

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 32**

**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)**

**THE AMAZING MERIT OF LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL,  
YAAKOV FEARED ESAV FOR HE LIVED IN ERETZ ISRAEL  
WHILE YAAKOV HAD BEEN OUTSIDE OF IT**

we can understand the Midrash on the verse “Yaakov was very frightened (BeReishit 32:8): "Yaakov said, 'All of these years Esav has dwelt in Eretz Yisrael, perhaps he is coming against me with the strength of living in Eretz Yisrael'" (BeReishit Rabbah 76:2).

Although this appears difficult, it is quite comprehensible based on the above. Since the essence of Yaakov Avinu's prayer was that the merit of Eretz Yisrael should protect him by virtue of his desire to return to it, he had good reason to be afraid. He was "dwelling" there merely in thought, while the wicked Esav was actually dwelling there. Therefore, Yaakov was fearful that perhaps Esav's merit would be greater than his own.

In any event, during his times of trouble, Yaakov Avinu vowed to return to Eretz Yisrael, perfect it, and establish it, so that this merit would stand him in good stead. We, too, who find ourselves in times of difficulty, must learn from him and vow to return to our Holy Land and endeavor to raise its prestige. Then, the merit of Eretz Yisrael will arise to deliver us from distress, speedily in our days. Amen

(FROM EM HA BANIM SEMECHA, RABBI YSACHAR SHLOMO TEICHTAL, ZTK'L)

**OUR MASTER, MAHARAM CHAGIZ, DISCUSSES THE GREAT  
PUNISHMENT THAT AWAITS THOSE WHO SLANDER THE  
INHABITANTS OF *ERETZ YISRAEL*:**

HaShem decreed that just as all the men who have seen My glory (BeMidbar 14:22) - meaning, the generation of the spies will not see the Land, the same is true of future generations. Anyone who spreads an evil report about the Land will be stricken and will receive the punishment of the spies. This is the meaning of [the next verse] And all who provoke Me shall not see it (ibid. 14:23), which refers to the future. Sefat Emet (Vilna, 5636 [1876]), p. 32b

**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**