

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 207**

**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 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.

We mentioned how the ordinary soldier, Adino HaEzra, in striving to be like King David, came to resemble him. The longing for something brings it closer. Similarly, Rabbi Kook teaches in a subsequent essay that someone who yearns for Eretz Yisrael, even though he or she is outside of the Land, can share in the Land's special gifts. The yearning forms a bridge, and the person becomes like an Israeli born in the Land. (Ketubot 75A) So too in our longing for the great souls of our past. Our identification with them, and our desire to emulate them, awakens our own inner potential. Their holy valor becomes an active part of our lives.

The yearning for the national valor we lack in Galut and the longing for the physical and moral bravery which filled the souls of our heroes, completes us as Jews, strengthening us and refining our spiritual powers. Rabbi Kook is certain that we will rebuild our nation, return to our homeland, and vanquish our enemies in a just moral war. Through our yearning for our champions of old, our spiritual powers are awakened, and our holy valor is reborn.

**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