

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 311**

**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**

**G-D SURELY KNEW WHEN HE GAVE US THESE MITZVOT THAT  
THE NATIONS WOULD REACT WITH FURY. DID THAT STOP HIM  
FROM GIVING THEM? DO WE STILL LIVE IN THE SHAME AND  
LOWLINESS OF THE EXILE, WHERE THE SOUND OF A RUSTLING  
LEAF WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE US FLEE?**

**"You are a nation consecrated to the L-rd your G-d" (Deut. 7:6). Israel, both as individuals and as a people, must become holier through return to mitzvot. They must experience the holiness of the Sabbath. They must hallow the body by eating kosher foods and by leading chaste lives. Indeed, they must fill the Land with holiness, purity and Torah study, as it says, "For the Land shall be full of the knowledge of the L-rd, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). Through all this, they will rid the Land of abominations, the idolatrous churches and cults which are to be "shunned totally" (Deut. 7:26), which arrogantly seek to influence the holy Jewish People to abandon the true faith.**

**One might wonder whether the nations will not be incensed by this "provocation" against them and rise up against it. It is reasonable to assume that that is just what will happen, but should we be afraid because of it? G-d surely knew when He gave us these mitzvot that the nations would react with fury. Did that stop Him from giving them? Do we still live in the shame and lowliness of the exile, where the sound of a rustling leaf was enough to make us flee? Surely, G-d has returned us to our land as a first stage of redemption, and to sanctify His name and grant us the possibility of transforming grief to joy through our trusting in Him without fear. Whoever fears mortal nations, does not trust in G-d; and whoever thinks speedy, majestic redemption can sprout forth in the malodorous vineyard of such fear and Chilul Hashem, has studied no Torah whatsoever - and let him not teach it.**

**"Whoever is for G-d, join me!" (Ex. 32:26), cried Moses on seeing the Calf, and his enlisting the Levites was conditional on their being ready to sanctify G-d's name through self-sacrifice. It says there (v. 27): This is what the**

**L-rd G-d of Israel says: "Let each man put on his sword and go from one gate to the other in the camp. Let each one kill [all those involved in the idolatry], even his own brother, close friend, or relative."**

**Imagine how hard it is, how cruel it is for a person to obey G-d with such self-sacrifice as this! Yet, only in this way will G-d sanctify His name and bring the redemption. Already above I quoted our sages in Berachot 20a:**

**R. Papa asked Abaye, "Why did previous generations merit miracles while we do not? If it is a matter of learning, in R. Yehudah's day only Nezikin was learned, while we learn all six orders of the Mishnah... All the same, R. Yehuda would no sooner remove his shoes [to pray for rain], and rain would fall, while we cry out and no one listens." Abaye responded, "Our predecessors sacrificed their lives for Kiddush Hashem, but we do not."**

**Such is the way of redemption. It comes about only through Kiddush Hashem, and Kiddush Hashem comes about only through self-sacrifice.**

**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**