

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 331**

**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"?

Since Zionism calls for aliya, the masses took it to mean that the gedolim (great Rabbis) who opposed Zionism are also opposed to aliya and settling in Eretz Israel (G-d forbid). This is as far removed from the truth as anything could be.

In reality, the true gedolei Israel are also the truest lovers of Zion. (The conflict with Zionism is discussed in Chap. 5).

In 1886, the Rebbe of Pilov, a grandson of Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk, published a pamphlet on love of the Land and revival of the yishuv called Shelom Yerushalayim. In the haskama of the famed gaon Rabbi Israel Yehoshua of Kutna (author of Yeshuos Malko), we find this comment on the great awakening to go to Eretz Israel: "And especially now that we see the great desire, among people of lowly values, among average people, and among the righteous alike, it is almost certain that the spirit of Redemption has been sparked."

In the pamphlet itself, the Rebbe of Pilov also sees the Hand of G-d in the wave of aliya. "How great is the wisdom of G-d's deeds, and how deep His thoughts, not like the thoughts of man. From above He sent a desire into the hearts of the wealthy, those close to the rulers and officers, to want to redeem the land from cruel hands (after) it was taken over by idolaters."

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