHA WHICH EVOLVED IN THE  
EXILE, AND THE HEROIC PORTRAITS WE FIND IN THE BIBLE,  
LIES IN OUR MISUNDERSTANDING OF WAR, AND OF THE HOLY  
VALOR FOR G-D WHICH BATTLE INSTILLS IN OUR HEARTS.**

The heroes of the past achieved their great stature, in a large measure through war, in defending the life of the nation, and defending the honor of G-d. Not out of aggression, nor imperialism did they fight, but to uproot evil and champion the Name of Hashem. It is this motivation which makes them so unique and worthy of emulation. When seen in this light, the wars which they fought were not callous, uncouth endeavors, but a religious duty of supreme holy valor.

When it came time to fight the battles of G-d, to establish G-d's truth in the world, our forefathers were ready. They were completely whole with the mitzvah. Without hesitation, they rose to battle, often closing their yeshivot and taking their students with them. They went forth to perform their holy mission and to slaughter as many of the enemy as they could.

An example of wholeness in G-d's service can be learned from Israel's most outstanding rabbi, Moshe Rabbenu. G-d commanded him to take revenge against the nation of Midian before he died. Our Sages teach that Moshe could have lived longer by postponing this final mission, but instead, he rushed forward to fulfill Hashem's will. Rav Tzvi Yehuda Kook would often remind his students that there is no Halachic exemption from the obligatory war of conquering the Land of Israel. When the fight is raging, every Jew must play his part in the battle. In this regard, the mitzvah of war is no different from Tefillin or prayer. It must be performed with utter wholeness, with concentrated intention, and unwavering faith

"A man should not think at the time of war of his wife, nor of his children, nor of his possessions, but he must free his heart of everything and set himself to the battle. And more - he should think that the entire existence of Israel depends on him. And if he is afraid and turns back, it is as if he spilled the blood of his comrades. And regarding this, it is written: 'Not to melt his brother's heart like his heart'... For everyone who fights with all of his heart, and with the intention to sanctify the Name of Hashem, is promised that he will not be harmed... and he will merit the life of the World To Come." (Rambam, Laws of Kings and Their Wars, 7:15)  
**FROM WAR AND PEACE, THE TEACHINGS OF RAV AVRAHAM YTZCHAK  
HAKOHEN KOOK ZTKL**

**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**