

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 256**

**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  
WOE TO THE STUBBORN CHILDREN WHO THINK  
IT IS POSSIBLE TO FLEE G-D AND ERETZ ISRAEL**

Woe to the stubborn children who think it possible to flee G-d and Eretz Israel, and who think that despite their having lost their homeland, Eretz Israel, they will be able to settle in the exile in ease. Of them it says, "I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them" (Jer. 9:15). G-d have mercy!

The deterioration in values and the blunting of Israel's emotional attachment to Eretz Israel are also because we distorted the Halachah, due to the wretched exile which conquered our minds and souls. We are also tempted to flee the difficult challenge and duty of isolating ourselves from the nations, and the hardships of earning a living. It all goes back to our sages' comment in Berachot 5a: "G-d gave Israel three fine gifts and all solely via suffering: Torah, Eretz Israel and the World-to-Come." A person's whole life is a test to see whether he will accept the yoke of Heaven and of mitzvot. There is nothing precious that does not exact a heavy price of him who wishes to acquire it. Eretz Israel, a precious gift, requires self-sacrifice, as befits a tool of the Chosen People.

Wherever we go, we are obligated to prove our faith and trust in G-d, and certainly so in Eretz Israel, the chosen land, symbol of Israel's isolation and their belief that "The L-rd alone guides them" (Deut. 32:12).

Yet time after time we have failed in this. Our sages learned (Tanchuma., Tazria, 6)

A kohen who used to observe plague-spots (see Lev. 13) became poor and wished to leave the Land. He summoned his wife, saying... "Let me teach you how to observe plague spots. If you see that the well-spring of a person's hair has dried up, know that he is smitten, for G-d created a well-spring for every single hair to drink from"... His wife replied, "If G-d created for every hair a well-spring of its own, how much more so will He provide a livelihood for you, who are a human being, with much hair, and children who you support!" Therefore, she did not let him leave the Land

**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