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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 209**

**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

**IF NOT FOR THE SIN OF THE GOLDEN CALF, THE NATIONS
WHICH DWELT IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL WOULD HAVE
MADE PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND SURRENDERED TO THEM**

for the Name of G-d which would have been called on Israel would have awakened within them the awe of (Divine) exaltation, and no form of war would have been waged. Israel's influence on them would have taken peaceful paths as in the Messianic era. Only, due to sin, the process was postponed for thousands of years."

War is not the Jewish ideal. From the heights of Sinai, the nation of Israel should have marched directly to Redemption in Israel, bringing the Kingship of G-d and universal peace to the world. Crowned by the light of the Torah, they should have journeyed immediately on to Jerusalem without meeting the slightest resistance on the way. (See Rashi, Deut. 1:2) But the sin of the golden calf (Exodus, 32:1-35) shattered the harmony between mankind and G-d which had been established at Sinai. Instead of peace came war.

Thus the utopia which mankind had lost with its expulsion from Eden was to be further postponed by thousands of years. With Adam's sin in the Garden, the paradisiacal symbiosis between mankind and the world came to a tragic end. Both man and the world were exiled from G-d. The task of re-uniting them fell to the nation of Israel.(Kuzari, 1:95) We were to take Adam's place, on a national level, to lead the world back to G-d. The miracles of the Exodus from Egypt, and the giving of the Torah, brought the fear and knowledge of G-d back to the world. Israel's honor as G-d's chosen nation was magnified in the eyes of the nations. But, when a portion of the people (Kuzari, 1:97,"Out of 600,000 people, the number who worshipped the calf was below three thousand") worshipped in front of the idol they made, the nation fell from grace. Instead of entering the Land of Israel in peace, crowned with the glory of G-d, the Israeli nation was now compelled to fight. (Shmot Rabbah, 32:1.) The goal of universal peace, when nations will not learn the art of war anymore, and when the lion will lie down with the lamb,(Isaiah, 11:6) remained a dream for the Messianic future.

**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**