

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 239**

**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**

**FROM THE WRITINGS OF RABBI MEIR DAVID KAHANE ZTKL  
REMOVING THE EXILE FROM ISRAEL IS TEN TIMES  
HARDER THAN REMOVING ISRAEL FROM THE EXILE,**

**TO OUR SORROW, THIS DISEASE HAS EVEN  
SMITTEN TORAH SCHOLARS.**

We must ask: How could a camp of six hundred thousand men fear their pursuers? Why should they not fight for their lives and the lives of their children? The answer is that the Egyptians were Israel's masters. The generation leaving Egypt had learned from childhood to bear the Egyptian yoke, and they possessed a base spirit. Being weak and unaccustomed to warfare, how could they now fight their masters? We see that Amalek came with a small force, and if not for Moses's prayer they would have weakened Israel. G-d alone does great deeds and orchestrates events. He arranged for all the males who had left Egypt to die out, because they lacked the strength to fight the Canaanites until another generation arose who had not seen exile and who possessed an exalted spirit.

Ibn Ezra presents us with a great and novel idea in declaring that already then, at the Red Sea, at the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt, G-d had decided that this generation was unfit to enter the Land. Only a generation with an exalted spirit is capable of trusting in G-d and confronting the nations, and they alone are worthy to be a nation of G-d, living in their land. G-d, therefore, prevented the first generation from entering the Land, something which, to our sorrow, did not occur in our own day. Today, the desert generation and the mixed multitude both dwell in the Land, and where is the trust in G-d and where is the faith? Woe to us that a base spirit holds sway and the voice of exile and slavery is heard in our land. Only a Jew who liberates himself from the exile and from the Torah of the exile, which has unavoidably been influenced by baseness and by fear of the non-Jew, will be capable of confronting the non-Jew with pride and courage.

**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**