

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 315**

**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 Kuzari writes regarding the special qualities of Eretz Yisrael: We have no difficulty accepting that a country is unique in so me respect. You see that specific places are particularly conducive to the growth of certain types of plants, minerals and animals, and the inhabitants have a characteristic appearance and temperament. "A particular mountain may be the perfect place for a vineyard. But if the vines are not planted and tended, grapes will never grow there. Similarly, the special quality is first that of the people - an excellent seed, as it were. Next, the Land has its special advantage, as do the mitzvos connected to the Land (which are what the work of the vineyard is to the vineyard). However, just as that vine will not produce except on this mountain, so too the chosen nation cannot become connected to the Divine anywhere but in this Land."

The Maharal too discusses the natural setting for Jewish life: "There is no doubt that the exile is a departure from the order of things. Hashem arranged that each nation be In its proper place, and Israel in its proper place - which is the holy Land" (Netzach Israel chap. 1).

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