

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 339**

**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 DETERMINATION OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY  
OF THE POSKIM IS THAT THE MITZVA OF LIVING IN ERETZ  
ISRAEL IS IN FORCE TODAY AS IT ALWAYS WAS.**

Those who disagree base their opinion on the words of Rav Chaim Cohen of the Tosfos (Kesubos 110). His view is brought there that in "these" times, one need not live in Eretz Israel because there are several mitzvos connected to the Land, with consequent punishments, and it would be difficult to keep them properly.

However, the Maharit maintains that this is not even the view of the Tosafist, but a mistaken student writing in Rav Chaim Cohen's name (Resp. 58). This opinion is shared by the Pischei Tshuva who quotes the gaon Rav Yaakov of Lissa. The conclusion of the Pischei Tshuva is that, in any event, it appears that all rishonim and achronim disagree with the supposed view of Rav Chaim Cohen. One should live in Eretz Israel, on one condition: that it is possible to support oneself there. As the Tashbetz writes: one who does not have a means of support is vulnerable to harmful influences. The principle here is: Fortunate is he who can live in Eretz Israel and serve G-d, making a living - even a poor one. But not every man is so fortunate. (Pischei Tshuva, Even HaEzer 75)

**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**