

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 263**

**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**

**IT IS A MITZVAH AND DUTY UPON EVERY JEW TO LIVE
IN ERETZ ISRAEL, AND A CHILUL HASHEM WHEN
ISRAEL LIVES OUTSIDE OF IT. ONCE G-D DECREED
THAT ISRAEL MUST BE SEPARATED FROM THE
NATIONS AND THEIR ALIEN, DOMINANT CULTURE,**

It clearly is forbidden to let the non-Jew live in Eretz Israel unless he is denied mastery and sovereignty over the Land and willingly accepts this. No non-Jew has the slightest right to ownership over the Land, and any non-Jew who denies G-d's mastery and the ownership of His people Israel over the whole Land is rebelling against G-d, denying G-d's sovereignty on earth and profaning G-d's name. He has one fate - to leave the Land or to die.

ERETZ ISRAEL IS INTRINSICALLY HOLY

As the Mishnah teaches (Kelim I:6): There are ten levels of holiness: Eretz Israel is holier than all other lands. How is this holiness expressed? In that the Omer [a Temple offering of barley, brought at Pesach], the Bikurim [First Fruits], and the Shte HaLechem [Temple Showbread] are brought from Eretz Israel [hut not from outside the Land].

(Rambam wrote the same in Hilchot Bet HaBechirah 7:12.)

The Mishnah is not teaching what the Land's holiness consists of, but rather, by what tangible terms that holiness is expressed. Certainly Eretz Israel is intrinsically holy, more so than all other lands, regardless of the mitzvot that can be done there. Chatam Sofer makes this point in a responsum regarding whether living in Jerusalem is a greater mitzvah than living elsewhere in the Land (Responso, Yoreh Deah,234):

It would seem that the courts can force [the intransigent spouse] to go up to Eretz Israel, not because of the mitzvot dependent on Eretz Israel and Jerusalem, but because of its intrinsic holiness, and because whoever lives outside the Land is likened to one without a G-d... And since the whole force of this law is due to the Land's intrinsic holiness, we need not get into the debate over whether the first

holiness bestowed on Eretz Israel applies for all times, or the debate between Rambam and Ra'avad over whether the Temple's holiness applies in our day such that one incurs karet if he enters it... This is not the place for these questions at all.

It is a mitzvah and duty upon every Jew to live in Eretz Israel, and a Chilul Hashem when Israel lives outside of it. Once G-d decreed that Israel must be separated from the nations and their alien, dominant culture, it clearly is forbidden to let the non-Jew live in Eretz Israel unless he is denied mastery and sovereignty over the Land and willingly accepts this. No non-Jew has the slightest right to ownership over the Land, and any non-Jew who denies G-d's mastery and the ownership of His people Israel over the whole Land is rebelling against G-d, denying G-d's sovereignty on earth and profaning G-d's name. He has one fate - to leave the Land or to die.

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