

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 240**

**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

REGARDING MOSES, GREATEST OF THE PROPHETS, WE FIND SOMETHING SIMILAR. IBN EZRA (EX. 2:3) WONDERS WHY G-D DECIDED THAT MOSES, PURE AND HOLY FROM BIRTH, LEADER OF ALL ISRAEL, WOULD GROW UP PRECISELY IN THE PALACE OF THE NON-JEW PHARAOH, THE CENTER OF IMPURITY IN THE LAND OF FIFTY IMPURITIES:

G-d's thoughts are profound; who can fathom His secrets? He alone is Master of events. Yet, perhaps in having Moses grow up in a royal palace, G-d wished him to develop an exalted spirit rather than to have a base spirit accustomed to slavery. We see that Moses killed the Egyptian for his violent act and saved Jethro's daughters from the shepherds who were stealing their water.

A slave of G-d is obligated to accept the yoke of his Master in heaven. He is lowly and belittles himself out of fear and reverence for his Master, the L-rd, and he esteems and praises Him as much as he can, as great, mighty and awesome. Precisely for all these reasons, precisely due to his fear of G-d, his fear of flesh and blood falls away.

Any slave of G-d will never be a slave to a slave, i.e., to flesh and blood. Whoever truly stands in fear and trembling before the exclusive power and might of G-d will never fear mortal man, who comes from dust and returns to dust. Such is the fear of G-d: Whoever stands in fear and trembling before G-d's majesty, astonished at His power and might, greatness and omnipotence, is at once seized with fear and reverence for his Maker and King; yet at the same time, all fear of flesh and blood leaves him, for of what importance is man?

Woe to us that, due to the curse of the exile, we have violated G-d's

terrible prohibition which states, "The Children of Israel are My slaves. They are My slaves because I brought them out of Egypt. I am the L-rd your G-d" (Lev. 25:55). R. Yochanan ben Zackai commented (Kiddushin 22b):

Due to our fear of the nations, we have become slaves to them of our own doing. We, thus, deserve the punishment of the slave whose ear is pierced: "He shall then serve his master forever" (Ex. 21:6). Whoever takes a flesh-and-blood master because he fears him and relies on him and leans on his strength and kindness, denies the existence of G-d, the Supreme Master.

Not only does he do this, but he profanes G-d's name (Torat Kohanim, Behar, 9): "'The Children of Israel are My slaves... I am the L-rd your G-d' (Lev. 25:55): This teaches that whenever Israel go into slavery here on earth, Scripture treats it as if G-d is going into slavery as well." The simple meaning of this is that G-d took Israel out of Egyptian bondage to sanctify His name by showing the nations His power and might. Hence, when Israel once more become enslaved, where is G-d's power and where is His might? There is no greater Chilul Hashem than this. It is as though G-d is being enslaved by the nations, so to speak. Now if it is so when a nation attacks Israel and enslaves them, what can we possibly say when a Jew fearfully enslaves himself to the non-Jew? Could any Chilul Hashem be greater? We must don sackcloth and ashes!

**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.**

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