

BSD

ERETZ ISRAEL

BULLETIN 25

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)**

**THE ORTHODOX JEWS MADE SILENCE THEIR VIRTUE AND CLUNG TO
THE PRINCIPLE, "IT IS PREFERABLE TO SIT AND DO NOTHING,"**

In the year 5660 [1900], the holy *gaon*, our mentor, R. Hillel of Kalamoya, published a manifesto calling and urging our Jewish brethren to buy the Land of Israel from the Ishmaelites (Arabs). It was an opportune moment, for the sultan was at war and needed money. He was willing to sell *Eretz Yisrael*, Transjordan, and Syria for almost nothing. This holy man [R. Hillel] saw this as a divine visitation and called out vigorously in the streets to persuade the people of Israel to swiftly redeem our "king" from foreign control and from the hands of the impure. He urged them to rebuild the ruins of *Eretz Yisrael*, to glorify the seat of our *Beit HaMikdash*, to restore the crown to its former glory, and to make *Eretz Yisrael* the most beautiful of sites, the joy of all the earth. He was the original founder of the Petach Tikvah colony. All of this is recounted in the introduction to *Tosafot ben Yechiel* (a commentary on the holy work, *Tana DeVei Eliyahu*) by R. Hillel's son-in-Law, the holy *gaon*, our master, R. Akiva Yosef, author of *Lev Halvri*

Due to our numerous sins, however, his words fell upon deaf ears. They hovered in the air, unable to find a place in the hearts of our Jewish brethren in which to rest. The Orthodox Jews made silence their virtue and clung to the principle, "It is preferable to sit and do nothing," as has always been their policy. The irreligious extremists were swayed by the new era which ushered freedom into the world. They said, "Here, I will dwell, for I have desired it." They expected to find tranquility here in the lands of exile, seeing that they had received equal rights like all other citizens. In the meantime, they let our sacred mother [Eretz Yisrael] wallow in the dirt and remain in ruins. They let her eyes become a fountain of tears, to cry and lament over us because we remain in exile and do not contemplate longing to return to her bosom and to reestablish her home. (FROM EM HA BANIM SEMECHA, RABBI YSACHAR SHLOMO TEICHTAL, ZTK'L)

**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**