

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 211**

**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**

**THIS EARLY DESIRE FOR AN INDEPENDENT JEWISH STATE MAY  
STILL BE FAR FROM THE TORAH IDEAL, BUT IT IS ALSO A FAR CRY  
FROM THE ASSIMILATIONISTS' DREAM. THE ZIONISTS WANT TO  
BUILD AN INDEPENDENT JEWISH NATION, NOT TO DISAPPEAR.**

**A VAST HUMAN UNDERTAKING WAS BEGINNING TO UNFOLD. FOR  
THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, A SCATTERED, EXILED NATION WAS  
ON ITS WAY HOME.**

The transformation of a stateless people to a united nation is a project of overwhelming proportions. It demands a fierce inner strength, a new philosophy, new leaders, new talents, and the construction of the national format to contain the idea. The initial step came with the realization that the Jewish people could not live in the midst of gentile nations. Whether the place of our wandering was hostile or seemingly friendly, the result was the same - Jews and true Jewish identity were uprooted and lost. Now, after millennium, a nascent expression of Jewish nationality and independence commences to grow.

A yearning for nationhood was awakened in Am Yisrael. After 2000 years of being scattered bones - scattered individuals and communities which were dispersed all over the world suddenly, our true color is revealed. The dry bones come to life. The body has arms, muscles, a voice of its own. Gradually, Kimah, Kimah, (Yerushalmi Berachot 1:1) "little by little," its spirit will heal also; its inner content will be revealed; it will discover its Divine essence and proclaim it to the world - "For from Zion shall go forth Torah, and the Word of the L-rd from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

Many of Rabbi Kook's contemporaries, and many critics of Israel today, failed to see what Rabbi Kook saw when they looked at the Zionist movement. They saw only its secular aspect. They looked only at its outer appearance and not deep into its core. They saw only the present, and not the stages which would come to expression in the future. Many Torah leaders demanded that the Redemption of Israel be completely holy from its conception. They wanted it to appear miraculously - overnight. Their eyes only focused on' what Zionism lacked. Rabbi Kook saw what it contained.

**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**