

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 312**

**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 BOOK ZION TODAY**

SINCE THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ORTHODOXY AND SECULAR ZIONISM, VOICES PRAISING THE GREATNESS AND SANCTITY OF THE HOLY LAND HAVE BECOME STILL. BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. HOW MUCH DOES EVEN A BEN-TORAH TODAY KNOW ABOUT THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF ERETZ ISRAEL, OF THE MITZVOS OF THE LAND? EVEN THE MOST OBSERVANT TAKE TRIPS TO CHUTZ LA'ARETZ, SOMETHING THE HALACHA FORBIDS. COULD THERE BE GREATER IRONY THAN THIS: THE TORAH COMMUNITY, WHICH CHERISHED THE MEMORY OF ERETZ ISRAEL SO THROUGHOUT THE AGES, NOW LEAVES LOVE OF ZION TO THE "SECULAR"?

The gaon Rabbi Israel of Shklov, a disciple of the Vilna Gaon, was an early builder of the yishuv. In the introduction to his sefer, Pe'as Hashulchan, he describes the terrible hardships he experienced in the process, including the deaths of some of his children. The suffering of each and every person who went to Eretz Israel in those days, without exception, is difficult for us today to comprehend. The mere journey was extremely arduous at that time. Only tremendous love for the holy Land can explain such sacrifice.

**The gaon Rabbi Meir Auerbach of Kalish left his position as rabbi of an important community in Galicia to ascend to Jerusalem. He writes:
.. “And the gold of the Land is good - there is no good like the Torah of Eretz Israel' (Sifrei, Ekev). I have sacrificed all that was precious to me on the altar of love for Zion and Jerusalem. I left my dear eminent sons, long may they live, my brothers and friends, and chose to live alone in the four amos of halacha, in sanctity.”**

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