

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 215**

**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

**BY TURNING TOWARD THE HOLY AIR AND LAND OF ISRAEL, THE
NATION SLOWLY BEGINS TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL PURITY.
AS THE PROPHECY IN EZEKIEL DESCRIBES, THE VERY RETURN
TO ERETZ YISRAEL IS A NATIONAL SPIRITUAL CLEANSING
FROM THE IMPURITY OF OUR LIFE IN GALUT:**

Rabbi Kook also writes that the nation returns to an inner purity. As we learn in his essays on Eretz Yisrael, the lands of the nations are filled with physical, spiritual, and cultural pollution. Because of the impurity, thoughts and emotions become distorted, ugly, and confused. Even the learning of Torah is affected in a negative way. (Vilna Gaon, Likutei HaGra, at the end of Safra D'Tzniuta) By turning toward the holy air and Land of Israel, the nation slowly begins to return to its original purity. As the prophecy in Ezekiel describes, the very return to Eretz Yisrael is a national spiritual cleansing from the impurity of our life in Galut:

"For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own Land. Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean; from all of your uncleanness, and from all of your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you..."

Values such as honor, fame, vanity, physical prowess, and material wealth, so cherished in the West, are not true Jewish values. Our Sages exhort us to flee from honor and fame. Success is to be sought after in Torah. While we are commanded to work to provide for our needs, we are to not be obsessively driven toward profit. We are to look to G-d for security, and not to transient riches. And while physical strength is important, the truly strong man is the one who conquers his lusts. (Avot 4:1) When we come to truly know ourselves; when we purify ourselves both inwardly and outwardly from the impurities of gentile cultures, values, and lands, then, from self-recognition, our light will shine forth to all of the nations on earth.

**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**