

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 319**

**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 Ari, z"l, taught that one who lives in chutz la' Aretz can attain only the status of 'nefesh'. One who has walked four cubits in Eretz Israel has the higher level of 'ruach'. Only a permanent inhabitant can reach the greatest level of 'neshama'. And you can see an allusion from the verse: "He gives soul (neshama) to the nation upon it, and spirit (ruach) to those who walk in it" (Yeshaya 42).**

**'In the future G-d will make a feast for the righteous. After they eat and drink, they will offer Moshe Rabbeinu a cup of wine and tell him to hold it and say the blessing. He will say to them, I will not say the blessing, for I did not deserve to enter Eretz Israel, either in life or in death (Pesachim 119).**

**The merit of being in Eretz Israel is recognized by the halacha. If a person was sentenced to death and ran away, his death sentence stood. Rabbi Yehuda ben Dustai relates from Rabbi Shimon ben Shetach that this applies if he escaped from Eretz Israel to chutz la'Aretz. But if the accused went from chutz la'Aretz to Eretz Israel, the sentence was reversed, because of the merit of Eretz Israel (Makos 7).**

**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**