

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 327**

**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"?

Absorption difficulties are not experienced only by the groups as a whole. Every person who settles in Eretz Israel undergoes them. One of the early founders of the "new yishuv", Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk, wrote a letter to the Jews in chutz la'Aretz after he settled in Eretz Israel. He writes that anyone who comes to Eretz Israel goes through a great deal until he is able to live here. It's not a matter of days or months or even a year, but of many years. "Born there" - one has to pass through a period comparable to conception, development and childhood. Even a talmid chacham finds himself thrown into confusion; Where is his Torah? Where are his mitzvos? But eventually he becomes settled, G-d looks upon him favorably, and he is blessed with peace. There is no set length of time for this adjustment period. For each one it is different, according to his individual circumstances. Therefore, Rabbi Menachem Mendel advises, when a person plans to come to Eretz Israel he must prepare himself for all this, and take counsel with the wise people in his area. One who takes these precautions will be able to live in tranquility in the Holy Land. (The letter in its entirety was published in Pri Ha'Aretz, and is quoted in Alei Shur, p. 285. There is an opinion that a contemporary of Rabbi Menachem Mendel, Rabbi Avraham of Kalisk, is the author.)

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